

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Sees Error in the Field of Labor

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was certainly glad to read George Morris' recent column raising the question that it may have been wrong to have made the Marshall Plan an issue which resulted in the expulsion of a million members from the CIO.

May I say that a letter of mine to the Worker two years ago, raising the same question, was sent to the waste basket without acknowledgement. I am glad Morris raised the question but I am not satisfied that it has been put adequately.

The policy of the Left during the whole postwar period in the trade unions and in the political field was wrong and left-sectarian, in my opinion. It was inevitable that such a policy should lead to a split in the CIO and a split in the political movement of the Roosevelt coalition and the isolation of the progressive forces from both. It is my opinion that the basic reason for these serious errors in policy were:

The leadership of the American Communist Party believed that war and fascism were almost upon us; that the liberal and center forces in the labor and political movement had already or would surely ally themselves with imperialism and reaction. The conclusion was we have to go it alone.

That's why the Marshall Plan and the sectarian "3rd Party" were forced as splitting issues in the labor movement.

The great damage and harm it did must be obvious for all to see. It will not do to let off steam about the mistakes the Russians made.

Those of us in the trade union movement and in the shops have been keenly aware of these grave mistakes and their effects for a long time. I think you have a real obligation to make the widest exposure of these errors. By the way, the Party's decade of fire-alarm sirens about a coming major economic depression, upon which all programs were built, was very harmful.

I'm truly looking forward to an honest explanation.

INDIANA WORKER

Fight Gaining For Civil Liberties

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think Americans are moving to make their government responsive to their will as never before. I think American Marxists by brilliantly and courageously fighting to continue civil liberties in this country, have contributed more than any other group to this forward movement.

I think there should be more leadership and discussion around the problems of organizing the entire working class into trade unions, getting a people's Congress, civil rights for all, avoiding a depression, and the end to A & H-bomb nightmares.

Sincerely yours,

S. M.

Answer to Wechsler

Editor, Daily Worker:

According to James Wechsler (N. Y. Post, May 4) the American Left is as dead as a door-nail. For the umpteenth time he dons the robes of Mark Anthony, stands before the disquieted liberals and shouts: "Lend me your ears . . . I have come to bury it, not to praise it."

And he proceeds to heap scorn on the appeal of Eugene Dennis for "a more positive approach to all honest Socialists and Marxist-oriented groupings and individuals." The people behind the Dennis approach, he says, are the same people who

gave Browder the works for making a similar appeal a decade ago, the same people who slavishly followed the Stalin line and who, overnight, became anti-Stalinists. Can anybody in their right minds, he further says, take such political acrobats seriously.

But then, after James Wechsler has buried us, he makes some rather serious and startling admissions, to the effect that the Communist world challenge is real, the decisive test of our time and must be met with by new and imaginative political and economic weapons. He also castigates the administration for its sadistic practice of depriving pension benefits.

Wechsler would do well to emulate those American leftists he so recently tried to bury and condemn to hellfire everlasting and do a little agonizing reappraisal on his own. For the only real difference between him and those whom he so scornfully rejects is that the latter have at least recognized the error of the former ways, whereas he still clings to the preposterous and discredited cold war ideas. Let Wechsler speak up on Harry Truman and company in the same fashion as Dennis has spoken up on Stalin. Or does James still think HST was infallible?—J. C.

Suggestions for A Marxian Primer

Editor, Daily Worker:

I believe with Ring Lardner and the many others who state that our chief duty is to OUR OWN movement. We must learn that theory and practice are indivisible.

First, I beg our left-wing publications people (including the Socialists) to get together on a Marxian Primer. A short volume in common U. S. language explaining the main ideas of Marxism-Leninism for Lenin's "every scrub-woman" to grasp and use. In the back of the book and index briefly explaining the hard words. Also publish the chapters serially to be clipped and fixed together by readers who can't afford books.

As an example of the style, I cite a Pocket Book by N. J. Berrill, FBS Prof. of Zoology, McGill Univ. It's called "Sex and the Nature of Things"—grand ideas in simple language and drawings, with humor and love shining through every page. Nothing sectarian or stilted.

Second: a series is vitally needed on origin of public schools. How, when, where, who, and why labor and Negro groups gave the U. S. its public schools.

A third series should be on Labor's Great Days—history of May Day, Labor Day and other landmark days now totally sup-

pressed in press, school, and library. The development of hospitals, under pressure by women, against doctors' opposition, and other U. S. institutions should be recalled. How did the Baptists, Methodists, and Quakers start?

The U.S.S.R. will settle its own hash. Of course we're all interested, but our DUTY is HERE. The Soviets have given the world a "vernalization period." We must use it. Please sign my name to this.

—ELIZABETH S. COUSINS ROGERS

P. S. How about Rodney, Lardner, Campanella, Robinson, and Berra doing a brief history of the workers' role in U. S. sports? With a Brundage foreword? Include that woman reader who is so good on baseball.

Drastic Changes In Work Needed

Editor, Daily Worker:

If the Communist Party, U.S.A. is to prosper, we must make certain drastic changes.

First of all, we must stop trying to fool ourselves. We are not in the vanguard of the working class. The great majority of workers in the U. S. has never known a Communist in the flesh. We must begin at some point to state to the American people what we believe in—a Socialist U.S.A.—and we must do so proudly and unashamedly.

If that is done truthfully and consistently, pointing out that American Socialism must of necessity take a form quite different from that in the USSR, we will find that many people will agree with us that change is needed and that Socialism ("if it would work"), would be better. We will find that almost all will respect us.

Second—we must re-establish intra-party communications; relation between the leadership and the rank-and-file must be regularized, instituting every measure to insure responsibility of the leadership to the rank-and-file, instead of the present overriding concern that every member follow the line laid down by the leadership. If that means the Party must function more openly, so much the better. The time is overdue.

—GEORGE HATFIELD

—DAVID ADAMS

The Cause of the Common People

NEW BEDFORD, Mass.
Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed you will find \$5 as my bit toward the heavy and good cause of the common people. Below is comment on current events.

If those of differing religious faiths, non-believers, or what have you, can live side by side in peace, then why cannot those of differing political faiths or

APTHEKER JOIN FORUM ON SO

NEW HAVEN, May 7.—About 300 students and faculty members of Yale University attended a forum on the question: "Will the Underdeveloped Areas of Southeast Asia Choose Democracy?"

The forum was sponsored by the John Dewey Society, which is the Yale branch of the Students' League for Industrial Democracy. Speakers were Richard Walker, professor of history at Yale; Sidney Hertzberg, correspondent for the "Hindustani Times" and a director of the L. I. D., and Dr. Herbert Aptheker, Marxist historian.

All speakers agreed that the people of Asia have chosen democracy and that they were seeking to implement that choice. The speakers differed in the emphasis they gave to "democracy," with Prof. Walker and Hertzberg tending to limit it to Western parliamentary forms and rules of law, while Dr. Aptheker, not denying the significance of governmental institutions, stated that these would have to be shaped and chosen by the majority of the Asian peoples themselves.

Dr. Aptheker brought forward the fact that the problem in Asia was two-fold: home rule, and who was to rule at home. In this connection, he said, problems such as poverty, illiteracy, health conditions, industrialization and landlessness were basic and their solution lay in socialism.

He added that the countries of Asia, like China, India, Burma, Indochina, etc., were moving, in different ways and with different forms, in this general direction and that this represented a movement towards and not away from greater democracy.

persuasions do the same?

If it's a free uncensored press without a curtain we have, then why do they not give some detail on both sides of proceedings at the Communist trials around the country?

To force citizens to give names of others known to them on pain of fine or imprisonment is a subversion of the constitution and Bill of Rights. The Bill of Rights was constituted for just such a defense of the individual citizen as against a contrary government.

Such terms as loyalty and security should not be used in the name of the common people as they only stand to lose, but in the name of the Cadillac Cabinet and Wall St. Seems if the government had any consideration for the welfare of the majority of the people it would come around to world disarmament.

—J. R.



Relators' Lobby Fights Low-Cost Ho

Daily Worker Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON, May 7.—The powerful lobby of the home construction industry of the realtors has called for urgent action by its affiliated members against the low-cost housing legislation which will be taken up by the Senate Banking committee this week.

"Now is the time to act!" is the headline which the National Association of Home Builders puts over its appeal in its current Washington Letter.

The message declares: "It is of the utmost importance that each member, each Home Builder Association and all other interested business and civic groups contact their U. S. Senators to let them know NOW they should vote against a large scale public housing program in the (Senate Banking Committee's bill."

The propaganda that the NAHB suggests be used in pressuring Senators is that "this is a period of unequalled prosperity, that we have as full employment as the nation can ever hope to achieve, that tremendous strides have been made in home building and rehabilitation."

They urge that the Senators be told especially that "we already have in existence over 315,000 units of public housing in about 3,000 projects in over 800 different localities."

The purpose of this statistical information is to cover up the fact that low-cost housing facilities are becoming increasingly more inadequate and the situation confronting the poorest sections of the population are becoming more desperate as slum clearance drives thousands out of their already inadequate quarters.

The NAHB emphasizes to its members the necessity for nailing down every Senate vote possible. "Last year," the Letter recalls, "a large scale public housing program was passed in the Senate by only three votes. This occurred when six Republican Senators did not support the Administration's program. If only three had voted in favor of the Administration's small scale public housing program, the Senate would have been a tie, in which case the Vice-President could have cast the deciding vote in favor of a smaller program."

They are counting on getting a minimum of a tie vote in the Senate this session, so that Vice-President Richard Nixon can kill large scale public housing with his vote.

The Senate banking committee will have before it a bill reported out by the housing subcommittee headed by Sen. John Sparkman (D- for