

# A REPLY TO THE POST AND THE N. Y. TIMES

## *An Editorial*

NEWSPAPERS in this city are giving considerable attention all of a sudden to Daily Worker articles on the 20th Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union.

The New York Times, for example, ran a story on Saturday under the headline: "New Split of U. S. Reds Appears; Issue is the Soviet Drive on Stalin."

This remarkable finding was based on "a public difference of opinion" which The Times imagined it saw in articles in our paper by William Z. Foster, chairman of the Communist Party, and by Managing Editor Alan Max.

The articles in question speak for themselves. Furthermore, the Daily Worker speaks for itself. But that is not the point. What interests us here is the dogmatic, doctrinaire position which The Times and other capitalist

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newspapers have taken for years with regard to discussion within the Communist movement. They start from the premise that no differences of opinion are permitted to exist or to be expressed. If differences are expressed at any time, that doesn't mean that their premise is wrong. Oh, no, it means a "split."

Commentators in the capitalist press and leaders of the two main parties disagree from hour to hour on the meaning of the 20th Congress. On the other hand, the writers, contributors and readers of the Daily Worker are agreed, we are certain, on the epochal character of the 20th Congress not only for the cause of socialism but for the cause of what interests the American people most—world peace. However, it would be peculiar indeed if any two articles or letters in our paper were to express themselves in exactly the same way on such a vast event—not to mention an event on which all facts have not yet been made public, and of which the Daily Worker itself would be better informed if the State Department had not denied us a passport.

We started publishing letters from our readers on the 20th Congress in yesterday's Worker and we plan to carry many more. We will encourage our readers and writers to say exactly what is on their minds, confident that this free exchange of opinion—far from meaning any "split"—will result in greater unity of action by the Marxist movement and by the working people in general in the best interests of our country.

An editorial in the New York Post gloats over a column by Max in last Tuesday's Daily Worker in which he suggested that American Marxists had much to learn from a re-examination of themselves. The Post sees this column as a sign of crisis in the Marxist movement here and throughout the world. It says a "vacuum" is being created by this "crisis" and complains there are no signs of the needed "imaginative democratic offensive" by our own government.

We are for an imaginative re-appraisal of our American foreign policy—to the end that our country and the Soviet Union will live in real peace and cooperation. But the Post is kidding itself if it thinks there is a crisis of Communism throughout the world and in this country. Actually, only John Foster Dulles has interpreted the 20th Congress as a sign of weakness. Everybody else, including the Post itself, has interpreted it as a matter of achievement.

Likewise, the process of self-criticism, which will inevitably be stimulated now in the Communist movements in each country, will only serve to strengthen their ties and influence with the rest of the people in behalf of peace and democracy.

Speaking of self-examination, why doesn't the Post take a look at the Post? Why doesn't the Post admit it was wrong to have given the support it did, even though with reservations, to the Cold War? Why doesn't the Post admit it was wrong in helping spread the lie about "Soviet aggression"—a lie which the Daily Worker battled almost single-handedly? Why doesn't the Post, which has opposed the Smith and McCarran Act prosecutions, admit it was wrong in helping spread the lies about Communist "subversion" and "espionage," upon which those prosecutions and McCarthyism in general were based?

The Soviet people—who established the first system of socialism in the history of mankind—are now upon the threshold of new monumental achievements in the advance to communism.

A working class state is re-examining its own shortcomings of the past and strengthening its democracy. It is doing so under a leadership which during the past three years has won confidence for itself by its contributions, especially to world peace.

Isn't it high time that the leaders of the Republican and Democratic Parties in our own country examined the state of affairs here? Isn't it time that the Negro people, for example, actually get the democratic rights which were won in the Civil War? Isn't it time that the Smith Act and other thought-control prosecutions be halted? Isn't it time that the leaders of our country embarked on a genuine crusade for world disarmament and an end to the Cold War?

If Marxists in America see the need of re-appraising their own work, it is not through lack of confidence in themselves or in socialism. It is in order to help the American people in their struggle against monopolists who have divided them, exploited them, robbed them of their liberties and rights and endangered the peace.

As for the Daily Worker, before, during and after any re-appraisal, we always stand for the best interests of our country and for the peace and well-being of the American people.