

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Labor and Hungary

Editor, Daily Worker:

William Z. Foster, in his article, "The Question of Communist Party 'Name and Form'" which appeared in the Daily Worker Wednesday, Jan. 9, injected in passing the issue of Hungary.

Foster stated his opinion that "during the long months of the discussion, our Party, despite many sharp internal differences, has achieved real progress and substantial political unity on many questions. . . ."

As one example, Foster observed: "This is increasingly true also regarding Hungary, with the bulk of the Party, in the main, arriving at the same opinion as that of Communists in other countries, particularly with regard to the 'grim necessity' for the Red Army to enter that country to prevent a very serious growth of reaction and war danger."

It seems to me the wish is father to the thought here about how the "bulk" of people feel about the Hungarian events. But what is even stranger is the message with which he precedes this comment.

"What our Party needs fundamentally now is unity and mass activity, and all this must be advanced at the coming convention."

But Foster's stand on Hungary serves neither to unite the Communists (or the Left generally), who are sharply divided on this question; and, further, it certainly offers no basis at all for mass activity in the labor movement or any place else.

Foster speaks of the "grim necessity" for the Soviet armed intervention in Hungary. But if there is a "grim necessity," it is that American Communists understand that they cannot take a serious step toward re-establishing a new basis for socialism in the labor movement today (no matter what else is done on domestic issues and policy) if they condone or justify the Soviet actions in Hungary.

No one would seriously propose that Communists get up in unions and defend Kadar government's death decree for strikers and other extreme measures which it is taking because apparently it lacks mass support among the workers.

Communists and socialists have been a vital part of the great, living tradition of militant strike struggles of the American labor movement — which, incidentally, is second to

none in the world in this respect.

Communists cannot effectively defend the rights of labor in our country and look with approval on the denial of such rights to the workers of Hungary or anywhere else.

The fact that there are reactionaries in Hungary seeking to exploit and mislead the unions and workers councils makes it all the more urgent, it seems to me, that the Communists there find the way to win the confidence of the masses of working people and enlist them in this struggle without resorting to such measures.

I for one have been hoping that Foster, one of the great strike leaders and union organizers in the American labor tradition, would speak up on the Kadar government's actions regarding the Hungarian unions and workers councils, especially the latest decree on strikes.

As a labor reporter for the Daily Worker, I have also been more than disappointed that the paper has not seen fit to take a clear-cut editorial stand on this trade union issue.

There are many complications in the world today, but there are some fundamental principles of labor solidarity and here, in my opinion, is one such case.

HERBERT SIGNER

## Soil Bank Helps Speculators

MINNEAPOLIS.

Dear Editor:

The drought is already having considerable effect in driving farmers off the land.

One effect of the soil bank in these areas is that while the soil bank payments are too small to provide a living for a farm family so they could stay on the land, they are large enough so the speculators can buy the land at the going prices of land put the whole farm in the soil bank and have the farm paid for by the government in three to five years. Some farmers are leaving their farms, going some place to get a job and hoping to hold on to the land.

Livestock herds are being reduced sharply in Western North and South Dakota. Reserves of the grain farmers have been reduced terrifically.

C.

## A Test for Communists

Editor, Daily Worker:

Hungary is proving a real test for American Communists. That Communist thinking was being disrupted was evident in the Daily Worker editorial stand and

such writings as those of Lester Rodney. And in Thursday's Worker, Harry Raymond, refers to what he considers the "Hungarian mess."

These, and other developments, indicate that Hungary is one of the keys to present Communist thinking. In a certain definite sense, Hungary today is comparable to Spain in the 30's. If Communists in America, with all their wealth of past experience, cannot grasp what happened, and is happening, in Hungary, their whole understanding of the Communist role at home, and of the world situation in general, cannot but be clouded and confused.

Let us examine some simple, basic facts. Hungary, before World War II, was a fascist state, under the dictatorship of the notorious Admiral Horthy. During the war, Hungary was an ally of Nazi Hitlerism, and its troops fought against the Soviet Union. Hungary was also an enemy of the United States, which was an ally of the Soviet Union.

There were plenty of Horthyites left when World War II ended. The support and nurture of these fascist elements by Nixon, McCarthy and other similarly-oriented elements of the American ruling class is all of the same pattern that was established shortly after the war. Fascist plotting was supported and encouraged, even pressured, in Hungary by the same people who rescued and succored the corrupt and unspeakable Chiang Kai-shek. They engineered the recognition of the equally infamous Franco and took under wing fascist remnants all over the world. And here at home, they hounded true patriots like Elizabeth Gurley Flynn, Bob Thompson, and many others, into prison.

They promoted, they spent millions of dollars—consider Radio "Free" Europe, balloons, and all that rigamarole—which is only what appears on the surface to bring about—just such a development as took place in Hungary.

It is probably true that the mistakes of Stalin—principally in repressing the national aspirations of the Hungarian people, created a situation favorable to the fascist plotters. The just grievances of the people may have made some of them easier dupes.

It was absolutely essential for Socialist progress everywhere that the Soviet Union move to protect the Hungarian workers against the fascist uprising.

—G. F.