

# Dear Editor

Letters from Readers

## Wants Marxist Leninist Theory

Editor, Daily Worker

Please register my affirmative vote in W. R.'s excellent suggestion in today's Daily, that the paper devote a substantial amount of space to dissemination of basic Marxist-Leninist theory. Naturally, this would mean omitting articles such as "Nina Ponomareva Gets Soviet Honor," "Rocket Reaches New Altitude," and "Amateur Artist Paints With Choe Polis"—a fair exchange, I would say, for the type of publication which Lenin said should be a "daily organizer."

A caution, however, is in order. The explanation and discussions that would accompany the quotes from the classics should be omitted entirely if they are on the level of the Nemmy Sparks series on capitalism and socialism. For superficiality, confusion, vagueness, and general uselessness they are unsurpassed. As a matter of fact, the best of the past Marxist writings are their own best explanations, and our leaders today would do well to study them more and "explain" less. However, an occasional article by Victor Perlo or Dr. Aptheker accompanying a quote on economics or history, respectively, would be space well used.

W. R.'s suggestion and the votes in favor of it will undoubtedly be dubbed left sectarian by people who say that our prime need now is to "go out and DO something," and "be with the people," and so on. I believe that our efforts in this direction will never amount to much unless we know what to do and why, and how others in the past have worked. Stalin wrote that theory alone "can give the movement confidence,

## In't Pay Off

But probably most Soviet workers, and certainly the younger ones, will be pleased by the decision. They figure on a net gain because they won't be taxed the two weeks to two months salary any more that they've been putting out for bonds in the past.

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GEORGE MORRIS singles out for special defense the manner in which the bond proposal was presented to Soviet workers—at huge mass meetings. The Soviet Union, Morris argues, projects such steps "with the people, not through bomb-shell edicts from a conference of bankers or industrialists."

The Soviet Union is well rid of bankers and industrialists. But the latest bond measure was not presented after consultation with the people or even with the Soviet parliament, the Supreme Soviet. It was reported in the Soviet press only after Communist Party Secretary Khrushchev presented it to a mass meeting.

In his speech Khrushchev said the Soviet cabinet and the Party Central Committee have on many occasions discussed this matter. But in all that time not one word of his appeared in any Soviet publication and no session of the Supreme Soviet took it up.

This, it seems to me, is not the most democratic way of presenting vital public issue. It's rather like "bomb-shell edict" to borrow a phrase from Morris. And it would be unfortunate, I think, if American supporters of socialism gave the impression that they advocate such methods for an American socialist society.

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IT SEEMS peculiar to this reader of Pravda that at mass



the power of orientation, and an understanding of the inherent connection between surrounding events; for it, and it alone, can help practice to discern not only how and in which direction classes are moving at the present time, but also how and in which direction they will move in the near future." So, precisely BECAUSE I agree that we should become a practical force in U.S. history, I vote in favor of an intensive campaign to study, discuss and master our vast Marxist-Leninist heritage.

A.  
May 1

## Unions Need Vocal Rank and File

To The Editor of the Worker:

In remarks introducing one of the hearings of the Senate Labor Rackets Committee, Senator John McClellan said that in the 1930's most violence came from employers who sought to keep the workers out of unions. But, he said, today it is mainly the unions that resort to such tactics.

Sure, the employers always have, and always will resort to all kinds of violence to keep the workers out of unions, but I doubt that the Senator is so naive as to believe that unions resort to violence to keep the workers out of unions.

Joseph Curran, President of the National Maritime Union, charged that "groups such as the National Association of Manufacturers" are using information unearthed by the Senate Labor Rackets Committee to promote anti-labor legislation.

In the April 14 issue of The Worker there was an article, "Check List of Union Democracy," by George Morris, a good example why we should not let The Worker die. His interesting article recalls to my memory the struggle of the cab drivers' strike in the spring of 1937. This strike was won over the violent protests of the president of the cab company, Tom Hogan, who swore that he would never sign a union contract (but he did), and despite the many acts of violence by company paid thugs.

This writer was one of the many drivers who were beaten after the strike while working on the job. I was beaten so badly by company paid thugs that it required three weeks of hospitalization and many more weeks at home to recuperate. This beating was also the direct cause of a stomach hernia requiring a major operation a year later.

A year or two after the new union had been established all meetings of the local were called off, the members never knew a thing about contracts between the union and the company, and union officials began to collaborate with company officials in regard to the drivers' complaints and grievances. The scabs were kept on the job and were made supervisors over the drivers who had just won a terrific struggle against them.

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# READERS' COLUMN

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ment, a few of us began to realize why one man who was running on a rank and file slate was beaten at the polls on election day and his ballots, destroyed. Then we few started to work trying to educate the majority of drivers, to convince them that a rank and file democracy was the only safeguard against corruption in our union.

Lo and behold, this brought a storm down upon our heads; the lightning flashed, we were followed and chased by leaders of the Teamsters' Union all over South Side streets.

The outcome of all our activity was that we were called, not to a meeting of the membership but before these anti-union officials, a kangaroo court; here we were all fined 500 to 1000 dollars and most of us with large families were receiving relief from the Government because our non-union wages would not keep body and soul together. This was done in such a way as to make it appear that we were "disrupters" of the union, but we know that misleaders want no part of rank and file ideology.

Is there rank and file in the Chicago Cab Drivers' Union today? Unfortunately there is not, and the same misleaders that were elected for only three year terms 20 years ago are still hanging on like parasites. After twenty years away from the cab I applied a few weeks ago for a job. The Yellow Cab Co. hired me, then sent me to the union for an O.K. Did I get it? Of course not. At the union office I was asked if I had forgotten what happened in 1937.

No, I have not forgotten. That is why I'm writing this letter.

A CHICAGO CAB DRIVER

## The Chrysler

### Strike

To the Editor:

While working in the shop we got the word that the union ordered no more overtime in order to bring Chrysler Corporation, long noted for its sleezy stalling and broken agreements, to settle the six-week-old strike in the Chrysler Los Angeles plant.

The corporation in my plant started out to do a job on us. They worked some men six and seven hours and tried to get eight hours from others so as to clean up the many repairs which are a product of the '57 "Forward Look" speedup. They tried to split us all up by this method but the men said we all work the same hours until we settle this strike in L. A. and we now are.

As one worker put it, "we don't know what they will do next, but we will win if we stick together."

A READER