

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Sees Greater Need For Daily Worker

Editor, Daily Worker:

Sam Coleman, in "Speak Your Piece," mentions a "letter" in Monthly Review which, he claims, calls on the CP to "drop dead." Presumably Mr. Coleman was speaking of my article, "Has the Communist Party a Future," in the July-August issue of that magazine.

This article did in fact express grave doubts that the CP could ever lead the American people to socialism. But to read into this a demand that the CP should forthwith dissolve is to put opinions into my mouth that I did not and do not hold.

For the benefit of those of your readers who have not read it, my article said essentially the following:

1—The CP is politically compromised because of its hair-raising strategic and tactical blunders since 1939; it is morally compromised by its blind acceptance of everything Soviet—good, bad or horrible; it is legally compromised by Cold War legislation (Smith Act, McCarran Act, etc.) which is unlikely to be repealed in the near future.

2—It is unlikely that the CP's membership will have the will or the power to make the ruthless and radical changes in structure, tactics and (especially) leadership which—in my view are necessary if the organization is to have any chance of surviving.

3—Even if these changes are made, the CP will remain so hog-tied by its past reputation and government persecution as to be relatively impotent for years to come.

4—If the above analysis is correct, it is time to start thinking about a new socialist organization which will be able to do the job that the CP should have done but didn't—and now can't.

I also pointed out, however, that the CP still possessed important assets; the only socialist daily papers in the United States, and its energetic and courageous membership—who, to the extent they learn to think for themselves (as many of them are obviously doing) can accomplish a lot as part of a new American socialist organization.

Personally I favor such an organization. For just this reason I would consider it the height of foolishness for the CP to dissolve now, scattering its membership to the four winds and closing down its newspapers for lack of the organized financial

support they must have to survive. These assets can and should be conserved and (if possible) increased, because—as I see it—they can eventually become part of the political capital of a new and far stronger socialist movement.

Thus while I would very much like to see many of the CP's leaders "liquidated" (politically, not physically!) I fully agree with Mr. Coleman that liquidation at this time of the CP organization would "hurt the interests of the working class of our country and the cause of socialism."

In connection with this, I would also like to take issue with some of your readers who write that because of the CP's incompetent leadership they will no longer support the DW.

I yield to no man in my distrust of much of the CP's leadership—a distrust which has been intensified by the fact that many of them still prefer, like the Republicans at San Francisco, to conceal their differences behind a facade of "unanimous" resolutions. But this cannot be said of the DW's editors, who have spoken out frankly and allowed their readers to do likewise.

The DW is one of a tiny handful of socialist dailies in the USA—though in my opinion it is not yet socialist enough in content. It is becoming a forum for bringing together many shades of socialist opinion—a process which I hope to see carried even further. Without it, finally, the American press would be even less free than it now is.

For these reasons I believe that any socialist who, out of a justified annoyance at the CP's blunders, ceases to support the DW is cutting off his nose to spite his face. Hard as it is to keep a socialist daily going, it would be far harder to start one going from scratch.

I am therefore enclosing \$10 for your fund drive, and urge all socialists, whatever they think of the CP—past, present and future—to do likewise.

Fraternally,
ALEX LESLIE.

Urges Study to Prove Need for Socialism

Editor, Daily Worker:

Many members are now asking, "What can the Communist Party do to restore and increase its influence?"

Undoubtedly, the answer has

several parts: I want to discuss what I consider one of the important parts to the answer.

In my opinion, we have to tackle, and I don't think we really have ever tackled, the question of American Socialism.

In American terms, using American facts and figures and American history, why is American Socialism the necessary development from the inherent failures of American capitalism; and why does it represent an inspirationally bright future for the American people?

I personally believe that under Socialism, our United States will flower like a tropic garden. There is enough productive capacity in our country right now to quadruple the living standards of the poor and double the average living standard.

Production for use instead of profit automatically will eliminate depressions and unemployment; and planning will eliminate depressed industries.

Not only can living standards be radically improved, but the 30 hour week without speed-up can be established.

Higher education can be increased many times over; every family can have a decent home; medical costs can be eliminated; discrimination can be eliminated; economic security will be every family's right.

Democracy, too, will be far more real than it is today, where the rich man really rules. True, the violations of democracy in the Soviet Union show that we must carefully study how to prevent a bureaucratic rule in a Socialist America.

In a Socialist America, our problems will be on a high human level: what to do with all our leisure time; how to completely eliminate disease; how to enable everybody to live to be a hundred years healthily, happily and fruitfully, etc.

Can I really prove all these beliefs of mine, which I think the Communist Party also stands for? I cannot. I doubt that the Party can prove them.

The Party needs to do a lot of research on this question. Personally, I intend to ask a few of my friends to work with me to prove that Socialism provides the answer to the deepest, most persistent problems of the American people.

A leader in a large auto plant was asked to comment on the Party's declining influence among the workers there. He gave several reasons, one of

which was: in all our extensive propaganda among those workers we had never differentiated ourselves from simply militant unionists. We never spoke of socialism, much less socialism in terms of the workers own problems. When we were under severe attack, they could not make out our reason for being. The militant unionists were still there; the militant union wasn't under such attack. Where do we fit in? They don't know.

To the hundreds of thousands of unemployed auto, farm equipment and mine workers; to the Packard worker thrown on the human scrap heap, to the millions of Americans working for less than one dollar an hour; to the Negro, South and North, oppressed, police brutalized and discriminated against; to the dirt farmer squeezed off his farm; to those workers who are intolerably speeded-up in industry; to the intellectual seeking to realize the vast potential of our country—American Democratic Socialism has an awful lot to offer that is vital and inspirational.

But we must gather the facts and figures with which to prove this clearly and scientifically for our country: the United States of America.

—Detroiter.

Liked Articles On Housing

Editor, Daily Worker:

I appreciate Milly Salwen's articles on housing.

When I first came to N. Y. to live in a tenement apartment after years of decent but higher-priced housing in the West, I was stunned and horrified at my first sight of a cockroach. Despite all attempts (short of stopping up all cracks and holes—there are too many) at extermination, they persist; and I have learned to live with them. As Pope says about vice, we 'first endure, then pity, then embrace.'

But 'die gedanken sind frei' and in all the grime, filth and ugliness our thoughts stray to wider horizons, like the book I have just finished "The Power Elite," and like the A and H bombs.

Maybe the "power elite" in one form or another has been with us too long, and like the cockroaches, has become somehow "ours." If not "clean" and "innocent" at least we don't seem to mind it enough.

Some months back, my sister-

in-law and I each wrote President Eisenhower against the continued nuclear weapons testing. I got a long self-justifying letter back from the A.E.C. but my sister-in-law got no answer. Maybe they thought her letter was flippant because she asked why it was the government could solve the problem of atomic energy but couldn't solve the cockroach problem in New York City.

Enclosed is \$2 from the household budget for the fund drive.

EAST SIDE HOUSEWIFE

Future of the Democratic Party

DETROIT.

Editor, Daily Worker:

While I agree with your analysis of the Democratic Party convention, I think there is an important aspect of it that you omit in your analysis.

That is, the convention should demonstrate to labor, liberal, Negro representatives that they should politically organize and coordinate their programs and activities on a more permanent basis than merely at convention time.

Labor, liberal and Negro representatives actually had the support of a considerably greater number of delegates at the convention than they were able to register on the civil rights issue. The reason is that the top Party bureaucrats were better organized and were therefore able to swing a disproportionate share of the delegates.

In my opinion, at the convention the handwriting was on the wall that the Dixiecrats will sooner or later have to get out of the Democratic Party, especially if the labor, liberal, Negro representatives carry on interim political coordination and collaboration.

At the moment, it seems that this is the way a national party more truly representative of and responsive to the common man in our country is gradually evolving.

What do you think?

—Detroit Worker.

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