

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Paper "Better Than Ever"

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed in the little envelope is the small sum of one dollar from the very small bank account of a college student. Despite all the pressures, financial and otherwise, the paper is better than it has ever been.

Special thanks for the columns of Alan Max and Joseph Clark, and nuclear weapons coverage. Also, Mike Gold's great column on Howard Fast. And Lester Rodney and Joe North are sorely missed. Where are they?

COLLEGE STUDENT

(Ed. Note—Lester Rodney has been on a leave of absence for the summer and will return shortly. Joe North has been busy filling in on various editing posts on the paper during the vacation period. At the moment he is ill but we expect him back soon.)

Backs Foster's Side of Debate

Editor, Daily Worker:

Of course William Z. Foster is right in his verbal conversation with Anna Louise Strong. The struggle for Socialism is not as Miss Strong says "a fight already won," with Chiang Kai-shek, Dulles, Macmillan and the Tories, Western Germany militarized and atom bombs galore on the battle or order. To say that the crusade today is against the atom bomb only is false.

We must struggle against the bombs but we must struggle against the system which uses an atom bomb and napalm, which plots counter-revolution and preventive war. The causes of war, as even such a faker as Woodrow Wilson points out, is the struggle for economic markets. Which of course is caused by the contradictions of capitalism.

Eliminate capitalism and you eliminate the causes of war and those forces which of necessity force wars on defenseless people. The only way to eliminate the system of Capitalism is by bringing in the only system of society that eliminates the contradiction of capitalism, namely socialism.

As an aside, I must say that I feel angry at Anna Louise Strong. It is very easy when you are in your 70's and see no socialist future for yourself, to see socialism in one form or another as inevitable. But when you are young as I am and have to live in a world filled with A- and H-bombs, fear of depression and war and annihilation of all that is best in the humanistic outlook, you see the need for socialism and feel bitter at anyone who knows better, who throws in the sponge, conjures up pipe dreams and helps to dilute the militancy of progressives.

A YOUNG WORKER

P.S. Here is another dollar for the Fund Drive.

For Gurley Flynn Canvassing

Yesterday I canvassed for signatures to put Elizabeth Gurley Flynn on the ballot. I went dutifully. I returned enthusiastically. My love for the people deepened, my desire for socialism reinforced, my faith in the Communist Party restored.

My own mode of living is not lavish. My home is a jumble shop of hand-me-down and second-hand furniture of every period, ranging from Louis XV to ultra-modern. I live in a basement somewhat modernized to hide the fact that it is—after all—a cellar—damp, and as a cover for the excessive rent I am forced to pay. No, my own standard of living is not high, never has been. On one salary,

I am working my son's way through college. I too live in a ghetto—a Jewish ghetto. My whole adult life I have been conscious of the type of society in which we live and have devoted myself to changing the world (to the fight for socialism. Often I have been discouraged. Much has happened recently "to try men's souls." And yet, I must tell you, that you have but to canvass the Puerto Rican ghetto on the lower East Side, and you will return, as I did, a different person, a better person.

I will make it short. You will find that it is easy to get signatures. You have but to hand the people a leaflet in Spanish. They read it. They ask for the petition. They sign. Among the oppressed, the word "Communist" is open sesame. Their faith in us is unshaken. It is very deep.

Let us strive to be the kind of Communist Party they believe us to be: a party of socialism and of socialist people, a party that is a preview of the future, where people of all races, creeds and color meet in harmony, where debate is friendly and dissenters are not treated as traitors, a party not torn with factional strife but one where fraternalism prevails. This is the kind of party the people expect. This is the kind of Communist Party we must become.

If you want to feel the way I do, go canvassing for signatures for Elizabeth Gurley Flynn.

—JEANNIE WITH THE LIGHT-GREY HAIR.
—August 23.

Health Column Suggested

BUFFALO

Editor, Daily Worker:

Seems to me we need a good active group of health-holders (not house-holders, shareholders, free-holders or even card-holders, but health-holders). Take this Asiatic flu. First we were told it was a very mild affair. Then suddenly the whole U.S. Army overseas is being vaccinated against it. Then there is a furor as to whether there is enough vaccine to go round in the cities. One conscientious doctor of my acquaintance has refused to vaccinate patients with the stuff. He claims it is a hullabaloo kicked up by one of the drug houses which hungers and thirsts after profits.

And our food. Over 300 artificial flavorings and colorings not even examined yet by the food and drug commission; while some of those—especially colored oranges—that have been condemned, have been given 2 years to find a safe substitute! Our bread is the worst in the world. Even our pumpernickel which many thought was rather healthful, is often made up of the returned stale white bread, ground up, mixed with flavorings and colorings and rebaked. Watch for occasional small white lumps in your pumpernickel!

We are not only poisoned with propaganda, and fall out from A-bombs, but with daily doses of degenerative junk that is making us a nation of weaklings, mentally and physically. One third of our young men are rejected in the draft—at the healthiest period of life. Seventeighths of our children fail the Kurt-Weber health tests, while only 1/3 of the European children fail. We are afraid to speak our mind if we should differ with J. Edgar H. We bow before the Madison Ave. medicine-men. How long, Dear Daily, how long? How about a column exposing physical as well as propaganda poisons?

A. S. T.

(Alan Max's column will be resumed after Labor Day)