

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Three Books On Hungary

Editor, Daily Worker:

I have recently completed a reading of three books on the thorny "Hungarian Question," which I would like to share with your readers.

Peter Fryer's "Hungarian Tragedy," Herbert Aptheker's "Truth About Hungary" and the "Memoirs of Michael Karolyi," make up a diversified trilogy.

Fryer's book gives one the impression of an honest person caught in the midst of a popular upheaval, who became so carried away and emotionally involved that he lost perspective and political judgment. There is no doubt as to the integrity or honesty of this work by the Hungarian correspondent of the London Daily Worker, who was subsequently expelled from the English CP.

Aptheker's work is a scholarly, well documented study which attempts to explain the events of October, 1956 in terms of the historical background.

The key to both the above works however, lies in a reading of what is neither an attack nor an apology; Count Karolyi's Memoirs. Though written in 1954 and published in 1956 with a reactionary introduction and blurb on the cover, this work provides a clearer insight into the ingredients that make up the explosion of less than a year ago.

Karolyi describes, without ran-

cor or bitterness, some of the same things Fryer cannot grasp historically and that Aptheker even with his forthright honest acknowledgment seems to dismiss; namely such things as; the degeneration of the Hungarian CP through the influx of ex-fascists and careerists, the subordination of Hungarian to Soviet interests, and the development of a terror regime overlaid upon a nation still quite feudal.

These three volumes read well together. But of all three, Karolyi's autobiography reads best and does more to convince one of the position Aptheker takes, for they clothe his cold scholarship with the flesh of individualized experience, which is understandable.

The question still left unanswered are: What is to prevent the same degeneration from taking place again? Are concepts like "Dictatorship of the Proletariat," "Monolithic unity" and "Democratic Centralism" valid for a socialist nation or party in 1957?—FRANCIS.

