

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## On Letters in Other Papers

Editor, Daily Worker:

Alan Max has called our attention, in "Letters and Democracy", to a situation that has long been a thorn in the side of all decent and self-respecting men and women . . . where a letter-writer to a publication of the political complexion of the D. W., whether he or she is a communist, a liberal, a Democrat or a Republican, must, often, sign on the dotted line with initials. On the other hand, if we want to write letters to other publications, such as the Times, Trib., Post, or News as many of us no doubt frequently do, it is standard procedure to sign our John Henry in full.

Still, you have only told the half of it. Letter-writing, in this land of the free and home of the brave, as far as the free press is concerned, has descended to the low level of yes-yessing the opinions of leading editorials.

Take the letters to the Tribune, that paragon of GOP virtue. All the writers simply LOVE Nixon. Does this mean that no literate GOPer hates or despises Nixon? That none are nauseated by his hammy performance? That none suspect him as an opportunist of the first water? Not by a long shot. We on the left may have our shortcomings but lack of acquaintances among Republicans is not one of them. It is the Tribune, not 100% of its readers, who LOVES Nixon. Those who don't LOVE him, and who have the impertinence to say so, are promptly deposited in the Tribune waste basket.

S. K.

## Let's Dig Our Own Native Soil

Editor, Daily Worker:

Now is the season for the farmers to get out the plough, hitch up the tractor and start turning over the soil which has become set since the crops came in the previous year. Needless to say its time we hauled out our plough of Marxism-Leninism, sharpened it up for it has been lying idle for many a year and hitched up a good timed up tractor and started to plough up our fields which have become hardened over many a year. Yes, we need to do some real deep digging into our native soil if we are ever going to gain a beautiful and bountiful crop in the future. This is the way things present themselves to me.

We can and must learn from the recent 20th Congress of the U.S.S.R. But all will be for nought if we don't get busy in our own baliwick, and stop the

stump sitting and proclaiming to all who would listen that we were the only ones in step and we had all the answers. Away with all dogmatism. Away with our own brand of the cult of individualism, and systematically develop a real collective leadership everywhere it is lacking. Others have stressed it—we do need inner party democracy. "On the Party" by Liu Shao-Chi should be given wide distribution as well other materials which he has written. Let us be ruthless against those who stifle criticism and self criticism. Let us get rid of our own beauracrats and pork choppers. Spring cleaning, spring ploughing call it what you may but we must start sweeping the floor and washing our faces" so that the political dust and dirt and political germs may not cloud and poison the minds or body of our movement.

B. K.

## Welcomes Plea to End Capital Punishment

Editor, Daily Worker:

Enclosed find \$3 for the Daily Worker. I have been reading the paper for years. I felt keenly for the safety of the paper when it was in peril.

I think your feature "Speak Your Piece" is a fine addition. This gives me the opportunity to put in my two-cents worth, so to speak.

I was just as astounded as anyone else about the re-evaluation of Stalin, especially the death sentences that were handed out to innocent people under Stalin.

I read with special interest a few of the articles on the abolition of capital punishment. This is a good campaign. It would be hailed as another achievement for socialism.

My heart feels good to read about the advance of socialism as a world system.

J. T.

## Lack of Faith In the People

Editor, Daily Worker:

Sectarianism emerges among persons and organizations who, regardless of their ideals, have little faith in the ability of people to comprehend their point of view, and even less faith in the courage of people to act in appreciable numbers for their convictions. Consequently, theories and practises develop that objectively reduce the areas of appeal by tone, language, spirit and other self-imposed restrictions.

The absence of democracy is another phase of the mistrust of people. It arises when leaders fear to be candid and truth-

ful, when they begin to doubt the creativity and resourcefulness of their memberships or nations, when they hesitate to encourage initiative in fundamental matters and discussions.

Such lack of faith is, basically, responsible for the similarities in the structure and practises of many geographically separated associations, rather than a "copying" process. It is responsible for uncritical relationships among socialist organizations and governments, for out of mistrust of people emerges the illusion that is sometimes better that the truth be hidden from them.

Lack of faith in people is widespread, and is not at all confined to persons in positions of responsibility. One hears such sentiments expressed among all classes. It springs from an ignorance of mankind's history, which has been made as the result of the accumulated experience and wisdom of great numbers of the human race. Many people have a "bookish" knowledge of this phenomenon, but they are divorced from practical experience with it. Because it is so widespread, large numbers of people will for long periods of time tolerate arbitrariness, sectarianism and undemocratic behavior.

The fault, therefore, does not rest with leaders alone; it rests with substantial sections of the people, too, just as it did with the German people when they tolerated and abetted and condoned the practise of their Government some years ago.

The opening of debate on these questions, in a most public way, with great efforts at guaranteeing the freest expression of opinion, is a prerequisite step towards correcting a fault that is alien to movements whose purposes are only noble.

Sincerely,

-D. S.

## Common Sense

Editor, Daily Worker:

The most important thing for a revaluation of Party work is to insure that from now on the one thing we should stress is Common Sense. Too often, in the past, we have been lacking in plain old horse sense. How many times have we seen people, with the best of intentions, go overboard on application of the woman question, or carry the good fight against chauvinism to infantile leftist and ridiculous ends?

Certainly it wasn't common sense to use Marxist books, written 50 or more years ago, and apply them word for word to a situation today, which was com-

pletely different than when the books were written. Nor was it common sense not to even mildly question some of the things that happened in the S. U.

Let me add that common sense is needed more than ever at the present time when certain people are making asses of themselves by going to the extreme of saying everything done before was all wrong, or that everything Stalin did was a mistake. Perhaps moderation is another word for common sense.

One more application of common sense. Let's stop saying this is the way they did so-and-so in the S.U. or in China, and using that as a yardstick for work here. Conditions in the USA are different from conditions in any other country and we must think for ourselves, work out our own methods of reaching the people instead of borrowing a slogan or plan from some other country and blindly trusting that it will work like a magic wand here.

In short, for both the super leftists with their super egos and the frightened inactive leftists, a little dose of real thinking, of common sense, will go a long way.

A. B. C.

## On Headline Use of B and K

Editor, Daily Worker:

In following the Daily Worker stories around the current visit of the Soviet leaders Bulganin and Khrushchev, it is indeed disturbing to see that the Worker has fallen in line with the capitalist press in referring to these leaders as B and K.

H.R.

[Ed. Note: We first got the idea of using B & K in headlines from a worthy contemporary, the London Daily Worker. It's a headline device and in no way affects the story.]

## Only Struggle Can Win Socialism

Editor, Daily Worker:

Socialism without struggle and unity of the people's forces is a reformist concept, a sheer delusion. Under present-day conditions, marked by the tremendous growth of victorious socialism which now embraces 900 million people and the consequent weakening and decline of world capitalism, the possibility of a peaceful path to socialism exists.

The American people will be won to socialism based on their own experience in the course of sharp struggles for peace, democracy, equality, economic security and social progress. This, naturally, presupposes a strong Communist Party capable of leading such struggles and clar-

ifying the path ahead. In the process of such struggle, the people will fight to place increasing curbs on the monopolists, to build up broad political coalitions of labor, the toiling farmers, the Negro people, and the middle classes.

The history of the last few years within our country shows that monopoly capital will increasingly resort to reaction to achieve its objectives. Certainly, the American ruling-class will not just sit idly by and watch the American people proceed from victory to victory. They will seek by every possible means to thwart the popular will by further attacks on the Bill of Rights and resort to fascism.

But the experiences of the past few years shows also that the American people deeply cherish constitutional liberties and that the path of fascism can be barred. Therefore, the possibility of a peaceful constitutional path to socialism in our country is directly tied up with the extent of unity of the people's forces and the level of struggle to defend and extend democracy. Where fascism reigns, there is no possibility of a peaceful path to socialism. Only under conditions where democracy prevails, where the channels for popular expression exists, is a peaceful path to socialism conceivable.

-K. D.

## Face Towards Working Class

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is time we turned our face towards the working class of the U. S. A. In all these letters to the DW the working class does not figure enough. When it does speak it will not indulge in name calling as many letters have done. The working class and its party owe no apologies. They learn as they fight. Certainly they make mistakes but they correct them on the go.

The isolation of the Communist Party of the U. S. from the masses is due in part to:

1-The largely non-working class composition of the Party membership.

2-The ferocity of McCarthyite reaction, the Taft-Hartley, the Smith Act, McCarran Act, etc.

Wall Street's executive offices in Washington, D.C. try to make the rest of the world its private plantation. But the new world system of socialism makes this dream of imperialism a nightmare. Wall Street finds itself short of breath. Its own cold war economy is gasping for markets.

So the smoke-screen of red-scare is wearing thin.

V. S.