

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Disagrees With Friedman Review

Editor, Daily Worker:

After reading Robert Friedman's review of Herbert Aptheker's book, "The Truth About Hungary" I feel compelled to protest such a dishonest effort to brush aside such a wealth of facts which were so ably gathered and put together by Mr. Aptheker.

It seems that rather than review the book Mr. Friedman uses unproven "facts" in order to discredit it and uses such language which even bourgeois reviewers would hesitate to use.

While it is true that mistakes were made by the Hungarian Communist Party and Government, which, incidentally, the present Government makes no effort to hide, it is also true that the crucial mistakes were not those which Mr. Friedman harps upon in the same manner as John Foster Dulles and company but rather those which neither Friedman nor Dulles take the trouble to mention.

For example: 1) Under the slogan of "democratization" the former government of Hungary released all the counter-revolutionary and criminal elements from prison and these played a major role in the counter-revolution.

2) As a result of a lack of vigilance some 60,000 people were allowed to enter Hungary over the past 2-3 years and a large number of these were enemies of the Hungarian people and were responsible for organizing and directing the counter-revolution.

An example of the kind of people the "Freedom Fighters" were is best exemplified by the gentleman whom "Mama" Gabor recently married. This former Hungarian capitalist was a "Freedom Fighter" because the State (i.e., The Workers) took his factory away.

3) The present Hungarian government recently released a "White Paper" dealing with the events of last October and November. This paper, which can be gotten for the asking, has the most clear cut, honest analysis of the events which I have seen anywhere. In addition it has very revealing photographs among which are photos of weapons used by the counter-revolutionaries to murder honest people. All these weapons were manufactured in Western Germany,

Great Britain and the United States.

4) It is interesting that while there is a great deal of talk about the "brutalities" committed by the Soviet troops yet even Life magazine could produce no evidence of this, but they were able to produce many pictures of the atrocities committed by the counter-revolutionaries. Revolting, sadistic atrocities of which only fascists are capable of.

It seems to me that Mr. Friedman, in his efforts to "straighten out" the problem of the Socialist lands, should make some effort to acquaint himself with the facts. I would also suggest he get his facts from the honest people of the Socialist lands rather than from the U. S. State Department and their stooges.

Sometimes I wonder why those in this country, such as Friedman, who have all the answers to the problems facing the Socialist lands seems so barren in their efforts to help the American workers solve the real problems which they face.

- TONY

## Peace and Civil Defense

CAMDEN, N. J.

Editor, Daily Worker,

Apparently the people of Camden think the best defense against the H-Bomb is peace. At least, Director of Public Safety E. George Aaron might think this angle over as he berates the Camden citizenry for staying away in droves from the ballyhooed civil defense maneuvers held at the City Hall Plaza last night.

The maneuvers consisted of "Live Evacuations" in connection with "Civil Defense Operation Alert 1957." It seems the people were expected to stand around and watch imaginary victims being carried around. But Commissioner Aaron wasn't taking any chances on the people turning out. So he ordered the city police and the guards, and firemen of Campbell Soup Co. to stand around and watch.

Besides the cops and firemen there were very, very few people. Aaron took the occasion to deplore the "apathy" shown in Camden and other parts of the country in Civil Defense matters, observing there should have been "Thousands of spectators, not just 200 (cops and firemen) or so."

A READER

July 10, 1957

## Desertion Is Not the Way

Editor, Daily Worker:

As I read in the Daily of the return of the Smith Act victims after years of imprisonment, and I see the smiling faces of still others who were saved

from jail last week by the Supreme Court decision, I cannot help but feel an upsurge of warmth within me for the Communist Party. For despite the bitter differences that have recently turned the party into a debating society, the amazing courage of its members attests again and again to the positive role it has played in American life.

I think there are two main aspects to the current debates, one good and one bad. The positive side is that there has evolved critical attitudes and an understanding of the need for democracy that will help build a much stronger and independent Communist Party in the future. But on the other hand, there has emerged among many a deep-seated cynicism about past errors. Among this segment of opinion has centered the greatest desertion of the party.

There is no doubt that of all Communist parties throughout the western world, the U.S. CP has taken the most forthright steps toward correction of its own errors. It is true that it has not taken all the steps, but it has democratically moved forward as quickly as it can toward an independent and critical position. Those who have left say it is not quick enough. But desertion is not going to do the trick!

There are, as these comrades well know, many fights to be won in these United States. Intense poverty and inequality still exist. Education is still primarily indoctrination. The unions tend to be moving backward rather than forward. Morton Sobell remains imprisoned in Alcatraz. And many other political prisoners still are enchained for their ideas. Older people still look forward to a bleak old age. Integration is a battle still to be won, both in the north and the south. We are still a wartime economy. The A-Bomb warfare looms more ominous every day.

In many of these battles, the Communist Party has been the main rallying force. It has, we all know, many times fought its battles incorrectly. Today it is the only radical movement with the following, resources and facilities to fight on for these issues. How can these comrades desert the fight now—when the party is moving forward itself to correct every one of its errors?

The injustice of capitalism, its brutality and destruction of a potentially productive and growing mankind, is still the enemy. The Communist Party is not.

I, as a student who wants to see an America free of injustice, inequality and war in my lifetime, plead with these comrades to continue to help my generation see it come true!

-HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT

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