

The Case of the Missing Speech

Yesterday having been a holiday, we're at the same spot in the D.W.'s \$50,000 fund appeal as reported in yesterday's D.W. We want to take this opportunity to raise a problem with our readers that's been bothering us.

As we all know, there's a great debate going on internationally and among Marxists in this country regarding relations among socialist nations.

This newspaper, while it has—and must have—an editorial position, aims to present, as fully and

fairly as possible, both sides of these debates. In addition to the Speak Your Piece columns, we have urged well-known figures of the Left whose views differ from ours to contribute articles, and have published those received. We have also urged staff members with differing views to present them.

As regards news, our aim is to present, as fully as we can, the positions of various international Communist leaders and parties. We may have, on occasion, unconsciously erred in the play given to viewpoints opposing our own. If so we regret it. But it must be noted, too, that not always are

texts or detailed material available to us.

We intend, in every way possible, to avoid one-sidedness in presentation of news or selection of articles, and to give full play to varying viewpoints. In this way, we hope to assist the Left in arriving at a reasoned, balanced position which corresponds to the truth, which can help bring as wide unity as possible, and which can help advance the movement for socialism in our land.

We are troubled, however, by certain unfounded charges against our paper which threaten our very existence. To take a single example,

Palmiro Togliatti, Italian Communist leader, made a speech at Bologna Sunday in which he defended the November 4 Soviet intervention into Hungary. The United Press did not carry the speech, and we had no way of

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Total to date-- \$19,691.35
Still to go---- \$30,308.65

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knowing about it until we saw it in some metropolitan newspapers on Monday. At our regular Monday morning editorial staff meeting, we decided to run the story in the following day's paper, and we did.

But during Monday, we received several angry calls from very good people, supporters of our paper, who wanted to know why we had "suppressed" Togliatti's speech. They insisted the Jewish Morning Freiheit had that speech that morning, so why had we not obtained it.

We checked with the Freiheit, and found it had not received the Togliatti address. It had, two days earlier, published an article by Togliatti translated from the Soviet paper, Pravda, of Nov. 7, which had, in turn, culled it from the Italian Communist paper, L'Unita.

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On Nov. 8, the D.W. ran a story, culled from the London Daily Worker by foreign editor Joe Clark, which reported that since last April when the Austrian - Hungarian border was opened to tourist traffic, an estimated 60,000 counter-revolutionaries had entered Hungary. As far as we've been able to discover, no other English-language daily paper published this news item. Yet several people have demanded to know why we've "suppressed" it.

We can cite several similar examples. We raise this problem because in the passions aroused by the situation and debate, there is danger that some people may lose perspective. The result of this may well be the loss of this newspaper, which must depend on its readers for wholehearted support.

Should this happen—and we're close to that danger now it will be too late to regret. Those most critical of our viewpoint, as well as all others on the Left,—will find no place where they can present their own positions, and there will be no forum for debating out this, and other, major issues facing us.

We ask all readers, all supporters, to close ranks now—tomorrow will be too late—in support of our paper.