

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

The Wellman Interview

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was thrilled to watch CBS's interview with the Wellman family the other night. Millions of Americans must have gotten their first-real look at what a family of Communists is like. No ogres, no demons. Just ordinary people who have their own beliefs, love their children and try to raise them to love their country and be good citizens.

Watching the program I felt sure that even the most anti-Communist of viewers must let some of their hardened prejudices melt from this intimate contact with the Wellmans.

Best of luck, Vickie Wellman, to you and your parents.

—QUEENS MOTHER

Another Reading Suggestion

Editor, Daily Worker:

May I suggest one addition to the reading material listed in Speak Your Piece by Oakley Johnson (Jan. 24) for the current discussions. That is, "Letters to Americans," by Marx and Engels, issued in the USA by International Publishers.

Included in this interesting and much-neglected volume is an essay written by Lenin in 1907 in which he sums up the thoughts of Marx and Engels as follows:

"What Marx and Engels criticize in British and American socialism is its isolation from the labor movement. The burden of all their numerous comments on the Social Democratic Federation in England and on the American Socialists is the accusation that they have reduced Marxism to a dogma, to a 'rigid orthodoxy,' that they consider it 'a credo and not a guide to action,' that they are incapable of adapting themselves to the theoretically helpless, but living, powerful, mass labor movement marching past them."

Sad to say, this opinion, which meets with Lenin's approval, is for us not just of historical interest, a thing of the past—but sounds like an uncomfortably suitable description of the state of affairs in our country 50 years later and of some of the basic problems American supporters of socialism are grappling with today.

Lenin, apparently wrote this article to combat views held then by some Russian socialists that

opinions of Marx and Engels for solving the problems faced by socialists in the USA and Britain could be applied to Czarist Russia.

Lenin argued that this could not and should not be attempted for the simple reason that conditions were fundamentally different. Fortunately for the future of socialism in Russia, Lenin's views were upheld and the Marxists there adopted their own path which led to the creation of the world's first socialist state.

It sounds almost like a joke on history that Lenin should have had to argue at one time against imitating an American path, when the actual course of history in our time has presented this problem in exact reverse for U. S. Communists.

Here, what Marx, Engels and Lenin were saying never fully soaked in. We have all seen in the last 10 years alone a remarkable, up-to-date demonstration of the reduction of Marxism to a "dogma," to a "rigid orthodoxy," which made the Communists "incapable of adapting themselves to the theoretically helpless, but living, powerful, mass labor movement marching past them."

So that, despite the best of intentions and periods of con-

siderable progress and contributions which are indelibly written into labor's history, enactment of social legislation, civil rights movement, etc., the U.S. Communist movement is nevertheless in its current crisis.

That there will come into being a big socialist movement in the USA in the coming years is something of which I feel very confident. Whether the Communists will play their part in it depends now, it seems to me, on whether these long-standing opinions of Marx, Engels and Lenin are finally grasped in full measure and applied to the USA today.

HERBERT SIGNER.

Chaplin Next?

Editor, Daily Worker:

Now that Ingrid Bergman has come to our shores and gone, without any noticeable decline in public morality, when is the government going to end its nonsense about keeping Charlie Chaplin out?

After all, Ingrid was accused of violating one of the Ten Commandments. All they've got against Chaplin is that he was caught thinking.

—Early and Late Show-Viewer

Don't Let It Happen Here

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in the English, the Daily Worker is needed more than ever.

But the decision rests with you. We know the sentiments of the overwhelming majority of our readers. But can this sentiment be translated into the necessary deeds?

Here is what you can do:

- Make your own contribution and solicit support from among your friends and shopmates so that we can complete the Fund Drive before the Daily Worker Anniversary Ball on Feb. 9.

- Individually or with others, arrange for contribution to the paper on a regular and permanent basis. The paper will need such support for a long time.

- Read the DW every day. If you get it at a newsstand, buy it regularly. Try to get others to buy the DW at your newsstand. See if you can get the dealer to carry more copies.

- If your subscription is about to expire, renew it in time. Urge others to subscribe.

- Write us the views of yourself and of your friends on how to maintain the paper and how to improve it.

What happened to the Daily People's World on the West Coast is a warning that IT CAN HAPPEN HERE.

IT IS UP TO YOU. LET'S ALL PULL TOGETHER TO GUARANTEE THAT IT SHALL NOT HAPPEN.