

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

"Lawless Enforcement"

Editor, Daily Worker:

Historically and conventionally, when rights guaranteed by the Constitution and generally accepted under the common law are infringed or denied, the victims belong to the minority.

Many years ago an article in the Harvard Law Review used the expression "the lawless enforcement of the law." And precisely that has been the kind resorted to by reactionaries with increasing frequency and harshness against those they accuse as radicals and subversives.

One of the latest exhibition of that unrighteous public behavior was the raid by an Internal Revenue official on the offices of the Communist Party and the Daily Worker.

When in June 1951 the Supreme Court rendered its infamous decision upholding the validity of the conceived-iniquity Smith Act, Cabell Phillips, Washington correspondent for the N. Y. Times wrote (6/10/51): "... this undoing of the Communist Party has been achieved only by a violent upheaval in our judicial concepts." In another occasion Mr. Justice Jackson warned that "security is like liberty in that many are the crimes committed in its name."

The Smith Act, the federal loyalty programs, and the McCarran Internal Security Act make a formidable unprincipled legal structure for false and designing men continue indefinitely a violent upheaval of long held good and true American judicial concepts of justice and of fairness to all citizens.

—Pro bono patriae

Women's Day Articles Lauded

Editor, Daily Worker:

Congratulations on the much needed articles in the International Women's Day Supplement. The articles by Lester Rodney, Elizabeth Lawson, Clara Bodian and Jesus Colon, as well as the feature on Yetta Land, in a subsequent issue, were an inspiration.

This paper needs more of this thoughtfulness with respect to the deep wishes for expression of women's particular point of view. And more attention should be paid to the fight to pass legislation to help working mothers by allowing deduction for child care. The tendency to talk of the "community," the "people" and ignoring or smothering the

special conditions of discrimination against women is a policy that tries to cover up the subordinate position of women.

In this case where business is permitted to subtract endless sums for "entertaining" the woman who works has to campaign for this expense of care for her children while she is at work. This is an economic issue vitally affecting millions of women.

The economic persecution of working mothers in the form of unwarranted taxes should receive persistent exposing until adequate measures are passed to relieve women who work of the necessity of paying the government for the privilege of being employed for wages, outside the home.

Welcome back dear editor and more power to your work. A new spirit on the question of equal rights for women, a new dignity and an improved political level in this question as well as a fine improvement in general is very apparent recently.—Woman Reader.

"Faced in the Right Direction"

Editor, Daily Worker:

Sooner or later in this truly wonderful, so necessary, free wheeling discussion, I think we will profit by going back to 1945 and calmly finding out what valuable groping in the right direction we may have thrown away in the correction of Browderism.

Wasn't there a kind of hysteria in the manner of that correction which left an inhibiting fear of independent thinking? Actually, when you but think of it, the fear of independent socialist thinking being "Browderism" is upside down. Browderism, after all, was the ABANDONMENT of socialist perspectives. How very different from an independent searching out of OUR OWN AMERICAN ROAD TO SOCIALISM!

Browderism was also what people in Russia are calling the "cult of the individual," and what we ought to call by its American name, hero worship. Good riddance to it, in any language.

Speaking of language...

Some of us, it seems to me, still don't fully realize what a rugged moment this is for American Marxists, and why. It is rugged exactly to the extent that we made the terrible mistake of allowing the word "communist" to seem to mean something not really American.

This, if we can but measure up to it, is the opportunity to dump the staggering load of sectarian blunders and rescue what is still fundamentally a very glorious heritage in spite of those blunders.

I for one feel it will happen.

I like the tone of this discussion the way people are thinking hard and talking out loud. This is no "mechanical turn," this is truly something new. I believe we will wind up this great discussion faced in the right direction, and then continue discussions on an ever growing give and take level with the rest of the American working people who agree with so many of our anti-capitalist ideas but don't know it yet (which is partly our own fault). We will end once and for all the lying caricature that Americans dedicated to the lofty ideals of a future of brotherhood and ever growing prosperity in peace are automatons concerned with some other country over our own beloved land.

And with all sincere respect and fraternal admiration for the advances of our Chinese, Russian, Polish, Czech et al friends, given our country's great traditions a socialist America whenever it comes will be by far the sweetest thing to ever hit this planet.—LESTER RODNEY.

Facts Urged About Soviet Jewish Writers

CHICAGO

Editor, Daily Worker:

I write to you in deepest shame for myself, other progressives, and you, and with realization of our grave negligence, in regard to the issue of the Soviet Jewish writers—unheard from in the last eight years.

All this time the American Jewish community and especially their progressives, has sought information on the status of these writers, and to counter the vicious propaganda of the enemies of socialism, the Soviet Union and the common people.

Now, the news has broken again, attributing a dire fate to these writers.

How can we accept a situation of our failure to obtain clear information from the Soviet people, especially its Communist Party, which possesses so deep a fraternal concern for the welfare of minorities and oppressed peoples everywhere.

Thus there is so much reason to insist on, and receive the clear facts concerning these Soviet writers.—S. G.

Reshaping Our Education

Editor, Daily Worker:

The appraisal of the policies of our Party should include a searching probe of the role of education in our movement.

We have long needed a thorough overhauling of our work on the ideological front from root to branch.

With a few honorable exceptions, we have not succeeded in giving generalized Marxist-Leninist principles an American national form — an American flavor arising from a true integration of Marxist-Leninist theory with the specific experiences of our own country.

Our approach has been more often than not to search for those features of American life that fit readily into general principles derived elsewhere.

We have tended to ignore or reject as unworthy of study the particular American experiences which didn't jibe with our general conceptions. So, we clung stubbornly to the slogan "The Yanks are not coming" from September, 1939, up until the undignified and embarrassed "flip-flop" of June 22, 1941.

We blithely ignored the influence of the two-party system in the ranks of labor in the '48 elections.

We hard-headedly insisted on the concept of self-determination as a slogan of Negro liberation despite the wholesale rejection of this policy in the Negro people's movement.

I believe these were errors in policy derived from a basic ideological deficiency that can be described best, as an expression of the bare bones of Marxist-Leninist form rather than the mastery of its living breathing essence.

Jerrolds' comment that "Dogmatism is puppyism full grown," could well be a reference to our immaturity in the field of ideology.

The mechanical reading of the classics of Marxism as textbooks with readymade answers to all questions of the past, present and the future helped saturate our movement with a Duke's mixture of shibboleth, dogma and cliché that widened our isolation from the man-in-the-street.

Creative living Marxism means testing and retesting every general principle in the fiery crucible of day-to-day American practical experience.

That does not mean throwing the classics out of the window, as some of us conclude.

It means increased study of the classics to absorb Marx's and Lenin's method in order to better evaluate the American scene.

Systematic, collective and self-study has fallen to an all-time low in our movement. This is reflected in the level of Communist Party classes and schools, as well as the constant decline of enrollment at Jefferson School. Here is the foremost Marxist institution for the study of problems of the American labor movement, the Negro people, American history and thought in the Western Hemisphere; fully equipped with all the material requirements for study; staffed by an extremely competent group of Marxist teachers.

Progressives in every city, town and village west of the Hudson envy our opportunity to study at the Jefferson School.

Yet in New York, we allow this splendid institution to offer its valuable and exciting fare to half-empty classes, truly prophets without honor in their land.

The ideological ferment arising from the discussions on the 20th Party Congress would lead one to believe the school was never more needed. Yet the Spring Term has the lowest enrollment ever.

I believe one of many reasons is some wrong conclusions from recent developments. Many of us feel that the answer to dogmatism and narrow sectarianism means the rejection of theory and an absorption with practice in its most limited sense.

We should not exchange the tattered clothes of dogma for the rags of empiricism. Our aim must be to unite theory and practice. This can only be done by consistently combining our practical work with sustained study.

The staff and faculty of Jefferson School are reshaping all teaching and subjects in lights of the new orientation developing in our movement.

The courses on the 20th Party Congress, coalition tactics, American Labor History and the Negro Peoples movement are only a few of the many rich opportunities for study in a new way from the School.

Let us revive the practice of "one night a week for Marxist study."

Enrollment at the Jefferson School is one of the best and speediest roads to its achievement. HOWARD JOHNSON.