

The Impermissibility of Changing Signed Articles

The following letter by Comrade Wolfe correctly protests against an inexcusable blunder that was made when the title of his article, "Cannon, the 'Militant'," was changed to read "Three Generals Without An Army."

The letter is as follows:

Robert Minor, Editor,
DAILY WORKER,
26 Union Square,
New York City.

Dear Comrade Minor:

I wish to call the attention of your readers to a technical error in my article of November 27th, which I entitled "Cannon the 'Militant'," but which for some, to me unexplainable, reason some one in your office entitled "Three Generals Without an Army."

In that article I stated, "The main speeches of Trotsky and Zinoviev, made at the Soviet Union Party Congress on the eve of their expulsion were translated into English and published in all our daily papers."

The speeches I referred to were not made at the Party Congress but at the Plenum of the Central Committee immediately before the Congress, at which Plenum Zinoviev and Trotsky were expelled. The speeches that I had translated first into English and then into the languages of all our Party press were the closing speeches of Zinoviev and Trotsky on their actions and the question of their expulsion.

While I am at it, I want to protest at the liberty that was taken with the title of my article. To say, "Three Generals Without an Army" is to underestimate the serious danger presented to us by the attempt of the new Trotsky combination to split our Party and to poison the working class of America against the CPSU, the Soviet Union, and the Communist International. The Party cannot fight this menace by closing our eyes to its existence.

Finally, a word on journalistic "liberties." The staff of the Daily Worker must of course write headlines for news stories, but the title of an article is as much a part of the work of one who wrote it as any other part of the article. In fact, it is the most important sentence in the entire article, because it is often the only one that is read.

Please publish this letter.

Fraternally yours,

BERT WOLFE.