

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

About Israel And the Suez

Editor, Daily Worker:

In connection with the current re-evaluation of our past history and errors, it seems to me we are continuing to follow the Soviet Union's foreign policy blindly with regard to Egypt and closing our eyes to facets of this question that must be considered.

It is a known fact that Israel ships and all shipping destined for Israel have been denied use of the Suez Canal for eight years, while Israel has pleaded her case in vain. Surely now when the question of guarantees for freedom of shipping through the canal are discussed, we should also raise it and criticize all the great powers, including the Soviet Union, which have been appealed to by the Israel government to include the matter in the conference recently held, for keeping silent about it.

Particularly the Soviet Union painfully stands out in this regard, since Shepilov listed all the Arab states in the Middle East who should have been invited (including inland states with no seacoast) and pointedly omitted Israel, whose very borders almost reach the mouth of Suez. It is very obvious that all the great powers seek to curry favor with the Arab states and even in this case when the question is completely in order, refuse to help Israel have her case heard.

In connection with this, the whole question of anti-Semitism conducted by the Arab states affecting American business and soldiers, is surely affected by the disclosures long known that Nazi advisers to the Egyptian government are master-minding this campaign. Yet we keep silent as though this painful fact must be submerged in fear of obscuring the larger issue of Egypt's struggle for complete liberation from colonialism, which her seizure of the Canal symbolizes. We should remember the errors of 1940 when we forgot Hitler's horrors just because of the conclusion of the Nazi-Soviet pact.

We cannot equate Hitler with Nasser of course, but neither do we gain the respect of public opinion when we fail to honestly call attention to all the facts in the situation. Also, we do not help influence American public opinion to bring pressure on Egypt to abandon the anti-Semitic aspect of its dispute with Israel, by ignoring the true facts.

It should be possible for us to support Egypt's struggle for complete independence while honestly criticizing other policies of Egypt which makes her tend toward remaining a quasi-dictatorship with internal undemocratic and anti-Semitic orientation.

A READER

[Ed. Note: Daily Worker editorials Aug. 30 and Aug. 23; also "Today Abroad" columns Aug. 31, Aug. 13, Aug. 6, criticized Egyptian action barring Israeli shipping from the Suez Canal and the Soviet Union as well as the Western powers for failing to oppose this. We were not silent and we follow no one's policies blindly as "A Reader" would know if he read the DW on this subject.]

George Meany's Stand on Peace

NEW YORK
Editor, Daily Worker:

A front page headline in your issue of Sept. 3, says: "Meany calls for peace. . . ." Meany's remarks are being taken, in this instance, too much at face value. The Daily's headline is, too say the least, too uncritical.

Your story tells us: "Meany then outlines his theories on how

to achieve peace, including development of a 'strong national defense program and a clear foreign policy that will effectively prevent war by the only deterrent that Communists respect—superior power. . . ."

If Eisenhower or Dulles or Harriman or Truman had "called for peace" in such terms would you have given the story a similar headline? As a matter of fact, the gentlemen I have mentioned have all "called for peace" in pretty much these terms—which justify the war-provoking armaments race.

In the name of "breaking out of our isolation" is the left to adopt an attitude toward the leaders of labor which exempts them from critical evaluation—even when they are palpably advocating the bosses' line within labor's ranks?

First Daniel De Leon, then Lenin and later Foster, taught us that there is such a thing as the lieutenant of capitalism within the ranks of the working class. Skill and tact are required in exposing these gentlemen—but if we meekly take them at their honeyed words they will never be exposed.—ARTHUR.

James Dolsen's Proposals

PHILADELPHIA.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I believe that the drastic changes in the world relationship of social forces—so dramatically highlighted in the report and actions of the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union—is expressing itself also in changing relationships of power within the class struggles of the capitalist countries and within the national liberation struggles in Asia and Africa.

1. A most essential change, in my opinion, is that we discard the standpoint that the struggle of the Negro people in the South is a NATIONAL LIBERATION struggle orientated upon their ultimate establishment in that area as a separate nation.

The Negro people themselves, particularly in recent years, have clearly shown that their struggle, both in the South and everywhere else in the nation, is the establishment of their rights as FIRST CLASS CITIZENS to full ECONOMIC, POLITICAL and SOCIAL EQUALITY with all other citizens—and that right soon.

I consider their struggle in the South the keystone to maintenance and expansion of the democratic rights of every one of us. It will for some time at least be a major responsibility of ours to give the utmost support to that struggle. Experience should warn us, too, to be a little modest about "laying down the law" in regard to just how the Negro people should conduct that battle.

2. I agree that recent historical changes have increased the possibility of achieving socialism in the U.S. by constitutional means. This implies that the struggle for the preservation and extension of our democratic rights will become all the more important.

The right of FREE SPEECH, we should advocate, for all, and I mean precisely that. This would be in accord with the most cherished American traditions. It would win us the support of great numbers who have been repelled by what they felt was a certain arrogance in us of deciding to whom we would extend that right if we were in power.

Should fascists and segregationists have that right? Until we are very much stronger than we are, our opposition doesn't have any practical effect. It is much more, important, in my

opinion, that we fight hard for OUR opportunity to answer fascist and segregation arguments than that we make a big issue about how we would restrict the free speech right even of those whom we consider enemies of the people. We have everything to gain from the widest possible free speech.

The spirit of such a free speech stand would, I am convinced, have a healthy effect on the democracy which should exist among our own membership.

3. The struggle to win our country for socialism is one of the most difficult, not, in my opinion, because of the danger of an open fascist terrorist regime being established to prevent it, but rather because of the tremendous propaganda which surrounds every one of us from the time he gets up in the morning to the time he falls asleep that night.

I agree with those who foresee that the period of TRANSITION TO SOCIALISM in this country will not require the degree of suppression of enemy class elements that was necessary in countries which earlier entered that road. With already a third of the world in the socialist sphere, where would the big bankers and industrialists and their hangers-on get the outside support that would restore them to power?

4. As regards our Party: I am for a "mass" party of socialism right now but I agree with those comrades who are against the formation of such a party until it is assured of a sufficient trade union membership. Certainly, we don't want another burst and fadeout like the Progressive Party experience. Let those who are so impatient get out and persuade their steelworker friends of the need for such a mass party.

I believe that meanwhile our own Communist Party has the ability to survive its mistakes and that out of the February convention there will come a general agreement on how the Party membership can best function as an active factor in the struggles of the American workingclass and best contribute towards enlarging Labor's conception of its role in the future development of American democracy.

In closing, I want to record my pride in the Party.—I am one of the few remaining comrades who was at the Socialist Party convention in Chicago back in 1919 when the American Communist movement was first established.

Despite all our weaknesses and mistakes we made significant contributions to the workingclass struggle and the advancement of the welfare of the American people. I am sure that we will continue to do so.

—James Dolsen.

Ways to Strengthen Communist Party

ASBURY PARK, N.J.

Editor, Daily Worker:

It is my opinion that a balanced, sober approach to all the questions being raised now is vital.

The American CP has struggled valiantly and successfully on many fronts—in the trade union movement, for full equality for the Negro people, for peace, and against fascism. I, too, echo the sentiments of those who are proud of their membership in the CP and are proud of their contribution to the many struggles, despite many, many, errors and weaknesses.

I would like to discuss for a moment the wild swinging attacks on the party which in many cases take on anti-party and anti-Soviet aspects. In this period, such cynical bitter attacks can paralyze the party and are paralyzing the party.

The type of criticisms I think are harmful are as follows:

1. The entire party leadership is no good from top to bottom and should resign.

2. The party should be dissolved to make room for an immediate party of socialism.

3. The party has done nothing and has never been right on anything.

These criticisms, if carried to their logical conclusion, would set back the struggle for peace, for democracy, and for socialism. Incidentally, I think that the membership as a whole, with many notable exceptions, should take a share of responsibility for the errors that occurred. Of course, the degree of responsibility is not as great as that of leadership.

The CPUSA has to exist, but its existence and growth is predicted on many changes that must take place. These changes, in my opinion, must include the following:

1. Changes in leadership wherever necessary, and they are necessary in many places where bureaucracy is ingrained.

2. Rooting out all vestiges of left sectarianism and the development of a mass line in all phases of activity.

3. Lifting the ideological level of the party, by major attention to basic Marxist-Leninist theory and the development of independent American Marxist thinking.

4. Industrial concentration and close contact with the working class. Winning workers to socialism, American style. Much more attention to the deep farm crisis and correction of many errors that have hindered our work among the Negro people.

5. Organizational and constitutional changes to guarantee close ties and contact of leadership with membership. The development of an American style of democratic centralism with constant exchange and flow between bottom and top. Differences of opinion must not only be accepted and welcomed, but cultivated.

6. Activity—just plain old activity and struggles on issues of the day.

I am confident that the corrections will be made and that the American CP will play an historic role in making this a better America for all.—L.K.

Why Not Buy On Credit?

Editor, Daily Worker:

In your issue of Sept. 6 you put a five column headline over a two-paragraph release that consumer credit rose to 37 billion dollars. You don't say so, and you don't say why, but you imply you don't like it. Under the same headline is a dispatch from COPE that had debts are on the increase.

What is your complaint? Do you think that the American workers would be better off if they were not allowed to buy autos until they had saved up the full cash price? And newly married couples; must they live in bare rooms or remain single until they can pay cash for a house full of furniture?

I admit that it is very sad that some of these debts are uncollectable. But for whom shall I weep; the worker who cannot pay for the goods he bought on credit (and I hope enjoyed the use of) or the capitalist who takes the loss?

I suggest that you let the Federal Reserve Bank and the Commercial Credit Co. worry about the increase in consumer credit. As far as the workers are concerned, if the merchants would only double the consumer credit, we would have all those things

that the money would buy.

Payments? I added two rooms to my house. The bank paid for it and changed the mortgage from 20 years to 30 years. My payments are the same. I have the extra rooms and the bank has the debt. What are YOU squawking about?

—Householder.

Who Promotes Violence?

MELROSE, Mass.

Editor, Daily Worker:

"... the Communist Party . . . thrives upon promoting clashes; Between . . . white and Negro." ("A Handbook for Americans" by Sen. James O. Eastland's Sub-Committee, p. 15):

Today's events again demonstrate who "thrives upon promoting clashes between white and Negro" as the cowardly mobs of Eastlandites criminally descend on defenseless Negro school children. In revealing their savage mentalities, these white supremacists destroy their own claims of racial superiority, for who has won the respect and support of the entire world: the lynchers or the brave Negro children who have stood up to whole howling packs of them in coming to desegregated schools?

Eastland's White Citizens Councils have declared war on the United States by using force and violence against National Guard and other law enforcement agencies upholding federal law. They should be treated as any other outlaws, starting with their subversive organizer Eastland. He is obviously today's Public Enemy No. 1—followed by other sponsors of the Southern Manifesto which aims at destroying the Constitution and returning to the Black Codes.

And what is the FBI doing? Ask a foolish question, and what do you expect?—At last accounts the FBI was threatening an investigation to see if defying the U. S. Supreme Court and attacking the National Guard were in violation of civil liberties! Incidentally, is the FBI still investigating the Emmett Till kidnap and murder, or did it decide kidnaping was not a federal offense in the South? Harry Bridges can be hounded with five or more trials on the same frame-up, but a trial framed in favor of Southern lynchers answers all requirements of FBI law and puts an end to the case.

Ike of course is a sick man today, but Adlai ought to have something to say about the uprising of fascist lynch mobs to proclaim a reign of terror in America. Yet what is he talking about? Persecution in so-called satellite countries! This and how best to steal the Suez Canal from poor little Egypt for the oil barons are supposed to occupy our attention while children are persecuted and driven from homes and schools in the United States.

—FRANK COLLIER

Soviet Athletes And Britain

Editor, Daily Worker:

In the Panamoravo affair in London don't you think Anglo-Soviet amity would have been better served if the Soviet athletes had remained in Britain and competed with the British athletes—especially if she were innocent?—J. J. S.

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