

Anniversary Greetings from John Pepper

EDITOR'S NOTE—Numerous anniversary greetings have been received during the last 24 hours from the Communist parties of other countries, and from prominent Communist spokesmen of many lands. These came too late to be inserted in our special anniversary edition. But they will be published from day to day during the week. One of these greetings has been received from Moscow, from John Pepper, one of the comrades foremost in the struggle to establish The DAILY WORKER. It is as follows:

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By JOHN PEPPER.

THE DAILY WORKER already two years old! How fast time flies. The appearance of the first issue I was able to great in Chicago, to the second anniversary I extend my greetings from Moscow. How much has changed in this short period of two years. How quickly, how interestingly, how wildly uncontrollable galloped the steeds of world revolution.

Everything changes. The world is so overfilled with new facts and phenomena that we can hardly grasp it systematically, but I must tell The DAILY WORKER that—whether in Chicago or Moscow—my love and devotion to it have not changed. For a long time my articles could not ap-

pear in The DAILY WORKER but nevertheless I always felt myself a member of the editorial staff. For a long time my name might not even be mentioned in The DAILY WORKER—or when mentioned, only to be cursed—yet every new issue of the paper I took up with the same unchanged love, with the same feeling of responsibility that an active member of a Communist editorial staff must feel.

I hope that the comrades will forgive me if I feel just a bit sentimental toward The DAILY WORKER. How can I help it? If anyone in our party is personally responsible for the birth of The DAILY WORKER, then it is I. Like every healthy child The DAILY WORKER was born in pain. I shall never forget the sessions of the central executive committee of the Workers Party. Three times I made the motion for the founding of an English daily paper—three times I was voted down! The struggle for the soul of every individual C. E. C. member lasted for months. Certain comrades were utterly unable to conceive of how the young, weak Communist movement in America could keep an English daily alive. They did not have enough confidence in the American working-class readiness for sacrifice, and in the wonderful self-sacrificing spirit of the American

party. For once I must state that in no single question did I feel this basic contentment, this deepest satisfaction as at the time when the first great collection of 75,000 dollars was gathered for the founding of The DAILY WORKER. And I must confess my weakness, that I alarmed half of Moscow when I read of the miraculous self-sacrificing spirit of our American party membership in raising 7,500 dollars within five days to meet the latest crisis of The DAILY WORKER.

Of course we all realize that The DAILY WORKER would recurrently pass thru new crises. How else can a poor labor paper of a poor party remain alive? The life of a labor paper in America consists and will always consist of one crisis after another. It is born not merely once but it lives thru a whole series of births and with each of them there is illustrated the biblical words: "Birth in travail."

The DAILY WORKER already lives two years! This is in itself a great, a heroic accomplishment. And it must live! It is the most important organ of the Communist movement in America for integrating itself and for reaching the working masses. Lenin once coined the classic words: "The Communist press must be the collect-

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Greeting from Pepper

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ive propagandist, the collective agitator and the collective organizer of the party and of the proletariat!" The greatest praise that one can utter on behalf of our daily paper is that it has already made the first steps in all three directions and that it possesses every assurance of going forward in the future not only with the tiny baby steps of the beginner, but with the seven-league strides of the fully grown giant.