

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

What Was Said By Khrushchev?

BROOKLYN

Editor, Daily Worker:

There have been conflicting reports from the Soviet Union regarding the responsibility of Stalin in failing to heed warnings about the impending Hitler invasion of the Soviet Union.

It has been reported that Khrushchev's speech to the closed session of the 20th congress gave the true facts about this matter as well as many other facts. In my opinion the rank and file as the world working class are entitled to know the contents of Khrushchev's speech.

H. Y.

A Housewife Who Left

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I can only write personally. Perhaps it means more this way.

After about 12 years in the Young Communist League and in the Communist Party, I came to a decision that had been brewing for a while. It was a lonely feeling, this break from the movement but I did it. I knew that I was not afraid to stay. I was just tired of being bossed around and tired of having demands made on me in terms and time, without ever being asked what I could give. It was as though a person could not be trusted to want to do his utmost.

Any objection to this bureaucratic state of affairs was always answered with preaching and insults.

I was quite happy to do what was asked of me and always took my young children with me doing neighborhood work of various sorts. But it was never enough, and I never felt that anyone in the leadership of my neighborhood had any respect for the efforts of women like myself. Pride in the work of the housewife was never appreciated or understood.

Even women leaders seemed a little contemptuous of the desire of man and wife to spend quiet times at home with just each other and their children. This was "bourgeois." But people who are constantly running away from their homes and children for "more important" things begin to look outlandish to their neighbors. Even here I think sectarianism is demonstrated. In any case, the average person will not put up with this style of life. And not from lack of understanding, but the contrary.

When I felt that I must free myself from these pressures, I knew that I'd seem like a coward, but I decided to depend on the conscience that I developed

in the Party to see me through. I was a subject of slander, gossip and such speculation that I can only wonder at it. But some good Party members proved good friends.

I know this has happened to others. A little old-fashioned kindness to people will always be fashionable. A recognition that people can be chased away more easily than recruited, would be in order. But where do we go from here? Can these same leaders really face their old habits and smug attitudes? If they can, they shall be men and women indeed.

A person worth his salt can only be held when his rights are not challenged and when he is respected and even loved. A. B.

Bring Discussion To the Streets

BRONX.

Editor, Daily Worker:

First, three rousing cheers for instituting "Speak Your Piece." It is the best thing that happened on the Daily Worker in the more than two decades that I have ceaselessly been reading it, except for the institution of the Spot Page.

The letters have on the whole been excellent, showing the high level of political understanding of your readers, particularly Sid Resnick on the American road to socialism, Francis Sheehy and Myer Weise in answer to Max Weiss.

But now that we are speaking our piece in the Daily Worker to our narrow circle, why confine it? Why not tell our story to the people?

There are many reasons for isolation, but one we can correct immediately. Let us once more institute the good old-fashioned open air meeting and soap box. The give and take of discussion has brought clarity to ourselves. Let's share it with the people.

- M. G.

The Question Of Self-Determination

DETROIT, Mich.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Self-determination in the Black Belt has been useful as a concept in illuminating the Negro question; but as a slogan it has long been left behind by events. Self-determination implies the right to make alternative choices as to the path of development.

Is there anyone in this country who doesn't know that the Negro people are united in their struggle for full participation and democratic inclusion in every phase of American life? The aim is neither "separation" nor "federation." It is integration.

There is no need to project

abstract rights of choice when in fact the choice has already been made. The very activity of this paper's readers in the fight for Negro and white unity has helped pave the road along which the Negro people are now marching under the banner of integration.

There is no point in continuing to talk on about some future decision on self-determination when the most obvious political fact of today is the determination of the whole Negro people to acquire all the rights, protections and privileges promised by the Constitution of the U. S.

As for the term "Black Belt" isn't it a rather crude way for Marxists to describe the areas of Negro majority in the South?

- S.

Three Points

Daily Worker Raised

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have some questions and thoughts on a number of points now being discussed in our movement.

Firstly in dealing with the isolation of the U. S. Communist Party, I'd like to pose the question—Are we isolated from the American people or are we primarily isolated from the working class, farmers and Negro people? The reason I'm raising this, is I think we have to think in class terms. In a particular community, where and how do we distribute our forces, what are the issues, what are the methods of work? What about the unorganized working class families? Is the working class, the most important in every community? In my opinion it is.

In order to gain the respect and support of the working class, I think it will be necessary for us to concretely and self-critically evaluate the role we have been playing. This evaluation should be sent perhaps in the form of letters to the union press, union locals or any other mass means open to us. We should ask for the comments, suggestions and criticisms of the workers so that we can truly fulfill our responsibilities to them.

I feel that the question of the class struggle and its role in transforming a capitalist society to a socialist one is not clearly seen by some of our members and some leaders too. Expressions of reliance on the international situation, where the socialist sector is growing and the capitalist sector dying, instead of reliance on the strength of the working class and its allies here are dominant in the

(Continued on Page 6)

LETTERS

(Continued from Page 4)
thinking of some. (My formulation is limited by space considerations.)

The last point I'd like to deal with is how specific election policy or any other policy is arrived at. In endorsing or working for a particular candidate, do we obtain the fullest information and thinking of people in the community before arriving at a decision? Or—do we come to the people after selecting candidate on a higher level with explanations (not always complete) as to why we have chosen to support this candidate and why people must put all their efforts into it? Obviously if the former method were used, we'd have greater participation and less chance of error. I believe this falls into the category of democratic centralism and its application in life.

—KATE