

LETTERS ON 20th CONGRESS

Following are more letters in the current discussion of American Marxists and the Soviet Union. Letters over 300 words cannot be printed in full.

Draft Resolution Showed the Way

Editor, Daily Worker:

What a time for the Daily Worker to be operating under such outrageous handicaps! I've been rushing to the mail box every morning and devouring the paper — babies' objections notwithstanding. Congratulations to courageous Alan Max for initiating this thought-provoking and valuable discussion on the 20th Congress.

However, I am troubled by the fact that the majority of the letters do not properly reflect the new thinking in our own policy for the last few years. Certainly the Draft Resolution of 1952 and the ensuing Program introduced exciting new ideas into our thinking. For the American scene, its liberating spirit—even if not so sweeping—was comparable with that of the 20th Congress.

Could it be that the Draft Resolution and re-evaluations of 1952-53 and thereafter were not properly read and understood by far too many of us? Or that they were de-emphasized and watered-down by the over-cautious and the doctrinaire die-hards? Surely the Resolution opened the way—if we were bold enough to drop some of the baggage of the past and take it—to a new estimate of many questions and methods.

In our own family and small circle we were doing just this—though far too slowly—long before the 20th Congress convened. Nevertheless, the Soviet Congress has given us all a tremendous new push in this direction—and on a scale that even the boldest of us could not have dreamed.

So let us really put the new spirit to work. Enough of saying we should re-discuss and re-open various questions. Let's do it! And let's have a bit less analysis of what gives in the Soviet Union. That's important. But the major portion of our attention should go to putting our own house in better order, along the lines initiated by the Draft Resolution—utilizing and adapting the sweeping innovations of the 20th Congress.

K. H.

P.S.—It goes without saying that all of us must do everything and anything to help the Daily Worker keep publishing. What a piece of madness! And how secondary some of the criticisms

of coverage, typos and even of content seem when the existence of the paper is in jeopardy.

Must Stand on Our Own Feet

Editor, Daily Worker:

Two matters disturbed me but I regarded them as less important than what the Communist Party stood for: (1) Too much reading material leaned on the CPSU; (2) Too much of a tendency existed to bow low and say, amen, when the names of Stalin and the Soviet Union were mentioned.

Logically I could understand both: Each of us has a better standard of living than most other workers in the world at the expense of millions of colonial and semicolonial workers whom we help to exploit. The Soviet Union was building socialism; hostile, aggressive capitalism surrounded it. Floods of anti-Soviet propaganda poured from every organ of communication. Why should a Communist add to the flood? The Communist, I agreed, ought to try to answer as well as he could the propaganda.

Logically I could understand and go along with that position but I didn't like it then and I

don't like it now. More logical, I felt and feel, would have been a realistic approach: "The Soviet Union is in the throes of building the kind of society men have dreamed about since time began. In the course of it there will be casualties. Hedged in by enemies it cannot afford to risk the welfare of the whole by giving the benefit of the doubt to suspected enemies. Better that tens, hundreds, thousands (let the propagandists fill in the figures), be punished, than that the future of hundreds of millions and their children and children's children be jeopardized in the slightest."

The overpowering fact of paramount note that comes out of this Congress must be grasped and kept first before us: The Communist Party of the Soviet Union recognized and has corrected the weakness that was leading to a series of dangerous errors, and socialism has so strongly stabilized itself that the people of the Soviet Union can take the correction in its stride.

Lesson for us? yes. Respect but no reverence for leadership. Realize that the CPUSA must stand on its own ideological feet. It will make mistakes, sure. But hardly any as tremendous as the one just corrected by Lenin's own party.

—W. H., Indianapolis.

Charge Anti-Semitism By Monmouth Officers

LONG BEACH.—New evidence charging that many employes suspended as "security" risks in 1953 at Ft. Monmouth, N.J., were "hapless victims of anti-Semitism, pure and simple," was made last week by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

The new evidence, in the form of an affidavit and a transcript of a conversation between an ADL official and a Ft. Monmouth security officer, was sent to FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and Army Secretary Wilber Brucker.

The Ft. Monmouth probe was led by Senator McCarthy. Thirty-six persons were suspended—most of them Jewish. Two attorneys who represented a number of those suspended, Harry Green, Little Silver, and Ira J. Katchen, Long Beach, charged that anti-Semitism "was the issue in the Ft. Monmouth cases."

Both men issued a statement on the new charges by ADL. They said: "We are happy and most interested to see that B'nai B'rith . . . have come to the conclusion that our suspicions were well

founded." They called for clearance and reinstatement for the eight persons who were ultimately fired as a result of the McCarthyite anti-Semitic probe.

A letter by Henry E. Schultz, chairman of the ADL, sent to Hoover and Brucker said: "In the sworn statement, our representative sets forth the confession made to him which reveals the prejudice of this security officer, and further attests to the prejudice harbored by this man's superior, who was also a key figure in the security procedure at Ft. Monmouth." Schultz called the revelations in the transcript "shocking."

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