

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Struggle in the Soviet Union

Editor, Daily Worker:

This is my first letter since the 20th Congress took place. While the 20th congress pointed out, among other things, the great achievements of the Soviet Union, the evils that were revealed as a result of the "cult of the individual" were at times almost unbearable.

I shall not try to go back to those days, but one hope filled my being—that such horrors will never again show themselves in the land of socialism.

It seems that the struggle for individual power never ended even after the revelations—yet the Soviet people were kept in the dark. Why weren't the recent problems brought to them before it reached the Central Committee? And why don't we hear the statement of the accused—Malenkov, Molotov, Kaganovich? Stalin destroyed his opponents first physically, then their characters or deeds. Is Khrushchev following in Stalin's footsteps, but only in reverse?

Joe Clark, in his column of July 10, sees a spark of democracy because the struggle and debate took place in the C.C. instead of being one man's decisions. Yet I too feel that democracy has a long way to go in the first land of socialism. . . . Weren't Beria and company put to death without a public trial? Was someone fearful to let them state their case?

To call Kaganovich, Malenkov, Molotov names and accuse them of crimes during Stalin's rule, or tell the world that they were the black sheep in a good flock, is unfair, Khrushchev, Mikoyan and others of the present leaders were not "babes in the woods" when those crimes took place.

I don't think revenge is or should be the issue now. Peace, the welfare of all people, is the first item on the agenda. As Clark points out, when the 20th Congress enumerated the great achievements of the Soviet Union, Molotov, Kaganovich and their entire group were also responsible for its success.

For the past few months Joe Clark was not "one of my favorite sons" on the paper, and though the July 10 column could have had more substance I do want to congratulate him for

this column, for bringing to our readers a little clarity as to what takes place in the first land of socialism.

B.L.

## Rochdale Path To Socialism

Editor, Daily Worker:

In your "Speak Your Piece" letter column of June 25th a suggestion was made by your Milwaukee correspondent, Fred Blair. In the spirit of "interpreting Marxism" according to American conditions, he proposes a "federal law be enacted, or, if necessary, a Constitutional Amendment", by which each shareholder of a corporation shall have, similarly to the Rochdale farm co-op principle, only one vote, regardless of the number or value of the shares he owns in the corporation.

By mobilizing the people and labor movement (including the Becks) behind this reform, I suppose we shall successively overcome the resistance of the American Federation of Manufacturers, the Chambers of Commerce, etc., and elect a President, Congressmen, Senators, and judges who are proponents of this "reform".

In the face of massive propaganda from the capitalist press, radio and TV, we shall triumphantly enact this legislation, have it accepted by the Supreme Court, and confidently turn over to the FBI and local police, along with the District Attorneys, the problem of enforcement. We shall then have established, unequivocally, "People's Capitalism"; and, (who knows?) may be on the threshold of socialism as well.

CHELSEA READER

July 6

## Can Any Peaceable Advocacy Be Prohibited?

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Recent rulings by the U.S. Supreme Court on "communist issues" have prompted Congressman Francis Walter of Pennsylvania, and others, to clamor for new, tougher anti-Communist legislation. (N. Y. Times 7/18/57).

Forseeably, the following fundamental issues which may disastrously divide this nation thus will soon confront all Americans:

1) How can any political advocacy—short of direct instigation to anyhow punishable violence—be prohibited, whilst the American people still are the one and only sovereign determining all of this nation's basic policies, and the selection of the major officials implementing said policies? Are the American voters deemed capable (by whom?) to elect the right party, and president, but suspect of foolishly "mounting the barricades" if

there is no valid reason for following such a rebellious call—insofar issued?

2) Is an attack on American capitalism identical with an attack on America's republican form of government, as New Hampshire's Attorney General Louis Wyman once suggested? (N. Y. Times, 6/11/57).

Or does the essence of America's Constitution consist in the old glory of the American people's political sovereignty to live under any political, social, economical system of their own, free, perhaps even constitution-amending choice?

3) Is it constitutionally correct with President Eisenhower (N. Y. Times, 3/28/57) to postulate Congress' right to investigate and legislate "in any field in which the Congress feels it has a responsibility?"

Or would the quasi-absolute legislative power to create any novel "crime" *sui generis* rather seem the prerogative of parliaments not in America, but in Europe, where administrations generally are held dependent on parliamentary "confidence," and where Bills of Rights and Supreme Courts of the American type usually are missing?

4) Finally, as Congress thus would seem unable to legislatively create any novel crime *sui generis*—unless the sovereign American people had duly authorized the opening up of such novel legislative fields—how could Congress legislate "Communism" as such into a "crime," except such a specific authorization to legislate had been given to Congress by the American people, in the only constitutionally effective form of a new Constitutional Amendment?

BODO OHLY

7/18/57

## Rebukes Ike For Message To Dictator Franco

NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

President Eisenhower congratulated Franco last week saying that it was "Spain's national holiday." The 18th of July is the anniversary of a treachery of Fascism, Nazism and Falangism against the democratic Republic of Spain. Spain's national holidays are April 14, when the Spanish people overthrew tyranny, and also May 2, when the Spaniards kicked out Napoleon.

Franco men—the Blue legion—killed hundreds of Americans during the last war. How can the President of the U.S. congratulate an assassin of American patriots? Moreover, Franco and Hitler and Mussolini killed in Spain 2,000 young Americans who fought fascism in defense of American democracy.

"Something is rotten in Denmark" (USA).

JULIO LOPEZ

7/22/57

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