

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Hungary Faced White Terror

Editor, Daily Worker:

Over the years I have faithfully read the Daily Worker and induced others to do likewise. Until recently I furnished copies of the Daily Workers to some of my shop mates daily. Neither I nor the others read the Daily regularly any longer. I read it now and then, only to be infuriated and disgusted by some of the things that are found on its pages.

I am not very good at writing letters, and what started me on this one was your reactionary estimation of events in Hungary. I consider your position to be anti-Marxist-Leninist and anti-workingclass. I suppose you would have preferred to have seen reaction victorious in Hungary. Would you have liked to see the white terror running wild in Hungary as it did after the defeat of the Hungarian revolution following World War I? How can you be indifferent to CP members and progressives murdered by the fascist gangs in Hungary? Would you have preferred to have the Soviet Union permit the fascist mad dogs under more? Is that your concept of freedom? Brother, you can have it. As for me I won't buy it!

Sure there were abuses, serious mistakes and distortions in Hungary. Overthrowing the people's rule, however, is no way of righting things. That is the way of making it impossible to straighten matters out, and creating a situation where abuses would be compounded.

The Soviet Union would have been derelict in its duty to the Hungarian people and the international workingclass if it did not step in decisively. I think that the Daily Worker should meet its responsibility to the Hungarian people and the American workingclass by exposing the dirty work of our government in Hungary. Why leave it only to the Soviet Union to do that? After all, we are in America. It is our money that is paying for that. Why the hell are you shirking your responsibility?

I am ending this letter by say-

ing that while in general the left sectarian danger may be the main danger, the main danger is the right danger as it applies to the New York State leadership and particularly as it applies to those who are running the Daily Worker.

An Old Party Member.

Editorial on Hungary Called Red-Baiting

Editor, Daily Worker:

The process of democratization in our party, if genuine, has always been a two-edged sword. While it seeks to destroy left sectarianism, it also exposes right opportunists of all shades in their true colors. This is what happened in Hungary, and is apparently also happening in the U. S.

Democratization should have nothing in common with the abandonment of revolutionary vigilance. The policy of beating our chests in profuse self-condemnation and letting all our guards down, if pursued to its logical end, can but demoralize our ranks and surrender the fruit of all our toils to the enemies on a silver platter. It is a policy of defeatism, of losing faith completely in socialism, and of opportunism, striving to achieve popularity by the short cut of conforming with the enemy. If red-baiting had been a popular sport among great sections of the American people, then Soviet-baiting is rapidly coming into fashion among some Communists.

A typical example was the reprinting of the Oct. 30 editorial of the DW in the Sunday Worker on Nov. 4. Both the editorial itself and the timing is sickening. It came at the heel of the time when the Hungarian people, with the assistance of the Red Army defeated the counter-revolutionary coup.

Events of the last few days were quite clear. The Nagy government capitulated to the counter-revolutionaries. It instituted a reign of white terror. It committed inexcusable crimes. In name of neutrality, it seek to withdraw from socialism.

It attempted to save the Anglo-French aggressors from

universal condemnation in the UN by injecting the question of Hungary, both as a means diverting world attention from the Middle East and undermining the leadership of the Soviet Union in this fight.

According to the DW editorial, all these are parts of expression of the desires of the Hungarian people for democratic freedom. What facts has the Worker to sustain is positive assertion that the character of the Nagy regime is genuinely democratic, while even Lodge admitted in the UN that the situation was confusing.—M.C.

Lenin's Principle of Internationalism

NEW HAVEN, Conn.

Editor, Daily Worker:

A reader from Texas wrote in this column the other day, "There is only one hope for the Communist or Socialist Party in the U.S. It must come clean from the Soviet leaders."

Perhaps there is another or better way to put this idea, but we all know what it means and I, too, would like to express agreement with it.

The CPUSA has for too long carried the burden of close identification and support of the policies of the Soviet Union. This burden is now becoming unbearable.

I think that the question of the attitude to assume towards the Soviet Union is shaping up as the main issue in the Communist and Marxist-oriented movements all over the world and that disagreement and contention on this question will increase rather than decline.

Not only "must it come clean from the Soviet leaders," that is, cease to support, explain and apologize for their each and every move, but above all, a long, hard look ought to be taken at these men.

The present Russian leaders of the Soviet Union must be held equally responsible and equally guilty for Stalin's errors and crimes. They knowingly supported his policies and they cannot claim they were not aware of his crimes.

Lucky souls who are fortunate enough to be alive and be "rehabilitated" have become the leaders in some of the Socialist countries. Nobody who has been rehabilitated in the Soviet Union has been admitted to the top

government leadership there.

The Soviet leaders say they are Leninists. The man whose name they now invoke, as if foreseeing the events of last month, wrote an article in 1916 on self-determination where he quoted with approval this statement of Engels:

"One thing alone is certain: the victorious proletariat can force no blessings of any kind upon any foreign nation without undermining its own victory by so doing." Lenin emphasized that this is the "only one thoroughly internationalist principle."

Did today's Russian leaders remember this "one thoroughly internationalist principle" when their army marched into Budapest or when it was about to barge into Poland? This aside from the fact that the regime in these countries was not exactly a "blessing."

In this same article Lenin also wrote: "The proletariat will not become holy and immune from error merely by virtue of the fact that it has carried out the social revolution. But the possible errors, (and selfish interest—attempts to ride on another's back), will inevitably cause it to appreciate this truth."

It is sad to say that such leaders of the CPUSA as Foster and Dennis still seem to regard the Soviet Union as almost "holy and immune from error" and they haven't done a thing to make that country "appreciate" the truth that it just isn't so.

For example, why hasn't the National Committee wired a greeting to Poland's Gomulka? When we saw that the Russians were pressuring independent-thinking Communist leaders such as Togliatti and Gomulka, why were the American party leaders unwilling to offer these men their support?

When will the National Committee frankly and publicly condemn the Russian chauvinist attitudes of some of the present Russian leaders and their toleration of obvious anti-Semitic practices?

When will the National Committee publicly condemn the disgraceful fact that in a country of some three million Jews, the Soviet government prevents this minority people from publishing books and newspapers in its own language, something the czars allowed.

An additional reason for coming "clean of the Soviet leaders"

is that they presumptuously insist on speaking as if they are the authentic spokesmen, the final authorities on world socialism.

Recent bragging statements by some Russian officials are also, I believe, a disservice to the cause of peaceful co-existence with the capitalist nations, and produce unnecessary confusion and hesitation.

A new challenge faces the American Communist movement to break with an onerous burden which restricted its development in the past and is sure to make its future progress almost impossible. This can't come too soon and indeed it ought to come before next February.

SID RESNICK

Action by Brooklyn Communist Leaders

Editor, Daily Worker:

At a meeting of Brooklyn Communist Party leaders held on Monday, Nov. 12, a resolution to condemn the Soviet government for their use of troops in the Hungarian crisis was defeated.

The resolution was introduced by a section organizer whose staff, by a vote of 3 to 2, urged the leading body in Kings County to "condemn the Soviet Union for their use of troops in the Hungarian crisis and urged their immediate withdrawal." It was further urged by the resolution that the county make this view public.

In the course of the spirited discussion, an amendment to the resolution was introduced. The purpose of the amendment was to endorse the Daily Worker editorial on Hungary which appeared on Monday, Nov. 5. Before the vote was taken, the proponent withdrew the amendment.

The vote on the resolution to condemn the Soviet Union was 18 against, 1 for and one abstention.—C.L.

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