

## READERS' COLUMN

### Disagrees with Criticism Of Mike Gold Column

Dear Editor:

The letter by Joseph Posner concerning Mike Gold's views on Howard Fast is, in my opinion, disgusting. Mike Gold did not use tricks, as Posner implied. Anyone knows when Harry Schwartz touches an issue it is with one thing in mind—to fulfill his task as an anti-Soviet specialist.

When he announces Fast's leaving the Communist Party it may be an accident; when he writes the article that Fast uses to bait Polevoi, it also may be an accident; but when he reports on Howard Fast's article in the forthcoming magazine "Prospectus," it certainly is no accident, and in the words of John Gates, Fast is being used by people who seek to destroy everything he once claimed to stand for.

Another point is Fast's writings since he left the Communist Party. All his writings have been directed against the Soviet Union and the American Communist Party. After years of being blacklisted, Fast has been afforded the columns of such august papers as the New York Times, Fortune and the new "Prospectus."

Has he spoken out for the best in America—for the oppressed Negroes of the South, for peace, against the H-bomb? Has a word been uttered from his lips since the February announcement of his resignation from the CP about Algeria or for freedom for Morton Sobell?

I too am guided by the principle "By their works ye shall know them." Let us judge Fast by what he writes now. Malraux, Wright, Hicks and other whiners were once soldiers of the pen against capitalism. Where are they now? We have matured enough not to throw mud on a man just because he has left the ranks of the CP. Let us not go to the other extreme and forgive his anti-socialist attacks because of past service.

—JOE BARTEL