

Dear Editor

LETTERS FROM READERS

Says South Is Ready to Organize

SMITHFIELD, N. C.

Dear Editor:

One would think, after living in the North all your life, that the South is Devil's Island or some other terrifying place: a place that is almost impossible to organize. It is true that my impression is based, at the moment, on a brief stay in the South (about a month) because during this time I have talked to a considerable number of people from all walks of life and to my amazement, and in my opinion (I have worked for two national unions as a field organizer) taking all things in consideration, the South cannot only be organized but the prevailing conditions existing here are far more favorable in respect to organizing the unorganized than is the North. What is needed to do a thorough job, I think, is not only provide the money and the staff, but a staff of "fresh workers"; a staff down here that is willing to live with the people to understand them, to be considered one of them, and a staff that will work. I agree wholeheartedly with the Florida workers who recently wrote a letter on the subject. The South IS ripe for organization.

A READER.

P. S. In respect to our past mistakes, our "left sectarianism," etc., I would like to make this suggestion and observation. Although we made many mistakes I believe they are greatly exaggerated. Being completely ignored is the historical period we have been living in. My criticism of our policy and methods over the years is not limited to the "left-sectarianism," etc., but to the party leadership. The leadership must change from that of intellectuals to that of the workers. Accurate conclusions cannot be drawn by intellectuals who are isolated and divorced from people and life.

"Let's Work for World Peace First"

WINSTON SALEM, N. C.

Dear Editor:

I just want to say a word on Uncle Joe Stalin. He probably did make some serious mistakes. But if it had not been for his skillful leadership there would not be any Soviet Russia today. For Russian leadership to denounce him is wrong. It is simply playing into the hands of the imperialist of the military world. The capitalist press is using it for propaganda to a finish. The thing to do is to keep quiet and build a new Marxist-Leninist government. Old John Foster Dulles comes out and denounces the present leadership.

The whole world knows how Dulles collaborated with Hitler. He and a large corporation in the U. S. A. had to be made to quit by force. If my memory serves me right he and a group of N. Y. bankers were instrumental in ruining Germany by the understanding that he crush Soviet Russia.

A gentleman just in from the Middle East spoke in Winston Salem a few nights ago. He said when he contacted anyone over there about the first thing they would ask is "Why did the U. S. keep helping the imperialist countries who were killing their people who are fighting for their freedom while pretending to stand for freedom of all countries big and little." Why not enlighten the people on these things and quit harping so much on segregation. I think it will be desegregated in a short time anyway.

Let's work for world peace first. Another world war and we will have no planet to fight on.

C. R. S.

on segregation "so much" because among other reasons, we believe the fight for world peace will be advanced to the extent that democracy in our own country is advanced. We believe that the most important bar to the development of fuller democracy in the U. S. is the White Supremacy system in the South by which reactionary interests divide the Negro and white people and are thus enabled to impose upon the whole country their anti-labor, anti-democratic and pro-war views.

What Made

Poznan Possible?

BOSTON.

Dear Editor:

As an advocate to socialism who has actively (and somewhat successfully) fought McCarthyism and helped organize the union where I work, I am profoundly disturbed by the recent bloodshed in Poznan, Poland. There is no doubt that imperialist agents from West Germany were guilty of starting the rioting. It was clearly instigated to embarrass socialism, to blur-over in favor of reaction the reforms of democratization taking place in the socialist world and particularly such a spectacular event as the release en masse of political prisoners in East Germany, including even former Nazi war criminals.

People in a socialist-conscious nation can protest wrongs in an orderly manner through their unions and representatives and "for a better life" that is, a swifter pace toward socialism, and do not, if they are honest and not misled, choose a city where an international fair is going on, in particular, for any outcry, en masse, for this would be designed to encourage "liberation," that is, aggression, from the imperialist West.

In the same sense the East German riots of 1953 took place close to the imperialist stronghold of West Berlin.

However, this doesn't explain everything. It takes considerable dissatisfaction for numbers of people to allow themselves to be misled to the extent that bloody repression by troops and tanks becomes "necessary." I think that inadequate economic and political measures by those in responsible positions are also at fault.

Such things create soil for such tragedies. Imperialist agents and a reactionary underground must have a social basis in which provocation can thrive. Capitalism can't do away with strikes and revolts without abolishing itself. But in a socialist-oriented country such things are a sign of lack of progress toward true Socialism, of bureaucracy and of the inadequacy of the most thorough socialist competence in every sphere.

We Marxists condemn one-man dictatorship in a socialist country just as we oppose the myriad oppression of fascism-breeding capitalism. In like manner we must condemn the policies of the government that allowed the Poznan tragedies to come about. Marxists applaud

the many democratic changes taking place in the socialist world, especially the tendencies toward truer parliamentarianism, but until democracy wholly complete and there there are no longer any basis for future Poznans developing, we cannot give the regimes of Bulganin, Cyrankiewica and Tito a 100 percent clean bill of health.

New England Worker.

Consulted Wife About Articles

Dear Editor:

I am impelled to write you in relation to the articles on Women by Elizabeth Lawson. I think these reflect the old, old line and have little relation to what American mothers and wives think. I have checked with my own wife, and spoken to others, the conclusions are:

MOST women, both here and elsewhere, work because of economic need (in the Soviet Union also because of manpower shortage in building the country). They would prefer staying home and bringing up their children with more and more attention.

They feel it is gratifying to cook well, and bake, and make a home. Proof of this is the tremendous circulation of magazines in the U. S. slanted at the housekeeper, and the great interest in baking, sewing contests, etc.

All agree that women who WANT professional careers should have ALL possible opportunities and encouragement—but the tone and content of Miss Lawson's articles will alienate us (the Left) from most American housewives and mothers who don't look at their way of life as slavery etc.

—STEADY READER.

Feels Discussion Articles Be Condensed and Simplified

BROOKLYN.

Dear Editor:

While reading the Worker I began to realize that I don't quite understand some of the articles especially those in the Discussion pages. It seems to me that they are writing for those above an elementary education. Of course I realize that it should be so, but what about those that only had an elementary schooling?

I propose (if possible) that the important articles be condensed and clarified.

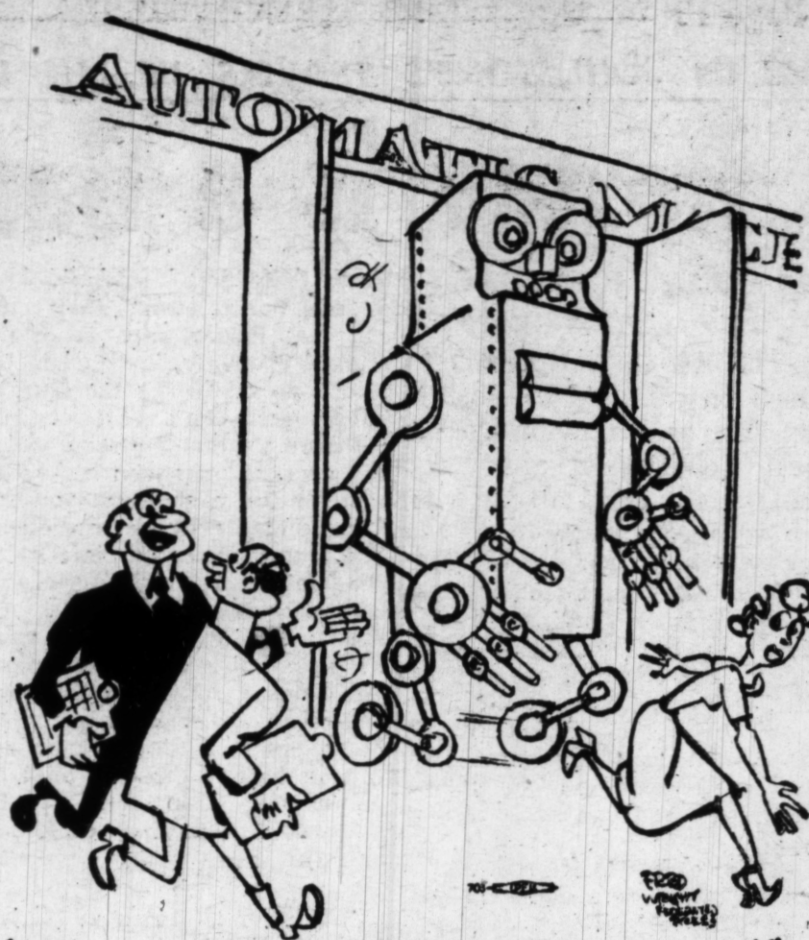
—J. B.

Detests Housework Wants Nurseries, Jobs

NEWARK, N. J.

Dear Editor,

I am a housewife and I have many problems. However, I strongly believe Elizabeth Lawson's article on the "Housewife—



"SOME OF THESE NEW MACHINES ARE ALMOST HUMAN!"

100 Hour Week" did not face up to the very real problems women are confronted with . . .

Yes, I detest the daily cleaning, washing, ironing, cooking, etc. because it is unsociable, petty, never-ending and LONELY work. But what chains me to this daily grind is not my electrical appliances and gadgets. I, as many other women would like to work, whether it be in a factory, office, store.

But there are not enough nurseries, child-care centers, school cafeterias and after school programs for children of working mothers. And just as important is the lack of job opportunities for women; jobs that would pay enough to provide adequate care for children, jobs in many fields that do not now offer equal opportunity for women, especially older women.

I found many incorrect appraisals of American life in Miss Lawson's articles, a couple of which are:

1. That American women are more and more tied to the home and housework. This is not true! Let us recognize some of the changes taking place in the American scene. More and more women are taking part in civic and political activities. P.T.A.'s have grown tremendously in the past few years; women's participation in the political parties is greater than ever.

2. That because of the worsening economic situation more women are undertaking "do-it-yourself" projects. Miss Lawson points out that more clothes are sewn at home, more flour is bought for home baking, more paint for home use, etc. Let us not look at the economic scene foolishly. First of all, more ready-made-clothes are being sold, restaurants are busier, more food

is being sold than ever before, too. Years ago if a room needed painting many a time it just remained unpainted, today, many of us can now afford the paint to "do-it-yourself."

Many women who cannot work because of reasons mentioned above, undertake these projects to save money, money they cannot earn. Also, to many women, sewing a dress or curtains, painting a room or baking a cake is creative work.

Yes, we need more discussion on the woman question. There will be many more women than men voting in the '56 elections, if the '52 election were any criterion. All of us, men and women, have to begin to understand the important part that women will play in the struggle for peace, economic security, freedom and socialism.

—WOMAN READER.

Nutrition Advice Found Wanting

NEW YORK

Dear Editor:

I agree wholeheartedly with H. L. that "you do poorly by the women."

I pay a good deal of attention to nutrition for my family, and when I read the suggestions and recipes in the S. W., it makes me want to tear my hair.

There are excellent books on nutrition.

We should be the first to accept ideas: we should know why worthless foods are well advertised.

It is important for progressives to be "in the pink" at all times, as we have to go thru more stress and strain than most.

I hope you will print this letter.

—P. K.

We Must Blame Ourselves for Isolation

(Continued from Page 8)

the higher levels, was characterized as anti-Party. The leaders made themselves synonymous with the Party and the ideas and viewpoints of individual members were disregarded and suppressed. Unfortunately, basing itself on the wrong concept that "leadership was infallible" the majority of the membership went along with this situation, although there was a general feeling of dissatisfaction.

It is my opinion that the nub of the present question is not the development of the "cult of the individual" because this does not explain how the "cult of the individual" came into existence, but rather a distortion of the correct role of leadership by the leadership itself. Each particular leadership body demanded that its opinions be accepted as infallible by those below its level. Criticism could only come from

above. Therefore, the first guarantee of correct policies "from the masses" and to paraphrase this, "from the membership of the Party" was eliminated.

Therefore, to talk of ending our isolation without at the same time giving serious consideration to making changes in a leadership which is isolated not only from the masses but from the Party membership is simply to lay the groundwork for a new series of errors; this time, because of the objective conditions now developing, to the right. This does not mean a wholesale overhauling of leadership up and down the line, but rather a serious consideration to two things.

1) An examination of the present leadership and a rehabilitation of those most isolated by assigning them to work in important industries and mass organizations. When they have proven their ability to become part of and lead the struggles of

the people, the natural course of events will bring them back into leadership according to their abilities. 2) The drawing into leadership of those comrades, especially shop workers, who have in the past proved their ability not to become isolated and are presently part of and leaders of the struggles of the people.

This of course cannot be done unless the National Committee begins by making the most serious self-critical examination of its role and the role of every individual member in this past period. It is no good, as Comrade Dennis does in his report, to state that "WE" have made mistakes; that is, apparently all of us equally, without estimating the particular responsibility of each leadership body and its members. Only if this is done can we place ourselves on the path of truly becoming the vanguard of the workingclass.



Dear Editor