

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Text of Hungarian Summary Decree

Editor, Daily Worker:

A question has arisen, as a result of publications of stories in the N.Y. Times, and other papers, concerning the alleged passage of a law in Hungary decreeing death for strikers. This is the same revolutionary government which for several weeks was paying full wages to striking workers, and to idle workers, before the machinery of industry could be gotten under way again. Before dealing with this question, readers of the Daily Worker will be interested to learn that production is now definitely on the upswing, though conditions in Hungary still remain quite critical. The key product is coal, as that is the basic source of energy. On Dec. 21, daily coal production in Hungary was 21,000 tons; as of Jan. 17 (the latest date now available to this writer) the production figure was a little over 46,000 tons per day. That figure represents about 60 percent of the production of the past September. These facts are obtained from the day-to-day reports in the Budapest paper, "Nepszabadsag."

That paper reported on Jan. 13, 1957 the issuance of a decree by the Presidential Council of Hungary for the Regulation of Summary Penal Procedure. The decree was to take effect on the day of publication.

It reads as follows:

In order to strengthen public order and security and to enhance the struggle against counter-revolutionary activities, the Presidential Council orders that:

Section 1

If the accused is under preliminary arrest, and the required evidence is available, and upon the motion of the state prosecutor, the county, or military, or Supreme Courts may institute proceedings under this order in the following cases:

- a. murder and premeditated manslaughter
- b. arson
- c. robbery
- d. looting
- e. keeping fire arms and explosives without permit

f. a criminal act aiming at the purposeful damaging of any water, gas and electric utility, or of any plant which furnishes vital supplies and which has been declared essential for public welfare, or the purposeful damaging of any plant essential for the national defense; or the purposeful disturbance of the operation of such plants by illegal entry or any other way, or inciting to the commission of such act; however all acts enumerated in this subsection are applicable only to such cases which the purpose sought was mass work interfer-

ence (or stoppage)

g. purposeful endangering of the public transportation system

h. organizing against the People's Republic or the democratic order

i. actual rebellion

j. disloyalty

The penal section of this emergency decree reads as follows:

"Sentence in cases tried under this decree may be death. The court, under given conditions may mete out, instead of the death sentence, life sentence, or a sentence ranging from five to 15 years imprisonment."

In issuing the decree, the Deputy Minister of Justice, Dr. Ferenc Nezval, said:

"The summary procedure is a temporary and exceptional act, the duration of which will depend upon how quickly honest workers will isolate and unmask counter-revolutionary instigators and other harmful elements. We have to subject to this special criminal procedure those who are engaged in destructive activities hindering the functioning of plants supplying the vital needs of the people. Our government does not do this willingly, and we hope it will be very temporary. Circumstances compel it and we hope we will never have to apply it. We hope the workers will themselves successfully frustrate all criminal efforts to disrupt the public order. . . . Our workers and peasants demand stern steps for they realize that in order to restore the economic life of our country we need peace and public security."

Those are the facts directly

pertinent to the question that has been raised, and in this letter I wish to limit myself simply to their presentation.

Fraternally,
-Herbert Aptheker.

Disagree, But Don't Misquote

Editor, Daily Worker:

We've just got into the New Year and it appears it's already misquotation month.

On Jan. 14 a contributor to the Daily Worker letter columns (signed T.F.) quoted me as characterizing James Ford's remarks about the Lester Rodney articles as "slanderous." Then on Jan. 22 there appeared another letter (signed G.F.) quoting me as referring to the "Hungarian mess."

I can't get in touch with these writers because I don't know their identity. But I herewith wish to advise all and sundry that I will eat my ancient L.C. Smith typewriter without lettuce or relish if I characterized Ford's letter as "slanderous." I disagreed with it. In fact, I never wrote one line in this paper or anywhere else referring to Hungary, let alone the "Hungarian mess." I have been too busy writing about the American mess.

Criticism. Let's have it. Pile it on. For it is only through criticism and self criticism that a writer can improve his work. But can't we be fair and honest in our polemics? Please, dear readers, don't attribute to me words I never wrote.

-HARRY RAYMOND.

Report Gov't Wants Death

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ney General Herbert Brownell.

Brownell's appearance was in connection with charges that the late Harry Dexter White, New Deal Treasury official, was a member of the so-called "spy ring" bared in 1948 by the Congressional witness "spy queen" Elizabeth Bentley, authority for secret FBI reports on "Soviet espionage," which had been issuing from Hoover's office since 1945.

In the 1953 Hoover testimony, Zubilin was called "the reported head of the NKVD in North America, one of the primary branches of Soviet intelligence in North America."

Zubilin's name also figured in the trial of Judith Coplon, whose espionage prosecution was dropped after wire-tap evidence was thrown out.

FBI statements that for 10 years it had been following the activities of Soble, and its claim that he long had been involved in Soviet intelli-

gence, and the agency's failure to say why he had not been arrested before if this was the case, are reminiscent of the famous Brownell speech of Nov. 6, 1953, on White.

Using heretofore secret FBI files to smear White and others and to level a "treason" charge against ex-President Harry Truman, Brownell said that in the earliest period of White's career the FBI was aware of his "espionage" activities.

Free 3 More Ships Marooned at Suez

SUEZ, Egypt, Jan. 27.—The last three ships marooned in the Suez Canal since it was blocked Oct. 31, sailed out into the Red Sea today. The Yugoslav "Dinar," the "African Count" and the Polish dredger "Zeram" steamed from the Bitter Lakes in the Canal to the Red Sea exit.

Earlier this month, 13 other marooned ships made their way through the northern channel.