

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

A Socialist Blueprint For Americans

Editor, Daily Worker:

It seems to me that nothing is of greater importance at this time than the restoration of the meaning of socialism to the American working class and the American people as a whole. By this I mean that they should come to see in concrete, specific terms what the socialist reorganization of America would be like.

In the 80's of the last century Edward Bellamy's—to cite but one example of the kind of definition I am about to describe—"Looking Backward," based upon the technical development at that period, had an enormous distribution in America and did much to produce consciousness of socialism as the desired goal of society.

Today, some 70 years later, with all the enormous strides forward in our technical development—and trembling as we are on the "brink" of the era of nuclear energy—plus the rich experience available to us of the socialist third of the world, a new definition, a new blueprint is surely called for.

Such a definition or blueprint would describe in broad, simple outlines what life would be like for the fortunate citizens of a socialist America in terms of work, education, housing, health, sports, culture, etc.

I think this is of such importance that it should be done by a group of experts in the broadest consultation with regional groups, representatives of the Negro people, the youth, women, and other significant groupings.

Once the material has been collected and the general plan of

the blueprint determined, the best writers on the left should be called in to give the final form and polish that would make the reading of it easy, compelling and deeply convincing to the widest variety of American readers at present conditioned to be inimical to the word "socialism," or worse, indifferent to it.

Such a task would call for the deepest examination of the American tradition, as well as the most careful analysis of current popular conceptions, coupled with bold imaginative projection into the future based upon technical potentials now at our finger-tips.

—A Reader.

Sees Symptoms Of Revisionism

Editor, Daily Worker:

If I were to attempt now to quote from Lenin or Marx on the question of peaceful transition to Socialism, if I were to remind people of the warnings of Engels and Marx and Lenin against the opportunists and the Revisionists, I would immediately be called a follower of "dogma" in some irate letter tomorrow. It seems that any part of Marxism-Leninism which doesn't agree with the present CP line (which by the way was very arbitrarily handed down) is now "dogma."

The fact that the present CP line is not Marxist-Leninist is rationalized away by some "leaders" with the argument that times have changed, or at any rate they will change soon, and so there are new conditions, and so there is a new Marxism. No one will deny that changing conditions call for new applications of theory. But this does not mean throwing out theory. As long as the class struggle

exists (and if you work for a living, you know it still does), then Marxism-Leninism applies.

There is no doubt that anti-Communist propaganda in this country has been very effective. But let us not throw out our principles in order to sound proper in public. If these people like Max Weiss or Alan Max want to institute a perspective which includes bosses peacefully handing over their factories to the workers when the time comes (and I would still like to meet such a boss), and full civil rights for men like Senator Eastland after Socialism is established, then let them write their articles. But let them admit to Revisionism.

The majority of letters, I am glad to say, stand by Marxism-Leninism, and if that be dogma, let's make the most of it.

—G. B.

Theory Into Practice

Editor, Daily Worker:

I would like you to print this on your Speak Your Piece page.

Joseph Clark's column on May 16 dealt with the suppression in Algeria and Cyprus. In connection with this I would like to make the following proposals which I believe would help the cause of freedom:

Let all interested groups and people organize mass picket line demonstrations before the French and British embassies and consulates in their various cities and in front of the United Nations offices.

Each picket line should have an appropriate leaflet for distribution explaining the reason for the demonstration.

These actions would be putting theory into practice. W. G.

Noel Brian's Article on Freud

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was glad to see and read in today's (May 15) D.W. the article by Noel Brian on Sigmund Freud. It's a real contribution towards an understanding of a subject so widely discussed but so little understood.

It was particularly timely appearing a day after that extremely superficial article by Howard Fast on the same subject. Fast would do the D.W. a service by using his talents in fields where he is more at home.

I hope that some of our own American Marxist students of Freudianism will soon contribute their views in the Daily Worker in reply to Howard Fast.

—M. M.

Independent Expression

Editor, Daily Worker:

In what way should the American CP maintain a position of independent thought and expression toward brother parties and the socialist countries? I believe it can only be based upon the principle that friendly criticism is true solidarity, and that from differences of opinion all parties can benefit.

This does not mean that American Communists should rush to offer comments on the agricultural problem in Bulgaria. To the contrary, it may mean that very often on issues like Tito, or Lysenko, we may state: "on this problem we lack information, and therefore take no position."

It will mean also that we may say: "From where we sit it seems to us that the S.U. has made an error in walking out of the Security Council." Or we may say:

"We believe that the S.U. is showing the way to all humanity in the fundamental area of economic growth, but we do not believe it has found the way as yet to guarantee full free speech to its citizens on all questions."

In short, if we will be honest, we will be Marxist. And if we will be Marxist, people will follow our leadership. They never will if they see that we are excusing errors, dodging obvious truth, and acting like puppets. We made a fine beginning with the Rajik editorial, etc. Let's keep it up.

M. L. /

P. S. It is not enough for us to call on the U. S. to stop these dangerous atomic tests. We must ask the USSR to do likewise.

Friendship Not for Sale

EMMETT, Idaho

Editor, Daily Worker:

Just finished reading "Reappraising U.S. Foreign Policy" in the Daily Worker of May 8. Yes, this nation must learn that friendship can't be bought. They've tried to buy friendship and where has it gotten them? No where.

Big capitalists have always been known to be hogs—the more they get the more they want and to hell with the people. But I think the people all over the world are getting kind of wised up."

Concerning Emanuel Blum's letter "Faces Jail For Defending Labor" in the May 4, Daily Worker, this country is supposed to have freedom of thought, speech, expression, etc. It's ridiculous, I think, for the government to try to control thoughts and beliefs—although I'm not a bit surprised at them for trying it.—A READER.