

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Hungary Relief Campaign Proposed

NEW HAVEN, CONN.

Editor, Daily Worker:

All of us read the reports of the economic problems in Hungary today, and while hoping for a speedy recovery of their economy, there is also the problem of what we can do today — right now — to ease the suffering of the Hungarian people, especially the children.

Without de-emphasizing the need for economic aid without strings from the UN, America, and elsewhere, the State Board of the Connecticut Communist Party proposes the following suggestions, which they adopted:

That we project a modest campaign of raising foodstuff and clothing for the people in Hungary. Say, for example, collecting thousands of cans of milk, soup, etc., to follow the example of such economic aid campaigns as those for Spain, and more recently, for the striking coal miners.

Such a campaign can bring together all of us, regardless of divergent views on Hungary, and can give many Party members a specific project and goal.

Perhaps such a campaign as it moves forward and grows, can gain support from readers of other progressive papers, language papers, etc. It might be helpful if progressives were to come forward and form a committee to lead such a campaign.

There was some thought that perhaps the Daily Worker could initiate such a campaign.

While we are going ahead with preparations for a modest campaign in Connecticut, we feel that the National Committee of the Party should consider the advisability of a national campaign.

We know that this is only a minute drop in the solution of the problems in Hungary, but it is one of the many things we and our friends can do.

Sid Taylor, Chairman for the State Board of the Communist Party of Conn.

## Ask for DW At Newsstands

RICHMOND, IND.

Editor, Daily Worker:

I'll tell you how the Daily Worker sales could be increased on newsstands—

If every left-winger in New York would ask at a newsstand for the D.W. it wouldn't be long before they would get it. Every time I am in New York or any other city I always ask in an un-

concerned way for the D.W. And then show great surprise if they don't have it. Once in a while they have had it, so I buy it even if I already have it.

I even asked for it at the leading newspaper store in Cincinnati the other day and the proprietor said, "You ought to be ashamed." But I said, "it's the best paper in the country" and two other men smiled and one nodded yes.

I had to settle for the Times, of course.

—K. J.

Ed Note: Can we hear from other readers about their experiences?

## Thoughts On The Discussion

We now are having criticism in plenty, and inner party struggle, and goodness knows it reaches down into the rank and file. It hasn't been pretty. But as William Z. Foster said, it has on the whole been a healthy thing. At the rally last month around the survival of this newspaper, this veteran who has been pictured by some as the apostle of rigidity, said of this discussion period, "I don't know about you fellas, but I've learned a lot."

He made the point that unlike the factional period of the twenties, this was a fluid discussion in which persons did change their minds.

I am sure this is true for many of us. What seemed true and fresh and valid for us at one point has with changing events taken on another meaning or emphasis. Certainly in the beginning I was as strong as anyone for cutting the apron strings to the party of the Soviet Union. I recall Steve Nelson's letter in that period and its sincerity and directness. At that time nothing seemed such an important issue for us to face.

Yet when Alan Max's interview with Nelson was published, just after the Soviet troops went back to Budapest, I felt only bewilderment—the same bewilderment I felt when some of my co-workers persisted in their viewpoint of condemning the Soviet Union. I have been hopefully awaiting some word from Steve Nelson as to his position now, particularly with the full unfolding of the Eisenhower program for the Middle East. Up until the Hungarian crisis I had been hoping that Steve might even head the party.

I agree with Lester Rodney in one thing he said, in his article that seems now so long ago. (It used to be said nothing

is so old as yesterday's news story; now it almost seems to be that nothing is so old as yesterday's editorial opinion.) He said Hungary was a test.

But in my opinion it is a test of whether we who erred by mechanically accepting as all-wise everything done by the Soviet Union, are going to just as mechanically condemn the Soviet Union in a very complex set of circumstances. History is moving on, and if we get stuck in the year 1945, or some other year, and what ought to have happened in a well ordered world what then, why, it may leave us behind.

It seemed to me that in re Hungary, all that was needed was just to look at how it was played in the press. There was something that smelled about it.

Maybe I had the advantage over some of my co-workers in having worked for 15 long years for the commercial press, 10 of them with the Chicago Tribune. At least I don't regret it, for I was able to see how dirty the other side played.

On the day of the Memorial massacre the back page of the Tribune was filled with photos of cops with little pieces of sticking plaster on their solemn fat faces as they posed for close-ups, while the pictures our photogs had made of women and children and men being shot in the back, running, with police in pursuit, lay unused. I remember the little photog telling me with tears in his eyes, about the pictures he made, demanding, "Why didn't they use them?" The reporter who phoned in saw just what he saw, he said, he was standing on the roof next to him, so how could whoever wrote the story say the pickets attacked the police?

The photographer wasn't alone in his reactions. But I did my crying before I went to work—when I picked up the morning's paper and read the story and saw the pictures on the back page. They were tears of anger, and it was then I resolved: some day, somehow, I am going to join the Communist party. It took me a long time to do it, but I felt sure anything the Col. and the Tribune found so reprehensible must be pretty much OK. I never expected it would be easy. I never expected that to write for the left-wing press would be any bed of roses. But with all the beefs all of us have, and with all the illusions we have had shattered in the last year, all I need to do is recall certain memories to be

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certain of one thing, and that is that I hate capitalism.

So when it comes to knowing which side I'm on, I'll stand by an imperfect socialism and against imperialism.

We're now in a fund drive on the Daily, and a new unity is emerging around the paper.

But even now we don't have unity by saying, we'd better have unity or else. And to me it struck a jarring note to hear Eugene Dennis single out Al Lannon for attack at the December rally because, as I understand it, some months earlier Al had written the paper to stop his sub—or, as Dennis phrased it, it had come to

his attention that Al had torn up his sub. In my opinion Dennis spoke in a way that in former years would have been the signal for a real witch-hunt to begin against a comrade. For those of us who have known Al for years, know his integrity, his fearlessness in fighting bureaucracy within and the enemy without, there was something wrong somewhere, even though we might disagree with some things Al said. I for one didn't like that old sound of a whip in the air.

And here, may I ask readers to use their imagination and insert an appeal for the fund drive. I had to cut, ofr space, 400 words!

VIRGINIA GARDNER