

Dear Editor

Letters from Readers

The views expressed in the letters printed below do not necessarily reflect our own. However we are glad to present their opinions and invite others to write to this column.

Brooklyn Worker Tells of Layoffs

Dear Editor:

I am a worker in A. Schrader's Son, which makes tire valves for the automobile industry. For the last few months, with the sharp drop in auto production and sales, I figured it was only a matter of time before we would be hit.

Not too long ago, we were working three shifts and with plenty of overtime. Now, 120 workers have been laid off—almost 10 percent of the shop—and nobody knows what's coming next. This has been happening for the past couple of years.

The workers who have given the company big stockpiles and the highest profits in its history, are kicked out when things get slow. It's only fair that some of the company's profits should be used to ease the burden of layoffs.

Last year our union, Local 458 of the I.U.E., won some good gains in the last contract. But we haven't yet gone for one of the demands of our International—for a lay-off pay plan. The 30-hour week at 40 hours pay, which the auto workers and others are calling for, would help keep more of us working all the year round.

It's about time too that New York State adds to unemployment payments for each dependant as other states have done.

If we work together for these things, our union can really protect us in the face of layoffs.

Enclosed is \$2 for a paper that always fights for labor.

A Brooklyn Worker.

Socialism Offers Creative Challenge

Dear Editor:

First of all, let us admit that the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union was the most important Congress since the time of Lenin. It represented in many reports that I have seen, a turning point comparable only to the 15th Congress of 1927 at which Stalin formally took over the Party expelled the enemies of the Party and put forward the ideological, living reality, of Socialism in one country.

No one can take away the political outlook from Stalin up to many years on to 1938. The main question we have to ask, was it the conviction of Stalin that the Soviet Union could—or had to go it alone. This appeared to be a concept of isolation, which affected International defeats, culminating by the DEBACLE in China. The policies expounded at the 20th Congress represented a new course, which was dictated by a new set of circumstances. What has emerged is a new foreign policy based upon the present International needs. The foremost factors that has shaped the new policy, was the physical growth of the Socialist states. Mikoyan stated, "The time is gone when the Soviet land of Socialism was isolated when we were an oasis in a capitalist encirclement. Today there can be no talk of this. At present, alongside with the system of capitalist states, there is a system of Socialist states. Now the great Western powers can no longer settle any major issue on their own, without considering the opinions of the USSR, China and all the countries of socialism."

The American working class must learn from the discussions going on within the Party and left forces, that is we are desirous to take an active part to develop its political conscious. We must unite all forces of militancy within the labor movement.

All who advocate Socialism

face a creative challenge in ways to make Socialism more meaningful to our fellow American.

Obviously this requires popular education and especially in mass struggles, joining hand-in-hand with the labor movement, in the shops and plants, with the Negro people, with the millions of farmers, and all Americans who seek to defend ALL civil rights against McCarthyism and racism. To defend the economic interests of the masses against monopoly capital. To organize the millions of the American



People for Independent Political Action in the 1956 election campaign.

Marx and Engels and Lenin show that people by their own efforts can and do change society, nor does it deny the role of leaders but they show that such leaders must always represent and serve the interests of the oppressed class.

The Communist Party of the U.S.A. should arm the working classes with such knowledge, which will help them to carry its struggle against capitalism through to its victory for Socialism.

The hour is getting late. The need is urgent. The American people are waiting. The 15 million members of the AFL and the CIO need militant leadership. Can we become within the membership to change it, or will we just leave its membership to a force of Bureaucracy and Reaction, I doubt we will. We must carry on the fight for peace, progress in all the realms of working-class aims until we reach Socialism.

Comradely Yours

BILL McKIE

Topics of Concern To Working People

DETROIT, Mich.

Dear Editor:

There are certain subjects of great concern to working people that I would like to see much more written about in The Worker.

That would help to sell The Worker and to make it more valuable to its readers. If pamphlets were written on these topics, I believe they could be sold and distributed in mass quantities.

I recall that Doxey Wilkerson pamphlet on desegregation had a big sale because the topic was hot. Also Burnham's pamphlet on the Till case. I believe Lumar's pamphlet due to come out on automation will be a big success for the same reason.

Such topics are:

- 1.—Unemployment today.
- 2.—Answers to the slanders of the moderates on desegregation who merely are the face of the Dixiecrats in the north; and who repeat vile arguments against the Negro. The self interest of labor in Negro rights has constantly to be shown in varied ways.
- 3.—Speed-up and barracks-like conditions in the shops.
- 4.—What to do with the farm surpluses.
- 5.—Socialism and freedom; socialism and America; what the free world is really made up of.
- 6.—The armaments program and your job.

Workers generally and progressives in particular are very interested in the above topics. In my opinion, only The Worker and Marxists can analyze them with clarity—which is so much needed. But not much of it is being done.

A BROTHER.



On Motherhood And Home Chores

Dear Editor:

Your articles in the "Worker" ring the bell in this house. I am the 39 year-old mother of five children, with a big house, lots of gadgets, and a college education. For years I have wrestled with the problems of a part-time job, having the companionship of my husband, getting all the chores done, and being a good mother. It is no easy matter.

Solutions worked out individually never solve all the problems and not even a couple of them adequately. The hours are impossibly long and lonely. The satisfaction of having healthy, happy children is a big one, but a relative one. Mother's state of mind is something to reckon with too.

The solutions to the problems raised are really to be found only in the reorganization of society. It is not enough to guarantee jobs to women, equal pay for equal work, shorter hours, and maternity benefits—as the Socialist countries have achieved and as even capitalist countries may achieve. The emancipation of women will finally come about with the solution of a great contradiction. That contradiction in the United States, is between our highly socialized production methods and private distribution of what is produced.

The frozen and canned food processing plants, commercial laundering and housecleaning service are not for the millions of housewives who exhaust themselves, each in her own kitchen, through countless years. No, these services for the most part, benefit the wealthy con-



sumers and owners who operate by "earning" (really grabbing) profit from their businesses. Gadget-makers get their huge share too. It will take a high degree of organization to overcome this contradiction, but it will be done in time.

The task at hand is a simple one, though it requires patience and perspective. If all the housewives, and husbands too, who read these articles, who have recognized the problems that exist for millions of women in our advanced capitalist economy, if we all got together, the reorganization could begin.

My own immediate neighbors say, "If only I could find time to read the newspapers, every time I sit down for a few minutes in the daytime, a baby climbs into my lap"—or "There's a quarrel in the backyard, I must keep an eye on things out there," or "I'm so tired in the evening I just go to sleep." Multiply this by millions and you can imagine the intellectual stagnation among American housewives of child-bearing age.

The first thing to do is convince the women themselves that they need and must get at least one hour a day to read a book or newspaper. From here it is one more step to get groups of housewives together one

Reader Gives His Views on the Question: Shall Progressives Sit Out the Elections?

Dear Editor:

In view of the fact that the November elections are only six months away, with the primaries in full swing, and the possibilities of effecting changes in behalf of peace, democracy and a better life within our grasp, it is certainly time to do some hard thinking and discard all notions and tendencies that will serve only as roadblocks.

A number of straws in the wind indicate a trend among a section of Left-Progressives to sit the elections out. A few months ago Dr. DuBois in the "National Guardian" clearly expressed this sentiment, insofar as the Presidential elections were concerned.

He said that because there was no possibility of a third party this year, and since there was no choice between Democratic and Republican candidates, that Left-Progressives register their protest on principle by staying away from the polls. However, he felt it would be wrong not to participate in local elections.

The deep resentment against the Cadillac Cabinet and the Democratic Party, including the Dixiecrat wing, is fully justified. Outside of Senators Lehman, Morse and a few others, the record of both houses of Congress has been chiefly devoted to catering to the interests of Big Business, through oil, power giveaways, etc.

However, it is one thing to become cynical and defeatist because of this rotten situation, and stick our heads into the sand like an ostrich, but it is something entirely different to face up to the situation with courage and a clear head.

These are the essential facts as they exist today:

1) There is no third party of labor, small and middle-income farmers, professionals and small business on the scene.

2) The majority of voters (including independent voters), will select either Democratic or Republican Party candidates in the November elections.

3) The Supreme Court decision

evening a month to discuss, as they inevitably do anyway, the impossible kind of life they lead and what they read in their one hour a day. Some groups talk and call it "current events," others might chose a book to read and discuss. Liberty Book Club selections are fine for this purpose.

Aside from this sort of "letting-off-steam" kind of activity there are concrete things women need, in different places, but each giving the opportunity to reach more and more women. Some of these are: cooperative nursery schools, part-time jobs for women near home, after-school activities for children, organized summer activity for children. In the course of working for these things, it is always possible to educate housewives for the bigger, overall reorganization necessary.

To get out of the kitchen an hour makes the housewife a better mother. She will have more to give her children if she enlarges her outlook. The chores need to be done, it is true. A cooperative spirit in the home lightens the chores. A cooperative spirit outside the home will eventually make more complete community services available to all of us, and then emancipation of women will really be on the way.

—RUTH B. SIMON

We Make Our Own Mistakes

PHILADELPHIA.

To the Editor:

It seems to me our party leadership is not facing up to the fact that the "cult of the individual," (bureaucracy) is prevalent in our party, and is the main factor leading to wrong policies, and failing to carry out correct ones.

on desegregation has split the Democratic Party wide open, with the Dixiecrats openly opposing desegregation.

4) The deplorable economic situation among small and middle income farmers and its bungling by the Eisenhower Administration has created a rift among the Republican Congressmen from these stricken farm areas in West and Mid-West.

5) A number of favorable Supreme Court decisions affecting the status of the Communist Party under the McCarran Act and the Smith Act victims reveal a shift in the political country for the better. A few swallows, of course, do not make a summer and much remains to be done.

6) The growth of the Socialist sector of the world and the constantly diminishing capitalist sector, with a third bloc of Neutralist nations like India, Burma, Egypt, etc., have under the impetus of the Geneva and Bandung conference thrown the schemes of the Washington-London-Paris imperialists for a third world war into a cocked hat.

There is many a slip between the cup and the lip, as the poet says. The need for a genuine mass third party is there, but the desire is the possession only of a small fraction of the American people. The problem is how to build such a party when the opportunity arrives.

There is such an opportunity this year, but it must be grasped. There is no question of giving blank check endorsements to any candidates. But where there is agreement among political groups on the dominant issues of the day locally or nationally, even on a minimum basis, every effort should be made to form coalitions around those issues and candidates who meet the test.

Thus is the foundation laid for such a movement, which must be broadened and consolidated. There is no blueprint. The eyes of the masses throughout the world are on us. Their outstretched hands beckon to us. Are we equal to the task?

A PRINTER.

The Worker recently reported the opinion of our National Committee that "we, like other parties, were affected by the cult of Stalin and his infallibility, and made many serious mistakes that impaired our relations with friendly masses of people and organizations."

Did our serious mistakes flow primarily from a belief in the infallibility of Stalin, or did they flow mainly from serious expressions of bureaucracy among our own leaders? Stalin didn't make OUR mistakes. WE did.

Gene Dennis characterized our mistakes as "mainly left-sectarian in character." John Swift's articles in "Political Affairs" made an important contribution on this question, but how many leaders chose to ignore or reinterpret those articles?

Our party has always said the workingclass must be the leading class for decisive social progress. But how many leaders continue to base their work primarily on middle class leadership, and often mainly the white middle class at that?

Several years ago there was a very strong critical discussion of Ohio party functionaries, in which Gus Hall participated. The results were published in "Political Affairs." How many other districts or state leading bodies had similar discussions and published their estimates? Certainly not locally, where many of the same weaknesses prevail.

There have been several letters to The Worker on bureaucracy in our party. One from Gary, Indiana, hit the nail on the head. Isn't it time for our leadership to spell this out and open up a serious campaign against burcaucracy as a prerequisite for formulating and carrying into real life correct policies?

SHOP WORKER.