

# PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER VS. DALLAS NEWS

By ALAN MAX

ONE OF THE interesting things about the discussion now going on in the DW, is the reaction to it by other publications.

Kind readers have sent in clippings from many cities. Two of the reactions interested me especially, perhaps because they had to do with a column by myself that appeared in this space several weeks ago titled "U.S. Marxists and Soviet Self-Criticism".

The Philadelphia Inquirer quoted two sentences from the column:

"Where were the present leaders (of the Soviet Union) during the period when they say that collective leadership was lacking? What about their own mistakes in the period of capitalist encirclement?"



On the basis of this quotation, the Inquirer tells its readers that "Stalin has one die-hard friend" in myself.

On the other other hand, the Dallas Morning News quoted from the same piece of mine and draws the exact opposite conclusion for its Texas readers.

In the News, one Lynn Landrum decides that I have suddenly and slavishly shifted from Stalin to Khrushchev and that the "Daily Worker" editor is doing for Khrushchev exactly what he said he wrongfully did for Stalin—he is taking his 'line' from Moscow."

To buttress this conclusion, Lynn Landrum quotes almost my entire column. I say almost—because the one part that was omitted consisted of those two very same sentences which were the only ones quoted by the Philadelphia Inquirer.

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To picture me as blindly defending Stalin against the present criticism, the Inquirer suppressed

everything that I wrote about our own mistakes in taking everything on faith in the Stalin period and on being intolerant of any kind of criticism of anything in the Soviet Union.

To picture me as—now taking the present leadership entirely on blind faith, the Dallas Morning News suppressed the questions which I asked of the present leaders.

I find all this instructive. Not that I consider reactionary journals like the Inquirer or the Dallas News as having any acute understanding of the present developments and discussions. But, unless I am mistaken, there is some kind of awareness in these circles that something enormous and new is happening in the Communist movements throughout the world and that at all costs—including deliberate suppression of pertinent sections of an article—that fact must be kept from the readers.

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THE HISTORIC DEVELOP-

MENT which the reactionaries sense and fear is the establishment of a new relationship among socialist countries and among the Communist parties and movements throughout the world: a relationship of strict equality. Equality, among the Soviet Union and those countries now first building socialism; equality among Communist Parties like the party of the Soviet Union which was the first in all history to establish socialism, and parties in the newer People's Democracies or Yugoslavia or in the other countries of the world, including the United States.

The new relation was symbolized by the visit of Secretary Khrushchev and Premier Bulganin to Yugoslavia and the healing of the breach. The breach itself was the fruit of the old and one-sided relationship.

This new relationship is more difficult to achieve. It places new responsibilities upon all the Com-

munist movements—upon the most powerful and influential to be helpful but not to be overbearing; upon the movements which have not yet scored such epochal achievements to stand more firmly upon their own feet, more boldly chart their own paths, give criticism freely, frankly and fearlessly wherever it will be helpful.

Only an equal relationship is a truly close one.

Only through such a relationship, it seems to me, can international working class solidarity develop to the fullest. Only through such a relationship can the individual movements in various countries develop to the fullest.

The reactionaries have had a field day over the years in exploiting—and exaggerating and distorting—whatever was one-sided and unequal in the relations among Communist movements. Big Business reactionaries have good reason to fear the change now in process. Nobody else has.