

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Changes View On Left Unions

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have been watching the "dues revolt" within the United Steelworkers with more than casual interest. As an ex-organizer for two national unions, one left, and the other and more recent, a right wing union, and working as a rank and file before and after I worked in "an official capacity," I have some thoughts about the labor movement today that is not consistent with our past perspectives and policy. Specifically, I am referring to "dual unionism."

This may upset a lot of people but I am no longer convinced that we should attempt to work within the labor movement as it is now constituted.

It has been my experience, and it is my present belief that the labor movement today cannot be forced to take a decent position by "working within the present framework," whether it is in respect to domestic gains of or to influence a realistic and beneficial foreign policy.

We have today in the leadership of the labor movement people who haven't the slightest desire to use the unions for the betterment of their members. Nor do they have the slightest understanding of their membership problems. They do understand, however, the way in which to remain in their \$50,000 a year jobs, and in my opinion, and apparently with the help of the State Department, they're going to stay there come anything less than a "minor revolution."

They have built themselves a machine from the top leadership to the business agents that is something to behold; leadership that has nothing but contempt for their membership.

I have worked with various rank and file movements and I want to say that it was not because of our "mistakes," (as nearly everyone is attributing our failures to these days) that we were unable to unseat these bureaucratic henchmen. It was instead because of the objective conditions we faced.

McDonald is typical when he says, "It doesn't matter if the rank and file does get the necessary locals for a special convention on the dues and leadership question, we'll simply refuse to recognize them."

In my opinion he will also get away with expelling the leadership of the rank and file movement. What then?

I hear people saying now that "they'll never get away with it"; "that the rank and file would force the top leadership, if this should happen, to resign." I disagree. McDonald would

simply clamp down, put his machinery into operation at all levels and stop any future movement for rank and file control.

We are dedicated to the workers and the labor movement in general. We know that in order for the country to make progress of any kind the workers will force that position upon their leadership and the government. The question in my mind is how to do this job.

Can it be done as we have envisioned within the past ten years by working "within"? Or can the job be done better by supporting and helping to build the left-wing unions into a force that will pressure the right-wing unions?

In recent years I have been one of those people who looked down my nose on the left-wing unions such as UE. I have felt that Matles should get out of the leadership and the union if that would be all that would be sacrificed for the UE to merge with a national right-wing union. I feel now that I was dead wrong.

Will appreciate George Morris answering this letter and to "straighten me out if I am wrong." If I am right, however, I also want to know about it.

—A Worker.

Deplores Use of 'Stalinist' Epithet

Editor, Daily Worker:

Will you gentlemen who deplore invective and characterizing please put a quick end to the use of the word "Stalinist" as a depiction of everything evil and wrong in Socialist parties and countries all over the world.

You may not be aware of it, but Stalin, too, made some important contributions to the development of Socialism. Refusing to mention his name—except as a vital epithet—does not alter the fact.

It seems reasonable to believe that Stalin was guilty as charged, but no one has ever been foolish enough to say that we must therefore discard everything the man did. And just as you have tossed Stalin onto history's scrap heap, you seem to have placed Tito on a pedestal. The sole qualifications of your new idol would seem to be that he is the most outspoken critic of the Soviet Union garbed in the respectable robes of self-proclaimed "independent Socialism."

I think your zealous drive for "independence" and "acceptance" has led you into an illogical anti-Soviet position. You seem much more concerned with "the evil legacy of Stalinist repression and violation of sovereignty" (D.W. editorial, 12/18) than you are with the real enemy of world peace and

of the American people—namely, the American monopolists.

Let's be independent. Let's be creative. But let us not be jingoists and chauvinists. Let's remember that loyalty to the American working class is loyalty to the world working class—and that the main enemy of both is the American ruling class.

—PDN

P. S.—Enclosed find \$2 for what is still the best paper in the country despite my sharp differences with it at this time.

Liberty in Mississippi

Editor, Daily Worker:

Crusade for Freedom and Radio Free Europe — in their literature, boast that Balloon of the Free Europe Press drop as many as 12,000,000 miniature newspapers on Iron Countries every month. Twenty hours a day the broadcasts and balloon, operate. RFE medium wave transmitter at Holzkirchen, Germany, has 14 times the signal power of New York's WRCA. There are 28 other RFE transmitters and relay stations in Europe, supported by Crusade for Freedom. This information is from recent brochure, issued by Crusade for Freedom, 345 E. 46 St.

Mississippi has about 1,125,000 white and about a million oppressed Negroes. In 60 of 82 counties, no Negro is permitted to register, and therefore cannot vote. In the Congressional elections of 1954, about 12,000 to 13,000 Negroes voted in Mississippi. Dr. DuBois, and Dr. Herbert Aptheker, will verify, that no native white born Mississippian has ever paid with his life, for the murder of a Negro in the state of Mississippi, U.S.A. 93 years after Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. No Negro is permitted to sit on a park bench in public parks in Miami, Fla.

If the Crusade for Freedom, RFE — would start dropping, 12,000,000 miniature newspapers every month, and 20 hours a day, transmit radio broadcasts, and permit Paul Robeson, Dr. DuBois, and Dr. Aptheker to organize an Negro Liberation program, would there not be a re-awakening amongst the oppressed Negroes, throughout Mississippi, the entire South, and the nation, and not wait until—63, as promised by the NAACP.

—A Former Jeff School Student

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