

Suppose You Were 34 Years Old This Coming January...

By DAVID PLATT

ON JANUARY 12, 1958 The Worker will be 34 years old. We are planning to put out an enlarged edition of the paper to commemorate that event.

When the Daily Worker was launched in January, 1924, there were some who saw no chance for survival of a daily newspaper devoted to labor and socialism.

Thirty-four years have passed—years in which history marched with Sputnik-like speed—years in which hundreds of commercial dailies bit the dust—years of Smith Act persecution—but the Daily Worker and The Worker kept right on going.

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WHAT FABULOUS troubles we've had. Always beset with critical financial problems, libelled by the controlled press, denied advertising, newsstands and subscribers pressured into cancelling subs and bundles, the right to be seen, read, heard denied us.

All the logic of bookkeeping, costs and monopoly control said we couldn't go on. But we did.

Somehow, whenever the breaking point arrived, we could count on our friends and supporters to rescue us with a flood of nickels, dimes and dollars. Why did they do it? The answer is to be found in the record of our achievements.

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THE YOUTHFUL Daily Worker that saw the light in 1924 carried on the great democratic tradition of such notable organs of men's freedom and independence as McDonnell's Labor Standard, Garrison's Liberator, Douglass' North Star, Susan B. Anthony's The Revolution, De Leon's Daily People and Debs' Appeal to Reason.

What powerful movements the Daily Worker and The Worker set in motion in behalf of Mooney and Billings, McNamara, Sacco and Vanzetti, Scottsboro, Angelo Herndon, Willie McGhee, Ethel and Julius Rosenberg and the victims of the thought-control Smith Act!

Our papers pioneered in the fight for industrial organization, which culminated in the founding of the CIO and the organization of the steel and auto industries.

We were in the forefront of the great struggle of the unemployed during the depression years which led to the passage of unemployment insurance and social security laws.

We were in the thick of the fight against fas-

cism here and abroad. We raised our voice for recognition of the Soviet Union nine years before Washington under FDR began to exchange ambassadors with the first socialist state.

We played prominent roles in the fight for Negro equality. Was there a single area of life in our country which we did not influence with our forward-looking program! We did notable work in the area of culture. In fact when the history of the cultural arts in America is written it will be found that nearly every writer, artist, poet and painter worth his salt at one time or another gave his finest to the pages of our papers, including William Saroyan, Sherwood Anderson, Floyd Dell, Upton Sinclair, John Strachey, Theodore Dreiser, Carl Sandburg, Clifford Odets, Art Young and many others.

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WE HAVE made our mistakes, some of them lulus, and we have suffered immensely as a result. But one thing we have not done. We have never betrayed the cause of labor and socialism. No one has ever been able to bribe or browbeat us. No one has succeeded in diverting us from the pursuit of goals that serve the best interests of the nation, such as advocating the social ownership of our economic machinery. We have never ceased fighting for peace. If we had done otherwise we would have gone out of existence long ago.

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WE BELIEVE our readers will agree with us that the Daily Worker and The Worker with their Marxist viewpoint have not only proved their worth through the years, but are needed today more than ever.

Today, humanity stands at the crossroads. One road leads to the atomic age and the full flowering of man's creative genius. The wrong road, in this era of flying H-bombs and long-range misguided missiles, could lead to world annihilation.

The Daily and Sunday Worker can contribute a measure of sanity to the debates on American-Soviet relations and armaments. Our papers are needed to throw light on the lengthening unemployed lines, the growing fears of depression and the meaning of the heavy legislative attacks on organized labor.

Won't you join us in celebrating the 34th birthday of the Daily Worker and The Worker. We ask you to send donations, greetings, bundle orders.