

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Urges A Crusading Paper

The Communist Party national convention resolution on the press, as reported in the Daily, is wrong.

In examining the causes for the decline in the Marxist press in recent years, the resolution finds two "reasons": persecutions of the Left, and the "abandonment by Communists of sustained efforts to circulate them."

Neither of these "reasons" has much validity, and least of all the second. If the Daily and Worker had been in this period the kind of papers they should have been, Communists and sympathizers wouldn't have to be bludgeoned with sub and fund drives that have become a millstone around the neck of the movement.

The fact is that for many years now the Worker and Daily have not been playing the role they should have; instead of inspiring, agitating, recruiting and organizing Marxist-minded Americans, they have become extra baggage to the movement.

Partly responsible was the notion that our American Marxist papers, like those of the big mass movements in Europe, had to be "rounded out"—family papers, to take the place of the commercial bourgeois press, as well as acting as shop papers and inner-party theoretical and organizational organs. The cry was always for more sports coverage, more news coverage, more women's fashions, more shop news—in trying to be all things to all people... the Daily and Worker succeeded in being not very much to anybody, and certainly no inspiration or agitation at all. Shop papers are needed and inner-party organs are needed, but these cannot be the role of a mass Marxist paper. Nor can it compete with even the poorest of the commercial press in news-coverage, features, sports, etc.

There is in fact a wealth of American socialist experience in journalism that could have been drawn on—the files of papers like the Appeal to Reason and Oscar Ameringer's American Guardian—in building the kind of press we need.

Suggests More Controversy

Editor, Daily Worker:

Your issue of Feb. 19, '57, contains an article which summarizes a report on the "Marxist Press" made during the recent Communist convention. It notes that Worker and Daily Worker circulation have declined 80 percent and 66 percent respectively since 1949.

Two reasons are listed for this decline: 1) possible persecution which readers and subscribers

face; 2) the fact that "Communists... have virtually abandoned sustained efforts to circulate" the two papers. There is perhaps a third reason which surprisingly was not mentioned.

Living in an area of NYC where the papers are easily obtainable, and counting among my friends many Communists, I have often noted that few—if any—read the paper consistently, and many don't read it at all. When asked to explain this indifference, the general reply is, "There is nothing to read in it."

Publishing at a time when the Left is in intense discussion and self-analysis, the Daily Worker and Worker continue to devote most space to abridged news items, inane comment, and carefully avoiding the areas of controversy which arouse so much passion, interest and new hope.

Most Leftists, including Communists, have at their disposal ample sources of news media—TV, radio, other papers—and they have long since learned "to read between the lines" to get at the real nature of events. One wonders, therefore, whether the DW policy of so much news and so little discussion is wise.

Isn't it really time to attempt some homespun analysis of the Hungarian events or developments in Poland, or evaluation of Soviet socialism as we see it from these shores? If "hard core" feelings are ruffled by analysis that go beyond Soviet declaration perhaps both views could appear, and to the reader would be left the prerogative of arriving at conclusions. In the past, when Satre spoke for peace or the Rosenbergs he was hailed and printed in the DW. Are his strong but unmalicious criticisms of the French CP any less newsworthy today? Lastly, are not the views and activities of the other segments of the American Left more important and engaging to readers than brutal murder in Boston or "Berkshire-Hathaway Rejects Wage Demands"?

—FOSSA BIUBA.
Feb. 21, 1957

Says Weinstone Appeased Revisionism

Editor, Daily Worker:

Bill Weinstone's apologia on the "C. P. Resolution on Theory" instead of clarifying matters places him a position of whitewashing those who have introduced the stain of revisionism into the theories of Marxism.

Many Party members as well as many men and women who are non-party Communists hoped that the convention would end on a note of no compromise with revisionism of Marxism-Leninism. These many hundreds of men and women looked to the Fosters and Weinstones, men

who they thought would stand four square against those who are diluting our Communist theories with the same old revisionist arguments of "bringing Marx up-to-date."

These Comrades have not only failed us at the convention, but Bill Weinstone attempts to justify his actions by resorting to just so much jumbo-mumbo. And then he crowns it all by charging Lenin with statements supposedly made from March to July and September 1917. to prove that he, Weinstone is correct.

We cannot buy a statement which does not quote the man who made that statement. If Lenin did advocate the peaceful transition to Socialism in Russia, share with us that bit

of information by letting us have the how and the wherefore, the book and page and in what connection this was said.

—L. S.

Texans Not All Millionaires

Bronx, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

The running gag on TV and in the papers about everyone in Texas being a millionaire is so insidious that after a while people do begin to believe this myth of pervasive prosperity.

A healthy antidote of fact is to be found in the March Harper's Magazine, "What Corrupted Texas," by Ronnie Durger. For instance:

"Texas ranks 42nd among the states in aid to dependent chil-

dren, 36th in aid to the blind and 37th in old age assistance. The state's average weekly unemployment benefit (\$17.91) is 46th among the states, and only Alabama has a maximum workers disability benefit lower than Texas' \$25.

"Texas Mexicans (about 1,300,000 people) finish only four grades of school on the average, and the 1,000,000 Negroes proceed only a grade or two further along. Half the Mexicans live without piped running water, two-thirds without inside flushing toilets. On the average Negroes and Mexicans make about half as much as whites."

Texas has its millionaires alright, but it has its millions in miserable poverty, too.

Feb. 20, 1957 —BIG D

Lawyers

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refuse to comply with decisions of federal courts.

The civil liberties committee report made on Saturday, at the Ambassador hotel convention celebrating the Guild's 20th anniversary, pointed out that the efforts to implement the Supreme Court decision all were "peaceful efforts... which employ the judicial forum and invoke constitutional guarantees."

Despite this, the Guild committee noted the "legalized reprisal" against the NAACP in Alabama on the basis that it was an out-of-state corporation complying with Alabama law, the NAACP was restrained from conducting further business, collecting funds and organizing new chapters. For refusing to comply, the NAACP was held in contempt and fined \$100,000.

In Texas, a similar action was instituted, it was noted. And in Georgia, proceedings by the state revenue collector led to orders for the inspection of books and records and to contempt convictions for failure to comply. In Virginia, an injunction action is pending which calls for registration of groups financing law suits to which they are not parties and penalties for activities which might create racial conflicts.

These efforts to cripple organizational efforts for racial equality, said the Guild report, "bear a striking resemblance to certain of the techniques employed by the federal government against political dissidents—registration, disclosure of members and supporters."

It compared them to the McCarran Internal Security Act measures, "the 'exposure' methodology of the Un-American Activities Committee and the federal grand juries." In the South, it said, "the NAACP is 'subversive.'" It called for recognition that the rights of citizens to join in furthering equality are "drawn from the same constitutional bundle" as the rights of those being

attacked under the Smith and McCarran Acts, and said:

"Until the whole bundle is secured, no part of it is safe."

UN

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dan and Syria in an Arab "summit" conference. Informed sources said Saud was unlikely to change the attitude of the other Arab leaders.

Dulles and Eban issued a joint statement at the end of their meeting yesterday voicing hope for a solution consistent with the principles of the UN.

Senate Democratic leader Lyndon B. Johnson told newsmen, after meeting Dulles, that the situation "appears to be somewhat more hopeful than it was last week."

"So long as the parties... keep talking," Johnson said, "there is a possibility of a settlement."

BRITISH ATTITUDE

LONDON, Feb. 25.—Prime Minister Harold Macmillan joined President Eisenhower today in demanding Israel's withdrawal from the Gaza strip and Aqaba gulf. He said the areas must become "a UN responsibility."

Macmillan also rejected sanctions against Israel.

"We believe," he said, "that Israeli forces should retire from the west shore of the Gulf of Aqaba and we equally believe that coupled with that withdrawal it should be made clear beyond peradventure, both by the UN and leading maritime countries, that access to these waters is free to the world."

JERUSALEM, Israeli Sector, Feb. 25.—Premier David Ben Gurion said tonight the threat of UN sanctions should not prevent Israel from pursuing its "basic demands" for guarantees before withdrawing troops.

Addressing the Knesset (Parliament) after two urgent cabinet meetings, Ben Gurion listed Israel's basic conditions for withdrawing

from the Gulf of Aqaba.

These, he said, were "stationing troops along the gulf coast until a settlement with Egypt is reached, or there is agreement between the coastal states" on freedom of navigation.

Harriman Signing Power Giveaway

ALBANY, N. Y.—Feb. 25—Gov. Harriman today was to sign two controversial contracts giving almost half of New York's share of St. Lawrence River power to two corporations despite election pledges that he favored public power.

The contract awards to the Reynolds Metal Co. and Niagara Mohawk Power Co. were opposed by upstate municipal power cooperatives, the state CIO, Liberal Party and others. The Democratic party split on the issue.

The pacts were originally negotiated by the state power authority headed by Robert Moses.

Harriman accepted the private corporations' argument that the contracts would benefit industry and jobs in Northern New York. The state AFL, especially its building and construction unions, okayed the pacts as well. Their stand is based chiefly on having better union contract relations with private industry as against government agencies.

Clark at Forum in Columbia Today

Joseph Clark, foreign editor of the Daily Worker, will speak at Columbia University this afternoon at 3 p.m.

Clark and Gordon Haskell of "Labor Action," have been invited to speak at a forum in Hamilton Hall on "The Crisis in Eastern Europe."