

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Mrs. Furtseva's

Interview

Editor, Daily Worker:

I was shocked and disturbed at some of the concepts expressed by Mrs. Furtseva, member of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, as published by the National Guardian.

I take sharp issue with her statement "During the war, deification of Stalin was understandable because Soviet soldiers went into battle with words for the Fatherland and for Stalin. This inspired their valor but raised the personality of Stalin too high. After the war, conditions were very hard and the deification of Stalin then, too, may have helped to inspire people."

Wasn't the Soviet soldier ideologically convinced of the necessity to defeat fascism and nazism without the need for an icon? Wasn't the defense of the Soviet Union enough? And after the war, wasn't the rebuilding of their land enough?

I further take issue with her excuses for not calling meetings and Congresses during and after the war. Can a country be so busy for thirteen years that it can't sit down and evaluate the situation and see where they are heading?

Finally I object strenuously to her denial of curbs or suppression of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. The meagre facts we have received in the U.S. tell us another story. A story of executions of Jewish writers and artists. A story of the suppression of Jewish culture.

The fact that she has not read the article in the Polish, Jewish-language "Folksshtimme" is not to her credit. It behoves her to do so. If, as she says, Jewish culture has been developing freely, where are the Yiddish books, the Yiddish theatre, the Yiddish schools?

She points out that 80 percent of the musicians who played at the Tito reception were Jewish. This does not indicate the flowering of a national culture. Musicians playing Beethoven or Tchaikovsky or even Mendelssohn are not developing a Jewish culture. But Itzik Feffer did.

Mrs. Furtseva's final statement on this issue is arrogant and belies the facts recently received—She says, "It is impossible to speak of anti-Semitism in our country."—H.

P.S. — My commendation to the DW for publishing the dozens of letters these past few weeks, for its excellent editorials, and for the most recent Howard Fast article, Salud!

Contradiction

In Press Reports

Editor, Daily Worker:

The political dishonesty chronic among many newspaper and radio commentators relative to

domestic and foreign developments and attitudes of the Soviet Union has reached higher degrees of brazenness since Khrushchev delivered his lengthy speech.

With a tone of finality they assert that nothing has changed inside that country nor outside her. But observe these same professional misinformers of public opinion now gloatingly declare that the Communist parties everywhere are in a state of disillusion and internal conflicts because of what has happened in the Soviet Union!

The contradiction involved here is very revealing of the political dishonesty so characteristic of every professional anti-Sovieteer and red-baiter. But no amount of falsehoods they pour out day and night can erase the fact that a change, a profound change for the better has begun in the Soviet Union and within the Communist Party in every country where there is one.—Ever Undespairing.

Report on Jews In Soviet Union

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the DW of June 15 your report from Paris said that Khrushchev told French Socialists there is no discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union. But the N.Y. Times reported June 10 that Khrushchev told the French Socialists that there was a quota system restricting the number of Jews in good jobs.

Why didn't you print the whole story? It's not honest to leave things out. Is it right for the Soviets to have a quota on Jews?—READER.

[Ed. Note: Our dispatch from the Jewish News Agency said nothing about quota systems and we printed it as it arrived from Paris. It would be wrong for the Soviets, or anyone else, to have a quota system on Jews. We have seen no verification of the N.Y. Times account.]

A Time for Supreme Hope

CLEVELAND

Editor, Daily Worker:

I wish to speak against the hysteria which seems to have arisen in certain circles over Khrushchev's report on Stalin.

Weigh the emergence of socialism as a world system, the bright promise of the sixth five-year plan and the formation of a zone of peace against the crimes of the Stalin regime. Weigh the fulfillment of the dream to which the old Bolsheviks dedicated their lives against the momentary perversion of that dream in which grievous blows fell on them.

For supporters of socialism this is a time for supreme hope and confidence, not abject moral-

izing and breast-beating. Those who are building only moral indignation should measure that against the achievement of buliding socialism.

The CPSU is working to wipe out the efforts of one man rule in order to further advance socialist construction. They are proceeding with caution in the face of a whole generation brought up to idolize Stalin, a vast body of office holders who made hay under Stalin, Georgian nationalism, and other problems.

The methods fit conditions in the USSR, rather than the desires of people in New York. Those who are crying because the report wasn't published in Pravda should reflect on that. The ship of Socialism has weathered fearful storms. People who read about these storms sitting in their parlors and get seasick or panic stricken should pull themselves together.—READER

Facts to Be Remembered

BROOKLYN

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is not forgotten how they invaded Russia in order to strangle the Bolshevik Revolution. It is not forgotten how they dreamed in the later 'twenties that Soviet Communism would die in "quarantine." It is not forgotten how they hoped, after 1933, that the Teutonic would try again to "civilize the Slavs." It is not forgotten how they enjoyed it when Russians and Germans "were killing off each other" so nicely. It is not forgotten how they pined "poor Germany" right after Hitler's collapse, whilst they turned a deaf ear on war-ravaged Russia.

It is not forgotten how desperately they tried to restore to Eastern Europe the formerly ruling aristocrats, colonels, "volks-Deutsch" industrial magnates, and ecclesiastical potentates. It is not forgotten how they suddenly rediscovered, a little while later, their "good heart" for the Soviet people and how they tried, through their slick Marshall Plan, either to bleed the hard-working Soviet people white for Capitalistic Western Europe's benefit, or—if Moscow declined such "charitable help"—to arouse a dollar-financed, rebuilt reactionary Western Europe against the USSR, and the rest of Eastern "Red" Europe.

It will not be forgotten how they, now, instead of welcoming any liberalization which the Soviet nation feels it can grant itself without laying itself open to new external threats, alternatively yell that all corrections of Stalinist excesses are a fake or that this is just being done "in order to improve and to strengthen communism." (For what other reasons should it be done?)

If there were still lack of evidence that the Soviet Union, during years of painful growth, war, and recovery, needed a teacher with a soul of steel preventing, especially after 1945,

an over-strained Soviet nation from selling its birthright of independent greatness for a mess of pottage from Washington, Wall Street, Madison Avenue, and Hollywood, they are now giving that evidence! They show, right now, that they still won't see that the Soviet Union, and communism, are here to stay! They show, right now, that if they only could, they would still strangle them!

They claim, as a rule, to be Christians; to act in the name of God. . . . Their obvious desperateness, right now, shows that they themselves sense how little grace and merit their doings may find in the eyes of the Lord!

—BODO C. OHLY

Daily Worker Took the Lead

Editor, Daily Worker:

Now that returns are beginning to come in from the Italian, French and British Communists, the Daily Worker may well be proud that it was the first Communist paper to ask Khrushchev and Co. for fuller explanations. Perhaps those of your readers who have been throwing around words like "irresponsibility" and "anti-Sovietism" will now cool down and realize what the DW had the sense to recognize almost immediately: that facts, no matter how unpleasant, have to be faced squarely.

Whether one agrees with every word the DW has written in recent weeks (I don't) seems to me completely beside the point. Its staff—editors, columnists and critics alike—is (at last!) calling 'em as it sees 'em—while giving ample space to those who disagree. What more could one ask?

Most important of all, the DW has realized what many Communists have not: that Communists everywhere, and especially in this country, are facing a moral crisis of the first magnitude, and that this is not the time (if there ever was a time) for dogma-as-usual. Your editors did not smugly remark "I am not embarrassed"; they did not "check their feelings at the door." They were shocked and horrified—and they said so.

Was every word they wrote "correct?" Probably not. Yet I would rather read one of these "incorrect" editorials, with their vivid communication of personal outrage, than a dozen wordy and passionless "correct formulations, by Dennis, Allen, Heller et al, whose emotions, if they have any, are buried in "cult of the individual," "Soviet achievements," "violations of legality" and all the rest of the convenient clichés.

I wish somebody would say to these gentlemen: quit worrying about being "correct." After the mistakes you have admitted, a few sloppy formulations won't make much difference. Tell us how you feel—about the lies you

swallowed, about the years wasted in propagating these lies, about the innocent men and women destroyed. Even Khrushchev, they say, wept when he spoke of these things; have you no tears? Let us understand that you too are human.

Socialism (to paraphrase the Bible) was made for man, not man for socialism. Debs and his generation understood this and built a mass socialist movement such as we have never seen since. Was it because they were so hot on theory? Of course not. Was it simply because the "objective conditions" were favorable? I think not. Debs understood what too many Communist leaders seem to have forgotten: that socialism is above all a moral movement; a movement against the cut-throat, belly-crawling world of capitalism; a movement to exalt, not this or that "great leader" but all humanity.

—ALEX LESLIE.

Clearer Perspective

Editor, Daily Worker:

I guess I've been sharing with many the stimulating discussions in "Speak Your Piece." I would like to speak my piece about some tendencies in the letters themselves.

We all seem to realize (thanks to 20th Congress eye-opener) that we've been doing a lot of things wrong. Now our job is to work out a clearer perspective, develop a program around which we can better strengthen the Communist Party as well as the whole Left Wing and influence the struggle of our working class and its allies.

Many letters which have appeared seemed aimed for this clearer perspective. Many have been constructive, others not so constructive. Many letters show an inconsistency between the theoretical aspirations of the writers and their practice of that same theory.

In other words, a more solid grasp of theory is integrally related to a person's ability to utilize theory to guide one's personal life. Progressives should realize, for example, that self-criticism is one of the first prerequisites for applying the Marxist theory of criticism and self-criticism.

Too many of our people speak so candidly of "breaking our isolation with the trade union movement" yet many of these writers are themselves not active in a trade union. If they were I'm sure the relations between the Left and the trade unions would not be as weak as it is today.

I think one of the most important lessons to be learned today is the primary need to go to work in shops and become active in trade unions.

I sincerely hope that our friends when they write to the DW will ask themselves: "Am I practicing what I am about to preach?" —S. P.