

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Right to Dissent Held Abused

PHILADELPHIA

Editor, Daily Worker:

After reading the column Today Abroad by Joseph Clark on July 10th in the Daily Worker and the column of A. B. Magil—Spotlight on Moscow—Facts and Outlook in the Worker of July 14th and his column Behind Soviet Ouster of Four is Peoples Striving for Change Those articles go much beyond friendly criticism of a fraternal party. Those writers are not willing to grant the Party of the Soviet Union the right to act independently, which they insist must be the right of our own Party.

To send a communique to the Soviet Party and raise friendly criticism and give advice on policy or acts, or to ask for an explanation of certain policy or acts, is one thing and is correct; but when we constantly publicly criticize Soviet policy and acts without even raising it with the

Soviet Party, we are playing into the hands of American imperialism, which, whether consciously smacks of anti-Sovietism. It seems Clark and Magil are not satisfied that since our convention we have the right to dissent and continue dissent on policy and program; but now they want to extend this version of democratic centralism to the Soviet Party by stating that the four ousted leaders should have the right to take their views or disagreement to the people of the Soviet Union—then you would have two groups of the Presidium or top leaders of the Party taking two different policies to the People, which could only cause division in the Soviet Union, and our two writers called this "Basic Democracy."

If the Soviet Party would take the advice of Comrades Clark and Magil I am sure American imperialism would be very happy.

JOSEPH DOUGHER