

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Urges Waiting for Facts on Poland

Editor, Daily Worker:

You admit that "few facts" are known on the nature of the differences between the Russian and the Polish Communists, yet you come out with an editorial which is in its essence a support of the Polish position and quotes Gomulka with approval. You write: "We are dubious, however, of imputing on a blanket scale to sections of the Polish press, the desire to restore capitalism."

Yet the article you give from Pravda quotes a Polish publicist as calling such slogans as "Workers of the World Unite," and "Building Socialism" as mere "jargon," and as declaring: "The universal proletarian is an obsolete concept. Now we have to think of the universal human being."

If this reactionary rubbish is not aimed at restoring capitalism what is it aimed at? Why is The Worker so quick to take sides? Would it not have been more honest to have waited until more "facts" were disclosed?

This leaping of The Worker to the defense of Gomulka and the Polish Communists is, it seems to me, dictated more by opportunism than by principle, by a desire to show that we are "loyal" and may get a condescending pat from the New York Times and not by a desire to find out the truth. Do not the editors realize that The Times and the rest of the capitalist press are building up this crisis to demonstrate that the Eisenhower-Dulles foreign policy is bearing fruit? How naive can you get in a political campaign?

What is the position of the Worker on the USSR? Is the USSR a socialist country? Or has it suddenly become transformed into an imperialist country? One gets the impression that everything is in chaos at The Worker office, that the editors are clear on everything except the fundamentals.

Why was The Worker editorial silent on the anti-socialist slanders in the Polish press? It seems to me that we are getting a lot of the same junk about "universalized human beings" dished up to us. You never seem to hear about the workingclass any more or the class struggle or American imperialism. All is sweetness and light and "humanism" (a word I am getting very tired of).—LENINIST.

CHICAGO

Mistakes in East Europe

Editor, Daily Worker:

The Daily Worker is to be congratulated for taking a clear-cut position in behalf of Polish and Hungarian sovereignty and democratization.

Some readers obviously disagree. They accept a rigid interpretation that the basis of the popular upsurge in both countries is the long-planned activity of counter-revolutionary elements and local fascists supported by American imperialism.

Events offer enough proof already that this is standing things on its head.

The Daily Worker editorials have pointed out that it was the harmful policies of some Communist Parties that created frictions, distorted economic conditions in Poland and Hungary, led to repressions, created grave unrest among the people, etc.

Are some readers trying to deny that people were dissatisfied, becoming disillusioned with socialism, demanding changes?

It now seems evident that the masses of workers, peasants and students of Hungary were bitter toward the old Communist leadership and resentful of Soviet interference in Hungarian life. This being the case, was this not the most fertile ground for anti-

socialist and counter-revolutionary elements to work?

It is obvious that if the people had confidence in their government the efforts of counter-revolutionary elements would have quickly reduced itself to a futile putsch.

The source of the tragedy in Hungary should be traced in the first place to the economic and political policies pursued in that country by the ruling party. Instead of advancing the aims of socialism to which it is dedicated, the Communist Party of Hungary slavishly tried to imitate the Soviet Union and apparently ignored the special characteristics of Hungarian conditions, Hungarian traditions and Hungarian life. Instead of developing cooperation with the Soviet Union on an equal footing and as a sovereign nation the Hungarian Communists developed a one-sided relationship which did not question Soviet economic, political and military decisions affecting Hungary. If there were some differences based on the immediate and long range needs of the Hungarian people they were not publicly discussed for fear of encouraging anti-Soviet expressions or feelings.

As things stand now, it should be clear that the failure to openly discuss basic problems with the people, the suppression of dissent, the violations of socialist legality, the harmful economic policies, etc. are all matters which cannot be swept under the rug. They build up over a period of time and lead to an inevitable explosion making it possible for the enemies of socialism to do their dirty work more effectively.

Some Communists and readers of the Daily Worker, while agreeing in general that the Soviet Union should not be above criticism, flinch whenever specific criticism is made. They even imply that those who make such criticisms are taking an anti-Soviet line. Nothing could be more harmful in American poli-

tical life than for people to pursue such a position.

The touchstone of any reinvigorated socialist movement in this country will be its identification with American life basing itself on the needs and aspirations of the working class and the American people. This means calling a spade a spade through American eyes and developing a friendly, fraternal relationship with other socialist movements, critical and reciprocal, on all matters of internal, national and international importance.

BILL SENNETT

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Defends Soviet Use Of Troops in Hungary

BROOKLYN.

Editor, Daily Worker:

In reading your editorial on the fighting in Hungary, Oct. 29 issue it did not seem to me that I was reading the DW but rather the Post or other metropolitan papers. To lay the blame for the "Hungarian uprising" on the Hungarian Communists for being too late in rectifying the evils of the Stalin era, is nothing more on your part than vicious. Not until you come to the last paragraph on the first page do you denounce the presence of foreign troops for reasons which capitalist countries station them there for hundreds of years. But how do you compare the presence of Soviet troops in the Peoples Democracies with that of the imperialists?

The Soviet troops there are like a mother watching her young ones.

In praising Gomulka you forget that he and some other Polish Communists said that Soviet troops will remain in Poland until foreign troops leave West Germany.

I wish to state also that I fully agree with the letter of A. Unger: Can you imagine what he would write after reading your editorial on Hungary.

—B.N.

Dangerous

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Our readers have differing viewpoints. Discussion and debate is taking place, hot and heavy, all up and down our movement.

"This is all to the good, for only through honest clash of opinion can we advance toward our goals of peace, democracy and socialism.

"We desperately need the DW so that we can continue to play our vital part in the fight for a more effective movement of socialism; so that Communists and non-Communists can debate, argue and strengthen their unity. And the DW, by its vigorous, challenging editorial policy and its letter columns, is stimulating this needed debate. It should get the support of all socialist-minded workers, regardless of their position in the debate."

We say Amen, and add only that this support is needed in large quantities, now!

Another letter, accompanying \$40 from Brooklyn, tells us it is from the Midwood section of the Communist Party. This includes \$10 "from a non-Communist family."

"This contributor visited the home of a Communist and wanted to know why no one had come

to see him for a contribution. He said there would be \$10 more in a few weeks and we just could not permit the DW to go under, as was the fate of socialist papers in the past."

How many more such people there are around, if we would only get to them!

The \$150 gift came from a person who gave \$100 early in the campaign. She pledged \$250, and has come through!

There is \$20 from a New England town "in memory of Edith of Queens, who died on Sept. 27." Her mother sends the donation.

There is another \$15 from friends of Ella of the Bronx, the little garment worker who worked tirelessly for our paper until her death last summer; \$10 from one Bronx reader, \$5 from another; \$12 from Riverdale, Bx., readers, a group that has been coming through with great consistency in the current effort.

From Tompkins Square on Manhattan's East Side comes \$10; there is \$5 from AW of N.Y.; \$1 from PM of New York, who liked our editorial on the "Times and Hungary," and thinks we need more UN coverage. Right!

From that doughty bunch of supporters in Williamsburg, Brooklyn, comes another \$16. They, too, are going great guns.

The bombing of Egypt split or threatened to split several other parties, including the Poujadist party and the Catholic Popular Republican (MRP) Party, whose labor arm pointedly "reaffirmed its attachment to peace."

But despite the protests, Mollet had the backing of his cabinet and the majority of French editorial writers.

Mollet was reported preparing to ask the National Assembly to delegate him emergency powers.

PARIS

(Continued from Page 1)

4,000 workers demonstrated in front of the war memorial in one suburb of Paris.

Unions took advantage of All-Saints Day—a national holiday—to call the workers to big protest rallies today.

The French Communist Party called for a nationwide protest campaign, and the Confederation Generale du Travail (CGT) called for protest strikes.