

# You're Out of Order, Alan Max!

We recommend to our readers a careful study of Alan Max's article in the September 21 Daily Worker entitled, "Thoughts of a Former Progressive Party Voter." The article purports to be a reasoned comment on Vincent Hallinan's announcement of his support to the 1956 Presidential ticket of the Socialist Workers Party. In actuality, Max's comment is a scurrilous attack on both Hallinan and the SWP.

Attempting to discredit Hallinan's statement, Max confines himself to the use of a single quotation from it — and that quotation was torn out of context to distort Hallinan's position. The same method is employed against the SWP. Max "proves" his case against the SWP with the use of literally one sentence from its election platform.

To accomplish his double-barrelled smear, Max employs the tested device of frame-ups known as the amalgam. The SWP is opposed to the foreign policy of the Kremlin. Would-be fascist leader McCarthy is opposed to the foreign policy of the Kremlin. Ipso facto, the views of McCarthy and the SWP "dovetail neatly."

The fact that Max feels compelled to use such disgraceful tactics indicates the impact that Hallinan's declaration has had on the ranks of the Communist Party. His declaration of the need to get behind a socialist ticket in this campaign

comes as a breath of fresh air to many in the Communist Party who have grown increasingly disgusted with the opportunist line of their leaders.

Max's attempted frame-up strongly suggests that insofar as the Party tops are concerned, the "new look" of the Communist Party applies strictly to the right. Disagreements with treacherous liberals, with labor bureaucrats and with State Department "socialists" can be discussed in the most polite fashion. But disagreement from the left is answered with the old Stalinist mud slinging. But such tactics won't go any more. This is 1956. Max's clumsy effort to lump Trotskyism with fascism comes after Khrushchev's speech revealed what dastardly crimes were committed by Stalin through the vehicle of this frame-up.

The principle of free and honest discussion of differences within the workers movement demands strong protest against the "big lie" tactics employed by Max. For the membership of the Communist Party there are additional reasons for voicing protest. The rank and file of the Communist Party is striving to resolve the "moral crisis" that grips their organization. They are seeking the road to an effective regroupment of the socialist movement. "Discussion" of the Max type can serve only to thwart such aspirations and to further blacken the Party's already badly damaged reputation.