

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Oust Dixiecrats As Well

Dear Editor:

I feel that Monday's editorial on the Democratic Convention while emphasizing some of the positive developments, was not a truly Marxist analysts giving a complete picture.

The editorial fails to make clear that in addition to labor and liberal support, Stevenson had Southern Dixiecrat support throughout.

The editorial makes the statement that "Kefauver placed in second spot without the necessity of any commitments to the enemies of labor within the Democratic party." This may be true but how do we know? When we speak of a party that includes Eastland as well as Lehman uniting around a national ticket, we are naive to deny commitments that may be made out of public view.

The editorial states that in the course of the convention, the Dixiecrats were exposed and defeated! This is not true. The Credentials committee seated all the Dixiecrat delegates. The plank on Civil Rights was determined by what the Dixiecrats were willing to accept, and they are the ones in Congress that will determine how the platform will be carried out. A true fight on Civil Rights did not take place.

The editorial looks hopefully on Stevenson's generalized objectives as a basis for progress. But his remarks are campaign talk not intended to bind the party, the way the Platform is. The Platform opposes Geneva and coexistence, calls for the continuance of the cold war.

"A strong" civil rights plank at the GOP convention is called window dressing. Is it any less window dressing on the Democratic Platform?

Finally, I notice that the objective of ousting the Dixiecrats as well as GOP Big Business is no longer pointed to.

In order to maintain and develop our ties with the workers, we have to be completely honest in presenting the facts; then we can present our conclusions. I personally feel that Stevenson-Kefauver are a lesser evil than Eisenhower-Nixon; rather than that Stevenson-Kefauver are good and Eisenhower-Nixon are

bad. I think all of them can be influenced by the struggles around the issues to one degree or another. Let's maintain our Marxist independence in analyzing the developments and thereby win the respect and support of the people for whatever clarity we can lend.

—KATE.

Take Members Into Confidence

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Zetkin Group in Los Angeles read and discussed William Albertson's article in the August 12 WORKER, and adopted unanimously the following resolution:

1. We voice our indignation and protest against the National Committee's failure to make public the nature and content of various views and positions taken by the individual members of the Committee in its last several sessions.

2. This failure, in our judgment, constitutes disdain and contempt for the Party's membership and the Party's many supporters and can only result in the undermining and destruction of confidence in the Party's leadership.

3. This failure also underscores the inexcusable virtual boycott by the individual members of the National Committee of the Party-wide discussion which is presently going on.

4. We demand the immediate publication of the content of all discussions held in the National Committee in recent sessions and the positions taken by INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS of the nature and the roots of the party's past errors; on whether the party is going; on how and what phases of Marxist-Leninist theory are valid for our country; what should be the party's structure; how can the party become a living part of a broad American party of Socialism.

5. We hold that continued failure of the national leadership to take the membership and supporters into their confidence, to take "an open, frank and vigorous" part in the discussion, "stating honestly and frankly his or her position" spells disaster for the party.

The Zetkin Group,
24th Congressional Dis.
Los Angeles.

Says Square Dancing a Menace

Editor, Daily Worker:

The letter signed "Young Marxist" in your August 14 letters column has my blood boiling.

Does "Young Marxist" really mean to imply that magazines like Living For Young Homemakers, square dances and cha-cha music are good influences on our progressive youth? Did Lenin and Marx worry about the bourgeoisie who thought they were "drips?"

Young Marxists should remember that the point of view propagandized so cleverly by capitalist publishers of Living For Young Homemakers is contagious. Can it be that "Young Marxist" has caught it?

Older and
Wiser Marxist.

Complacency On Youth

Editor, Daily Worker:

Should a young Marxist go to college? Enter a profession? Become a doctor, lawyer, accountant or a scientist? In the past period we had a very definite line on this. Our answer to each question was a very definite no. Our line was that a good Marxist was one who worked in a factory. This was the test we set up for whether one had an understanding or not.

With our dogmatic insistence we antagonized many and left many others unconvinced. What are our answers now? Our reasons? If we hope to attract young people into our movement and get ourselves out of the rut we find ourselves in we will have to come up with answers soon. In order to come up with answers we have to first face the facts and admit that the problem exists.

Many of our youth leaders left college in the past period and threw themselves into an organizational life where they had meetings seven nights a week. They lived and dreamed nothing but organization. Those who were married had problems being good husbands. Those who had children had problems being good fathers.

'NEGRO PEOPLE ON MARCH,' A PAMPHLET BY BEN DAVIS

The Negro People on the March is the title of a pamphlet, now being distributed by New Century Publishers, containing the text of the report delivered by Benjamin J. Davis, former New York City Councilman and chairman of the Negro Commission of the Communist Party, at a meeting of the Party's National Committee held in New York on June 23-24.

Declaring that "the struggle for full social, political and economic equality of the Negro people has today reached its highest point since the era of Civil War and Reconstruction," the report opens with a major section on the significance of the Negro Question today. The next two major sections deal with aspects of the Negro liberation movement and the South.

Noting that the "center of gravity is shifting from the North to the South," the report examines the current struggles in terms of aims, alliances, obstacles, etc. and proceeds to suggest a number of general conclusions.

Leading up to a program of action for his party, Davis asserts: "Negroes in the South consider their movement for liberation a part of the world-wide struggle of the colonial people for independence, dignity and self-government. But the form

They became so inner-organizationally tied up that they were far more isolated than the rest of us. We now see the bitter fruits of this displayed in the lack of leadership they are giving, their slowness in learning the lessons of the 20th congress, in not encouraging full discussion on the new developments and in their failure to examine their own past work and roles self-critically.

All of us in the youth movement during the past period forgot how to relax, how to laugh, how to play and enjoy ourselves. Everything we did had to have political meaning. Everything we had had to have a message that hit us squarely in the face.

How do we go about rebuild-

of their struggle under American conditions in integration."

The report further discusses the Negro people's movement and the North and undertakes and evaluation of the recent gains of the Negro people. An extended final section examines a number of party problems among them: the historic contribution of the party in the struggle for Negro rights, its present "relatively extreme isolation," sectarian errors in the struggle for Negro rights, the campaign against white chauvinism launched in 1949, bourgeois nationalism and some views on the slogan of self-determination.

Davis' address, taken together with the already published reports of Eugene Dennis, Max Weiss and Claude Lightfoot to the preceding National Committee meeting constitutes the position presented by the party on major issues of the day for discussion by its membership.

In setting forth this point of view, the National Committee of the Communist Party has solicited comment, suggestions and criticism from the general public as well as members of the Party. Such communications should be addressed to: Discussion Committee, P.O. Box 87, Cooper Station, New York 3, N. Y. The pamphlet is priced at 25 cents.

ing our lives now—politically, socially and culturally?

The National Committee of our party, our national leaders, all other party leaders both state and city, party leaders (past and present), "Political Affairs" and "Party Voice" continue to maintain their perfect score. There is still not a single word on the problems of party youth, party youth work and the youth question in general. Where can we turn to for leadership?

It is my opinion that our youth movement is in pretty bad shape now and faces its biggest crisis ever. There is the definite possibility of its death in the near future unless something is done—fast. Can we afford to be so complacent?

—M.Y.