

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Economic Policy

KANSAS CITY, Mo.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I suggest that a pretty fundamental overhauling is due on the Communist Party's economic policy.

Take agriculture, for example. After years of hesitation and indecision, the Party seems to have come out for 100 percent parity prices as a solution for the farmers' ills.

Now it may be true that there is no good solution for the farmers' ills under capitalism. It may also be true that many poor farmers desire parity payments, and that the organized labor movement is going along with this demand for want of a better idea.

But there is nothing Marxist about the parity idea in my opinion. It is an economic monstrosity, which gives temporary benefit to rich farmers, keeps a few poor farmers in business, and does no long-run good to either, while it greatly injures consumers. It is unsound, unfair, and uneconomic; it delays progress in farming and dodges the most important issues.

Conceived originally as an emergency measure, it has hung on because nobody in any party has had the courage or the brain-power to throw it overboard and face up to the problem what to do for, or with the submarginal farmer on submarginal land. Let us hope that somebody does so before relatively full employment fades and leaves us with a far more critical version of the same problem.

Or take the nationalization of particular industries. In favor of nationalization of the coal mines, the best argument that George Morris is able to present (March 19) is that under private enterprise there are far fewer men employed in the mines than there were in the 1920's. Is he telling us that public policy calls for the slowing down of mechanization of the mines? That is not a Marxist approach, however much we may sympathize with the miner who has no other means of livelihood and is thrown on the scrap-heap.

This kind of half-baked thinking, trailing along after the organized labor movement or at the very least failing to lead it, is not the sort of thing that captured the imagination of the workers and dispossessed members of the middle class in the thirties. —ECONOMIST.

Asks Clear Report By Soviet CP

PHILADELPHIA

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think it is extremely important to the world socialist move-

ment that the CPSU publish to the world its detailed report on the cult of the individual and state specifically what crimes were committed.

It is not we who interfere by demanding details, but the Soviet Communist Party that interferes with growth in the rest of the Socialist world by withholding details.

Let them give us the whole dose at once, or else let them give an official and convincing explanation of why they are holding back.—E.P.

Power Breeds Bureaucracy

Editor, Daily Worker:

I believe that under conditions of state power bureaucracy will always grow when the same individuals continue in power for 10, 20, 30 years. If a sincere revolutionary and dedicated socialist like Stalin could turn bureaucrat, became vain and tyrannical, it is no less possible for the same to occur with Khrushchev, Ulbricht, Rakoski, Dennis. Let's not kid ourselves.

Any man in high office likes to stay there. He likes to be right, he becomes defensive about being wrong. Collective leadership is good, but it is only a partial solution to the problem. Why? Because collective leadership will always become increasingly sterile if the same people are in leadership year after year.

Leadership must constantly receive new additions, and old leaders must refresh themselves by getting out of high office, out of narrow circles, out of policy making—and return to work at the bottom layer of the people. They need the nourishment of intimate day-to-day contact with people.

I predict that if Khrushchev remains in the same position for the next ten years, the cult of personality will grow again.

This is a deep problem, friends. Let's not close our eyes to it. The solution has not yet been found by the S.U.—R. B.

Write to Robert Wells

Dear Sir:

Would you advise your readers that on May 23 Wesley Robert Wells will "celebrate" his 47th birthday, his 27th behind prison bars.

I know that even his great courage will be buoyed up by proof that the people are still behind his fight for justice and freedom. Prison rules permit him to receive birthday cards from anyone.

The address is Wesley Robert Wells, Box 24155, California Medical Facility, Vacaville, California.

Yours very truly,

AUBREY GROSSMAN

Trotskyites' Role During War

Editor, Daily Workers:

Several times lately I saw in the Daily Worker references to a mistake in the past in failing to defend Trotskyites against Smith Act prosecution.

I would like to say "yes" and "no!" We were wrong in failing to defend them against prosecution under that infamous fascist Act, with emphasis on breaking the Act. But as to the Trotskyites, that is something else again! True to their style they talked revolution but in effect hindered the war against Hitler's gang.

It is interesting to note that in spite of the red hot revolutionary program of that sect they were not prosecuted under the Smith Act when reaction got into power under Truman and Ike.

—A. E.

The Role of the Catholic Church

MIAMI, Fla.

Editor, Daily Worker:

A series of articles dealing with the Catholic Church in the U. S. is long overdue. Such articles should of course include an analysis of the Church's past and continuing activities in the American labor movement including the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists (ACTU) itself.

—C. S.

More About Capital Punishment

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is such a simple and beautiful and satisfying thing to say, "I am against capital punishment"; and the person who does not agree is, I suppose, an ogre. But, realistically, we are unfortunately not yet at the stage in the world where a choice between the perfect and imperfect is possible; the choice still is between IMPERFECT and imperfect.

Anyone believing in the system of Socialism must be convinced that justice is inherent in that system just as injustice is inherent in the capitalist system. This goes for the spirit of humanity as well.

Why, then, does the Soviet Union still cling to the law of capital punishment? Because living in a real world and carrying real responsibility towards millions of its citizens (by the way, not vast distances away, but on the spot, which merits some consideration), they know that abolishing capital punishment would open the gates wide, almost like an invitation to a new crop of criminal elements who work ill in the country. With their lives secured in

PUERTO RICO COMMUNISTS PUSH DRIVE FOR PAY FLOOR

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (by mail).—A half-page ad by the Communist Party of Puerto Rico in El Mundo, one of this country's leading newspapers, urged a minimum wage law, unemployment insurance, trade union unity and democracy, and denounced the frame-up of 11 Puerto Rican Communists and non-Communists under the thought-control Smith Act.

The ad recalled the past struggles of the Puerto Rican workers for the right to organize and the eight-hour day under the leadership of Santiago Iglesias Pantin, founder of the trade union movement and the first workers' party, the Socialist Party. The statement listed the demands of Puerto Rican workers today: a minimum wage law in industry and agriculture; unemployment insurance; reduction of the prices of necessities; repeal of the Taft-Hartley Law; trade union unity and democracy; and nomination of more workers, peasants and women in this year's Puerto Rican elections.

The statement also urged struggle for independence and peace, proportional representation, and an end to the persecution of organizations and individuals for their ideas.

The ad, which was signed by Juan Santos Rivera, president, and Ramon Mirabal, general secretary

of the Communist Party, pointed out that those indicted under the Smith Act will be tried under a law imposed on the Puerto Rican people. The statement said the trial would be conducted in the English language, "which is not that of our people and which many of the accused, like the majority of Puerto Ricans, do not understand."

Munoz Marin Sees Wage Floor Action

WASHINGTON, May 15.—Gov. Luis Munoz Marin of Puerto Rico said yesterday he is confident his country will raise minimum wages in 18 industries to mainland levels within the next few days.

Munoz arrived here from Miami to discuss the role of labor in inter-American relations.

U.S. labor leaders have criticized Puerto Rico's objections to an extension of the Federal minimum wage law of \$1 per hour to the island.

Munoz plans to confer with Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell and Sen. Paul Douglas (D-Ill.), a member of the Senate Labor Committee.

Later in the week he will address the annual convention of the International Ladies Garment Workers in Atlantic City, N. J.

QUAKERS REPORT MANY JOIN PLEA TO BAR H-BOMB TEST

PASADENA, Cal., May 16.—An appeal to the public to write President Eisenhower asking a halt to the forthcoming H-bomb test has received an "excellent response," a spokesman for the Friends Committee on Legislation (Quakers) said here.

Requests for more than 39,000 copies of the appeal have been received, it was disclosed, "with requests still coming in."

The appeal, published as a leaflet and entitled, "You Can Still Do Something About the H-Bomb Test," calls upon readers to write the President and to ask their friends to do so "if you agree that the test is wrong, or a mistake, or that the United States should make

cancellation of the test an opportunity for creative action."

Requests for copies of the leaflet have come to the Friends office here from all over the country, with "at least half from Southern California," it was revealed.

Friends offices in Northern California and New York City have reprinted the leaflet.

After listing the physical, political and moral implications of another H-bomb test, the leaflet concludes:

"These sheets are free. Order as many as you can use from the Friends Committee on Legislation, 122 North Hudson St., Pasadena. (Add a personal message of your own and mail for three cents.)"

advance, it is obvious that this breed, undoubtedly present to a degree today, would greatly increase in number and feel emboldened in its treacherous work.

And, yes, one traitor, under certain emergency conditions not impossible to imagine—since peace, although safer today, is certainly not yet secure—could do untold damage to millions—to the whole Soviet nation.

A traitor in jail cannot do harm, says E.W., but an increase in the number of traitors

will also mean a corresponding increase in their number who will remain unapprehended; and those who will be caught can be, thanks to the eased up punitive conditions, more easily replaced. I will not go so far as to say that traitors in jail, under certain conditions, can be released by others of their kind.

Capitalism has still tremendous power for mischief in the socialist lands:—witness project X, and the desertion now and then of certain individuals to the West.—A. S.