

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## My First Letter

New York.

Editor Daily Worker:

The events since the 20th Congress have produced quite a few changes in myself. This is my first letter to you in all the many years I have been one of your readers. Last week as a student at Jefferson School I wrote a letter to the school administration (also for the first time) discussing some of the problems facing the school. It is now 15 minutes to midnight, an hour at which I never sit down to write letters, so this is another one of the changes.

I found the first half of Alice Jerome's letter very interesting and much there that I can agree with. I can't say as much for the second half of her letter. I don't believe she exercised enough constructive criticism. The last sentence of her letter read, "It is time for Marxist study, for questioning, and reevaluation." Fine, wonderful! But two paragraphs earlier she criticizes "these 'new look' Constitutional Communists" who "are already revising Marxism and overhauling our most basic beliefs in order to justify faith in parliamentary change, etc." She remarks that "Some of our fastest-moving leaders are embracing the recent developments with indecent haste."

I don't believe that Max Weiss's article in the Daily dealing with this subject was written in haste and without much thought going into it. I got the opinion from reading it that it was a well thought out piece and that Max Weiss labored over it. I believe his article conformed completely with the last sentence of Alice Jerome's letter.

I believe her letter could have been more constructive had she shown where she disagreed with the formulations of Weiss than in the type of criticism she used.

There are still many people who for various reasons do not read the Daily as often as they should. I have heard of many people not being able to get the paper because their newsstands are selling it out faster these days. I hate to think that many people are missing out on the most exciting feature that the Daily has had in its thirty-three years, namely, "Speak Your Piece." I think that it would be a good idea to put out a pamphlet containing many of the letters you receive these days. May certainly help to broaden and

I suggest that it would certainly be a "best seller." It would stimulate this wonderful discussion.

Sincerely,

-J.

## Steps Proposed to Guard Party Democracy

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think the American Communist Party ought to take certain practical steps to insure party democracy. Here are some suggestions:

(1) Party unity in action (absolutely necessary), should cease to be based on a demand for unity of opinion on all questions. Let us finally recognize that it is humanly impossible for all individuals, even though Marxists, to sincerely agree on all matters. Therefore, whenever there is complete unanimity at a convention, it should be a warning to leadership that it has been guilty of demanding an unhealthy conformity as a price for membership.

(2) There should be a perpetual open forum in the Party press in which members anonymously express opinion on fundamental matters. This should go on between conventions for the consideration of leadership.

(3) In preparation for a convention, minority opinion in branches should be registered by the election of a minority delegate.

(4) Minority opinion at section, district, and state conventions should receive representation at the national convention.

(5) No national convention should be held without delegates hearing minority opinion on the program. Majority vote will end the debate.

(6) Organized factionalism should be ground for expulsion. However, even after convention decision, personal dissent on fundamental questions should not be provided the dissenter accepts majority rule and refrains from agitation until the next convention.

(7) Between conventions any leading body should have the right to suspend members. This suspension must be confirmed by the next convention to become expulsion. Every suspended member should be invited to present his case to the Review Committee of the entire convention. (Insincere Communists will not respond to this invitation.)

Would like to hear from Foster or Dennis on this. -A.M.

In reply to several inquiries, we do find it necessary to cut some letters, mainly because of space problems. In keeping with good labor newspaper practices we urge readers to keep letters under 300 words if possible. Keep them coming! Readers are invited to write about any subject and to speak their minds critically or any other way they please.

## Role of CP in a Socialist Movement

BROOKLYN

Editor, Daily Worker:

Let me add my voice to C.D.'s (DW May 14, 1956) call for a "broader form of socialist organization," to be created jointly, I hope, by socialists and communists of more than one orientation.

The Communist Party alone obviously is not the answer. But without it there can be no sure guarantee of a scientifically guided socialist movement of the American people. The C. P. does have, in my opinion, the most scientific approach to the nation's problems. Let it correct its errors as it seems to be doing now—errors more of incorrect commission than of omission or neglect.

Let the C. P. openly state to all possible socialist allies that it is boldy striking out on a new path. Let it state its desire and pledge to create a new, united party of socialism. Demonstrate above all the inherent honesty of the C. P.

Creation of a united socialist party ought to be a relatively easy task. Relative, let's say, to a difficult political task in America's history: formation of a political party to smash slavery in the 19th century. The Republican Party of Lincoln was the party of divergent, often hostile elements. Nevertheless they were compelled to unite "by the logic of things that may override the logic of human intentions."

There was a conscious anti-slavery element that, with errors and small membership, guided the movement; it took more than 30 years for the radical abolitionists to be accepted, but in the end their ideas and program very largely did triumph. The radicals had to shift ground, compromise in forms and tactics, and finally join with some hostile elements in a new political party. It abolished slavery.

Today we have the job of uniting very largely sympathetic

elements—groups, parties, associations, individuals who believe in socialism in varying degrees.

-WORKER READER.

## Wants More by Anny Louise Strong

BROOKLYN

Editor, Daily Worker:

It was refreshing to see, read and appreciate Anna Louise Strong through the pages of your advancing publication. It is high time and I trust it shall happen again and not irregularly.

Anna Louise Strong's observant and dissecting talents are like a beacon in our trying times. The light she throws on the 20th congress in the USSR, particularly on the Stalin criticism, is revealing, provocative and encouraging. She dots the I's and crosses many T's. I'm sure, she leaves the air clarified, and one in a state of confident belief.

-R.O.

## A Subject For Debate

Editor, Daily Worker:

I suggest for general discussion with or without quotations, the theme: Resolved, that a socialist society must limit the exercise of rights and freedoms to the extent required to defend, develop and perpetuate the new rights and freedoms secured to the proletarians and their allies by the abolition of capitalist property relations.

-FRANCIS SHEEHY.

## The Science of Social Change

Editor, Daily Worker:

There is no excuse for any thoughtful person to lose sight of the magnificent record of sustained advance the Soviet Union established during its 37 years of performance despite incessant hostility and even armed aggression from capitalist countries. She deserves to be accorded the right to work out her own destiny in peace and security. To do otherwise is equivalent to promote insecurity and even war for every country in the world.

Without the least intention of advising that the discussion be ended, it is respectfully suggested here that it be conducted intelligently and fairly, avoiding personal recriminations or angry denunciations which could only inflame passions thus preventing reason from exerting its wiser counsels on the matter.

Also needed are patience, shrewdness and general political farsightedness on the part of everyone who honestly wants to

master and put into practice the science of social change for which scientific socialism was designed to serve as teacher and guide for the betterment of all mankind with peace and abundance to be attained through continuous and nation-wide planning for use, not profit, and for increasing production, not decreasing it.

-MODERATOR-MINDED.

## Break Out Narrow Circle

FAR ROCKAWAY, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

For 27 years, except for four years in the army, I've been reading the Daily Worker. I did not read the paper religiously but of necessity. For me as a worker, Yipsel and YCL'er and later as a student, of working-class and socialist parents, and then a Communist, this was the only daily paper that gave the news every day of the most dramatic and interesting events of America and the world.

After reading Alan Max's article "Pardon My Feelings," I said: this is great and the letters and discussion are wonderful. Finally we are getting on the right road—not way over to the left and not swinging a way over to the right, but in a stable position following the wishes and desires of the American people.

But what is most important to me isn't just that we are reaching a maturity in our work and thinking and in our application of Marxism on the American scene, but that the American working people and others would like to know about these things.

No matter how correct and how mature we become, it is wasted if only we in the narrow confines of our left wing circles know about these things.

The most important task in my opinion is to make our paper available to wider section of the people. Let us stop hiding our beliefs and convictions. Let's start giving our friends and neighbors and shopmates and union brothers a chance to buy it. Let's start off with those closest to us.

When we start reaching out into America only then will our wonderful discussion be truly effective and useful. And our problems of supporting our paper will dissolve. The road to socialism may have different paths, but let's get started on that road. We've got to break out of our inner circle and start reaching into all of America.

A. P., Hotel Worker.