

Daily Worker Retreat On Poznan Frame-Up

An Editorial

The Daily Worker Oct. 9 reports the sentencing of three young Polish workers for their participation in the June 28 general strike and workers' uprising in Poznan. The report stresses the lightness of the sentences, and the freedom and openness of the court proceedings. Then it goes on to say:

"Attorneys for the accused conducted a vigorous defense, and succeeded in bringing in the economic conditions and other difficult circumstances which were at bottom of the Poznan riots. The Polish government has declared that while hooligan elements utilized the situation, the causes were to be found in the poor conditions and insufficient outlet for the workers' protest." (Our emphasis)

This report is in sharp contrast with the Daily Worker's July 2 editorial on the Poznan uprising which repeated the Polish government's frame-up slander that the Poznan general strike was instigated and manipulated by imperialist spies.

Not that the new version of the Poznan events in the Oct. 9 Daily Worker is accurate. It is false to call a general strike and workers' uprising a "riot," and it is false to mix up activity of "hooligans" with the mass action of the workers during the struggle. Yet, this version represents a retreat from the attempt to frame the Poznan militants as "agents of a foreign imperialist power." It is in line with the retreat that was forced on the Polish Government by the very power of the mass movement that represented the Poznan uprising.

It is now the elementary duty of the Daily Worker editors to explain why they repeated the frame-up charge in the first instance. The workers in the CP and the radical working class as a whole deserve such an explanation.