

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Must Help A Dear Friend

Editor, Daily Worker:

If a very dear friend of mine on whom I depended suddenly needed a blood transfusion to save his life, what else could I do but give? How can I look on this urgent call of one of my best friends, you—our workingclass paper—any differently?

The enclosed is only a starter. (\$50!!) I'm going to match it, and I hope exceed it, within the next few weeks.

You ask for views of readers. Here are a few suggestions.

1. Would it be a setback if the Daily had to give way to a weekly?

I'll answer that with a question. Do workers need food? And how can a movement for Socialism thrive when it is denied the daily bread of sound honest news and understanding?

2. What about fund-raising and circulation methods?

Don't know how "new" these are, but I do know I haven't been hearing of any for some-time.

a) Freedom of Press and other groups could get coupons of regular Dollar-a-Month Club Sustainers.

b) Gatherings of friends who need to be introduced or re-introduced to the Paper, with perhaps a Forum on some provocative current issue.

c) Theatre parties (lots of good off Broadway shows now, not too expensive.)

d) Get a friend to sell a friend, and sell him two papers each week.

e) Give a friend (new to the paper) a sample copy and ask him (or her) to write his views, criticisms of it etc.

3. What kind of papers should the Daily Worker and Worker be? Just a few suggestions for now.

a) Simplicity and directness of approach. Each article should make clear its subject in the first few sentences, and be careful to spell out all references to the C.B.D. or the S.A.W. or any other names or titles. (Often a cardinal sin on D.W. pages!)

b) Each editorial must set out to convince the reader, never making generalizations which it is assumed the reader already agrees with.

c) On style: I think, while some D.W. people are excellent reporters and good writers, enough attention is not always paid to a style of writing work-

ers will enjoy as well as understand.

Little catch phrases which appeal to a workers sense of values and make him vigorously nod with approval sometimes do more good than a thousand heavy-handed assertions.

Plus—a sense of humor! Sometimes a laugh, too, is worth a thousand words.

d) Pictures: Can you squeeze in more of these — with good pungent titles? New ones, too, not the old stand-by's so often. Could you manage a pictorial page in the Sunday magazine?

Also cartoons could get better play.

Wish I could go on but time is lacking just now, and I do want to get this "blood transfusions" off.

Thanks for staying alive!

L.B.

Pittsburgh Case

Is Not Ended

Editor, Daily Worker:

In a news story by Art Shields in the Daily Worker yesterday (Oct. 1, 1956), he states:

"A sensational confession by the Department of Justice that Joseph Mazzei, one of its chief FBI witnesses, is probably a liar of long standing has shattered the Government's case against five Pittsburgh Smith Act defendants. This confession is almost certain to void the five-year sentences against two of the defendants, said Steve Nelson, Pittsburgh Communist leader."

The Government's case is neither "shattered" nor is it "almost certain" that the sentences against Ben Careathers and James Dolsen "will be voided."

The fact that the Government admits that Mazzei is a liar is very important, and further exposes the kind of people these informers are. It helps to expose the whole political frame-up nature of all Smith Act trials. But the Government is not admitting that Mazzei lied at our trial. On the contrary, it is claiming that he told the truth there, and that he lied in later proceedings in connection with others. And it is asking the Supreme Court to remand to the original trial court, where the original frame-up took place, the job of determining whether Mazzei was a credible witness in our case.

This is an attempt by the Government to keep the Supreme Court from passing on the merits of our case, on the

constitutionality of the Smith Act as applied, and on the sufficiency of the evidence which Judges Hastie and Maris said should have resulted in directed verdicts of acquittal.

The Government wants to avoid the new look necessary at the "clear and present danger" question because it is harder to maintain this fiction in a period of diminishing tensions.

In other words, with this admission about Mazzei—which is not an admission of his perjury in our Pittsburgh trial—the Government is attempting to prevent a fundamental exposure of its use of the Smith Act to undermine the First Amendment.

Let any one who may be lulled into the notion of an automatic guarantee of victory remember the tragic experience of Tom Mooney. Bob Minor told the story of how he brought the news to Mooney that one of the stoolpigeons had confessed perjury. Mooney said, "Well, this means I get out, doesn't it?" And Minor had to say to him, "No, Tom, it doesn't. We still have to fight." And it took more than 20 years of fighting after that initial confession until Mooney was pardoned.

The possibilities undoubtedly exist for an important civil liberties victory in our Pittsburgh case. The chance to free Careathers and Dolsen have increased since only Mazzei testified against them, and his testimony is uncorroborated and cannot be corroborated. But these possibilities, which are inherent within the case, will only be realized by a struggle of greater proportions than the one waged so far. We, therefore, appeal for increased support of all kinds in our fight, and for helping to turn this government maneuver into a real victory for All. You can contact our Self-Defense Committee by writing to P.O. Box 134, Madison Square Station, New York 10, N.Y., or calling Murray Hill 6-0580.

WM. ALBERTSON
IRVING WEISSMAN,

Daily Worker

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