

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Role of the Daily Worker

NEWARK, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

First, I wish to compliment the staff of the "D. W." for their initiative in response to the "20th Congress." The "Speak Your Piece" column should remain a permanent feature of the paper.

I believe, also, for really the first time, there must be a hard look at the role of the Daily & Sunday Worker.

For as long as I personally have had any experience with the "Worker" the generally agreed upon reasons for the decline in circulation of our paper has been roughly two-fold:

1. The intensive attack of the reactionaries against all progress and any paper supporting progressive causes.

2. That the supporters of the paper have been (with notable exceptions) too hesitant about selling our paper.

While I would certainly endorse the first reason, and partially the second reason; I believe there is a third major reason for the decline in circulation.

I think the Daily in particular has an appeal only to a very narrow Left and that many of the articles, and even much of the present good discussion, might better be published in Political Affairs.

In general the D. W. gives too much attention to left-wing political matters and not enough to the trade union struggles.

Labor news is either departmentalized or deals only with high level trade union leaders or top policy.

The day to day problems of the rank and file are rather remote from any conflict between Meany and Reuther over Nehru's India as interesting as that conflict might be (and certainly deserving coverage by the Daily).

We do have a wealth of worker correspondents who could fill the gap, if we could but unfreeze the relationship between the trade unionist and his paper. Previously with a letter perfect attitude our leadership has stifled such correspondents.

On this one further thought—if only the top leadership acted in a less bureaucratic manner our problems would not be as nearly as serious as they are. Bureaucratic thinking has had its effect on the lower levels of leadership and even upon many of us who saw ourselves in sharp conflict

with bureaucratic leadership.

If we are to make progress our main course of strength must be found with the labor movement and definitely our single daily newspaper (east of the Rockies) must not look inward, but must actively seek to widen an opening to the trade union movement on all levels.

—Electrical Worker.

Strongly Objects

Editor, Daily Worker:

I strongly oppose H. K.'s letter attacking William L. Patterson as an "irresponsible huckster." (Daily Worker, July 19). One can agree that comrade Patterson's article heralding the social security victory exaggerated and confused reaction and fascism.

But for H. K. to accuse William L. Patterson of capitalist class "salesmanship" methods in telling his story of the victory smells more like white chauvinism than it does of a scientific (to use H.K.'s word) method of criticism.

We are used to hearing such things from enemies. But don't expect them from friends. H. K. associates Herbert Aptheker and George Morris with the proper kind of writing. But I am sure that these two writers completely disassociate themselves from H. K.'s characterization of William L. Patterson as a "huckster" writer.

JAMES W. FORD

Two Main Paths

Editor, Daily Worker:

I think it's time for much of the discussion to find an organizational outlet. It's all well and good to sound off in the Daily Worker, and we should continue to do so. But let's begin to put some of this democracy to work in the Communist Party.

Two main developments are essential for the continued existence and renewed vitality of the Communist Party in our country.

1. A firm and fundamental establishment of the complete independence of the American Party from every other Communist Party in the world. Pravda to the contrary, we need not worry about breaking the bonds of international workingclass solidarity.

Such solidarity is only possible if we truly establish our roots

as an independent American political organization. We must not hesitate to criticize fraternal parties when we feel they are mistaken. But, fundamentally, our outlook on every question must be determined by the needs of the American people, and, in the first place, the American workingclass.

2. We must make clear, once and for all, that the Communist Party is second to none as a defender of the liberties of the people. We must be pledged to the Bill of Rights and the whole tradition of political liberty which has grown up on these shores. We must be pledged to the full implementation of the laws which guarantee freedom and equality for all, and for the enactment of new laws which will constantly expand the liberties of the American people. We must say without doubt or equivocation that American socialism is both economic and political liberty for all.

—I. S.

Shocking Treatment

Editor, Daily Worker:

On June 21, 1956 my husband Paul Paschalides was arrested and taken to Idlewild Airport for immediate deportation to Greece. After a writ of habeas corpus was introduced, he was returned to the Washington St. house of detention.

On July 3, his case was argued in court for a stay of deportation. The decision on his appeal is expected within one or two weeks.

In a letter I received from him, written July 8th, he wrote among other things...

"... Thursday afternoon I was sent to work in the kitchen. I went there. During the night I suffered with a severe headache and become dizzy.

"Friday at 6 a.m. I was awakened to go to work. I didn't go. Later on I saw the doctor and told him I was sick that I had a headache and had been vomiting and the headache did not subside.

"He then gave me some pills. "A short time later they again called me for work and when I refused because of illness, they sent three guards and transferred me from my cell (which many prisoners shared) into a cell of 5x6 feet.

"They removed my cigarettes, shoes and belt. I am now here for three days confined to the cell. They deprive me of cigarettes and the ration of food is

Women Unionists from 42 Lands Hold Conference in Budapest

By BEATRICE SISKIND

BUDAPEST.—The conference of women workers called by the World Federation of Trade Unions ended on a note of accomplishment. It was attended by women from 42

countries and all five continents. Some delegates were members of WFTU unions; others belong to the International Federation of Free Trade Unions, and still others to Catholic and Christian unions. Among the delegates were a number of unorganized women asking help in forming or joining unions.

The central theme of the conference, expressed in the resolutions and decisions adopted, was to fight for equal wages with men doing the same work; for equal opportunities for training and advancement; and for such special needs as paid maternity leaves.

"LOWER WAGES for women are a drag on the wages of men, and a hindrance to the trade union movement," said the delegates. They cited figures to prove that wage discrimination is a source of extra profit for employers.

"We have heard much from this platform about automatization," said the delegate from Denmark. "In our country this has had the effect of creating unemployment. The speed-up which accompanies automation has resulted in an increasing rate of suicides among both men and women, and Denmark now has the highest suicide rate in the world—39.7 out of every 10,000 citizens yearly. Among these are many women."

A delegate from Indonesia voiced a complaint common to women throughout the capitalist world. "Women workers are made reserve workers," she stated, "and therefore cheap workers." The

smaller than that of other prisoners. I do not get any reading material, and no paper to write.

"This afternoon, I was visited by my lawyer and he was promised by the parole officer that I will be removed from here, but I am still confined.

"Saturday I requested many times to see the captain, but he refused to see me. Tomorrow if they don't let me out I will start a hunger strike."

I wish to state here that in November, 1954 my husband had an accident and he suffered a skull fracture and brain concussion. He was hospitalized and since then he has been suffering from continuous severe headaches and heart trouble and has been unable to work.

Because of his health he was under workmen's compensation and was told only to do light federal jail is unjustified and

solution, she said, is to fight for the right of women to work, to organize women and to bring them into activity and leadership in the unions. It is the business of the unions, she went on, to take a leading part in the fight for better housing, more and cheaper commercial services to lighten the burden of housework, and paid maternity leaves without the loss of the job.

A PLEA for solidarity with the African women was made by a young woman from the Cameroons. "There are few opportunities for women to work in my part of the world," she told the conference. "We want the right to work and we want equal pay and equal chances at promotion. Our illiteracy rate among women is very high, and this raises the problem of providing special schools for girls and women so we can learn to read." Her appeal so moved the delegates that at its end they crowded to the platform to greet her and express their solidarity.

The Congress decided unanimously to send a memorandum to the International Labor Office of the United Nations asking that it call a meeting of the three international labor federations to promote the application of the so-called "Convention 100"—the clause calling for equal pay for equal work. Some countries have refused to sign this pledge, and some of those that have signed it do not carry it out in practice.

the treatment that he is getting is endangering his health.

My husband should be treated as any other alien and not as a convicted criminal. He should be returned to the Washington House of Detention.

In view of the fact that my husband was under medical care until his arrest, he should be released on bail so that he may resume and continue his treatment.

BARBARA PASCHALIDES

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