

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Hopes Fast Will Return

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Howard Fast left us. The letter from L.A.C. printed Feb. 11 expresses how I feel about his separation from our movement. His last contribution, his column, made me feel especially close to him.

I wish to suggest another angle to the loss—how will it affect him—Howard Fast.

He, like other creative thinkers, were inspired by the peoples struggle against injustices—economic, social, etc. It prompted them to seek and find within the realities in society those forces which understood by the masses, can help mankind build a better world. These discoveries and struggles develop qualities in all of us which we do not know we possess.

These hopes and dreads of the masses give wings to the souls of the leaders and develop powers in them beyond their own expectations.

Howard Fast must have felt our response to his writings and his spoken word. We were his most loyal and devoted audiences. This must have been a deep source of satisfaction to him and in the words of Marx. He did "dare and do his utmost."

When he withdrew into himself in order to find a way to live with himself he may have forgotten us, most of whom he has never met but who were part of him.

Will he be able to create when he cuts himself off from those who struggle most devotedly for socialism without killing the inspiration within himself?

Many of us hope that his appreciation of us will prompt him to return and together we will work to correct our former mistakes and move forward to greater tasks.

F.J.

Feb. 12, 1957

On School Integration Here

Editor, Daily Worker:

At a regularly scheduled meeting of our club, the recent hearing at the Board of Education on school integration was analyzed. A summary of our conclusions follows:

1) The report of the Commission favoring integration was supported, while recognition of its limitations was recorded. Support for the report was based on immediate needs for re-zoning, bussing, rotation of teachers, etc.

2) Our club feels that this whole campaign around the schools must be linked up with the struggle for an integrated housing program as the only way that the question can be firmly solved in an alliance between Negro and white people.

3) Pending the development of a housing program on the basis of a more democratic and equitable quota set-up, our basic job is to give full, unqualified support to the struggle of the Negro and Puerto Rican people of our city for full integration.

a) Champion their demands.

b) Conduct intensive educational activity among our white neighbors and school parents, teachers to neutralize them, with the perspective of winning them over completely to active support of the just demands of the Negro and Puerto Rican people.

c) Support and encourage the development of community conferences of civic welfare, fraternal, and parents organizations to plan a practical program for integration on an area basis linking up the struggle for integrated housing with the program for better, bigger and integrated schools.

Of special significance was the decision of the club to censure the N.Y. State Committee of the Party for its failure to provide a spokesman from our Party at the hearing at which the Negro people's representa-

tives militantly fought the good fight for all Americans; particularly since spokesmen for the Socialist and Socialist Workers Parties were present.

—E.N.Y. club.

Feb. 10, 1957.

Doesn't Like Slur On Southerners

DALLAS, Texas.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Several issues ago, I noticed a letter to the editor from this part of the country which was signed "A Southern Trade Unionist," and among other things Unionist implied that Communist Party clubs in the South were segregated.

I take issue with Unionist and the slur on the party in this section. I say there is no chauvinism here and further, that chauvinism is being fought here more successfully and with more difficulties in the way than in almost any other section of the country.

Where local "law," unconstitutional or not, makes it a severe "crime" for Negroes and whites to associate, then at least some effort must be given to avoid being put in jail or beaten, or followed. Open defiance would work just about once, and then the party would have to send a new nucleus if they wanted representation in this area. Where a meeting actually took place, I seriously doubt if Unionist found any discrimination.

However much we may dislike local customs and "law" we know from hard experience that the inside of a cell is no place to litigate the issue. Let Unionist martyr himself in his own mind on some other issue and we might be able to go along, but we resent being challenged on one where we stand in a sort of no man's land by even favorably discussing integration.

Sincerely,

—TEX.