

# Gates Confesses He's No Marxist

By GEORGE MORRIS

JOHN GATES who recently deserted the ranks of Communism, informed a recent forum of the Southern Methodist University in Dallas, Tex., that he no longer wants to "be classified as a Marxist."

Gates, sharing the platform with Herbert Philbrick, FBI undercover agent and now a Herald-Tribune writer, answered questions from the audience. A transcript of the questions and answers as printed in the Dallas Morning News of April 24 was inserted in the Congressional Record of April 29 by Rep. Bruce Alger of Texas.

The questions and answers, taking more than a page of the Record, provide a more detailed and clearer view of the opinions of John Gates than was available in what Gates wrote or said in the last several years. When holding the title of editor of the Daily Worker Gates almost never (except for three notable instances) put his views in print.

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TO THE VERY day of his desertion and even in some of his public statements in the days that followed, Gates had insisted he was a Marxist, claiming he differed only on the "application" of Marxism. He professed to be opposed to "dogmatism."

"Would you classify yourself as a Marxist?" asked Dr. Douglas Ewing Jackson, associate sociology of religion professor of SMU.

"No, I do not want to be classified as a Marxist. I do believe in some Marxist ideas," was Gates' entire answer.

Thus Gates placed himself on a par with almost anyone from left to right of center, for few there are who would not say they believe in some ideas advanced by the father of modern socialism.

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GATES REPEATED his attacks on the Communists, his view that the Communist Party is "dead" and that the Soviet Union is less democratic than the U.S. Throughout the questioning he used the terms "Communist Party" and "Soviet

Union," interchangeably, as reactionaries do, as though they were one and the same thing.

Asked if he still opposes the Marshall Plan, he replied:

"One of the biggest mistakes the party made was to oppose the plan. Russia should have applied for Marshall Plan aid when it was first started."

Asked if he thought that in the USSR he would be "treated as fairly as you were here" were he charged there with "overthrowing" the government, Gates replied:

"I did not receive a fair trial here. Soviet injustice, though much harsher, does not excuse American injustice."

"Are you disillusioned with socialism?" Dr. J. Claude Evans, SMU chaplain, asked. Gates replied:

"I am not disillusioned with socialism. But I believe some Marxian concepts are outdated. For example, his invalid statement that the rich get richer and the poor get poorer. The United States has proven this invalid."

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GATES APPARENTLY swallowed in toto the much-distorted interpretation of the Marxian impoverishment theory and the "people's capitalism" line (refined in a recent book by John Strachey).

Marx never said that living standards cannot rise under capitalism or that workers' nominal or real wages diminish steadily. He stressed that with steadily mounting productivity, and periodic and more frequent crises (such as the current one) the "general tendency" is for workers to get a lesser amount in wages toward meeting the recognized standard of living of a given period.

The measure, thus, is how much closer the worker comes to what has become the living standard, not whether he has passed a level recognized as a "standard" a generation or more back.

Moreover, Marx spoke of the general tendency in a WORLD-WIDE sense. The theory should be measured not alone on the basis of conditions in the U.S., the show window of capitalism,

but on the basis of conditions existing for all the people still under capitalism.

Soviet economists have been strongly combatting the distortions of the Marxist theory of impoverishment, such as those accepted by Gates.

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THE QUESTIONERS tried to get from Gates some idea of the "socialism" he favors, but he came no closer to specifics than to tell them he favored "a democratic socialism which will retain all the great features of our government."

PHILBRICK, who helped send Gates to jail, was brought in to "balance" Gates. His role under questioning was limited, however, to a few remarks to the effect that Gates was still not going far enough and to express some doubt on what Gates' "democratic socialism might be." Two questions put by Philbrick to Gates were answered politely and defensively. Gates pointed to his "many disagreements" with Khrushchev, especially on the policy in Hungary, in reply to Philbrick's needling.

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A WEEK AFTER the Dallas show, the House subcommittee on appropriations released the testimony of J. Edgar Hoover earlier this year, in which the FBI head said that the Daily Worker was not discontinued for lack of funds but because of a struggle between the "pro-Soviet" forces in the Communist Party and a group that claimed to be "independent" of Moscow, and "Americanized". He identified the latter as headed by Gates.

Gates, too, alleged in his public statement following his desertion that the Daily Worker was suspended not for lack of funds but to get rid of his group and that the people in control, the leadership of the Communist Party, are "dominated" by Moscow. Both Hoover and Gates want to destroy the Communist Party.

Hoover does, however, clash with Gates' claim that the C.P. is "dead". Hoover wants more millions for stoolpigeon and witch hunt operations.