

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Says Lenin Showed "Trend" of Capitalism

LYNN, MASS.

Editor, Daily Worker:

This is an appreciation of the letter from "Maurice" (DW, June 26) in which he "Quotes Lenin Against Clark."

This letter proves that Clark's article: "Grandfathers and Grandchildren" (DW, June 20), if not a major contribution to the current development of Marxist science, has at least passed the first test.

For some twelve years our movement has been going through a period wherein any attempt to make our theory up to date or applicable to the present situation has been classified as "revisionist," "opportunist" or other and "refuted" as being "un-Marxist."

I do not question Maurice's right to criticize nor his intentions, but I do question the validity of his criticism. After re-reading both Maurice and Clark I find that the long quotation from Lenin, in Maurice's letter, says more in support of Clark than it does for Maurice.

For example, Maurice makes a big issue of Clark's contention that Marx's discoveries were "tendencies" — not "laws." But Lenin, as quoted by Maurice, does not say "laws" or "tendencies." "Trend" is the word used by Lenin. ("It showed the whole trend of modern capitalism," etc.)

In this same quotation Lenin says: "His (Marx's) theory . . . to indicate the path along which it is necessary to proceed, while developing this science further and elaborating it in every detail." It appears to me that

Clark has tried to develop this science and to elaborate it in more detail while Maurice has tried not to—and even objects to Clark's efforts.

Then further in the same quotation: "It made clear the real task of the revolutionary socialist party: . . . the organization of the class struggle of the proletariat and the leadership of this struggle, the final aim of which is winning of political power by the proletariat and the organization of a socialist society." (Lenin)

"But, according to Clark," says Maurice, "it seems that all that is not immortal . . ."

But Clark does not say that. It is not this quotation from Lenin to which Clark objects. He gives the impression, which Maurice does not, that he is at least trying to keep Marxism alive. If Lenin were a living American he would be able to define, I am sure, what struggles, for what gains, by which proletariat, how to lead the American workers to the "winning of political power; and later, if he were still with us, how to organize a socialist society under conditions which would prevail at that future time. But since Lenin is a long deceased Russian, we Americans have this task for ourselves.

For this reason we should welcome all attempts to understand better the present class struggle. If we fail to take Lenin's advice to "develop our science further and to elaborate it in more detail" we shall fail in our duty to the American workers and consign Marxist science to the archives of history.

L. G.

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