

How You Can Defend Freedom of the Press

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This week of Oct. 1 to Oct. 8, you will hear a lot about the freedom of the press. It is National Newspaper Week.

The papers that will talk the loudest about freedom of the press that is supposed to exist will be the big dailies which are owned lock, stock and barrel by Big Business and which never do anything to hurt the class to which their millionaire owners belong.

The vast majority of daily papers not only are loyal to Big Business; they are themselves Big Business. It takes millions of dollars to start a newspaper. It takes millions more to run it. The manufacture and printing of news is a tightly controlled monopoly.

What is this freedom of the press, then, of which they boast? It means freedom to agree with the system of capitalism. Of the 1,780 daily papers, only two are anti-capitalist and urge Socialism for America, the system where the people would own and run the country, not the private corporations and banks.

HOW MANY DAILY PAPERS have opposed the union-

busting Taft-Hartley law? How many demand a price rollback of food, meat and clothes? How many demand new homes for the common man? How many denounce the atombomb and armaments racket which is rushing us to war? How many will defend the rights of Negroes and urge the granting of land to the Southern Negro sharecropper? How many oppose the revival of Nazi war power today?

Practically none.

The only genuine free paper is that which fights the grip of the trusts on our nation, which urges peace, and which advocates the replacement of Wall Street ownership of America by the people's ownership.

Our greatest pride is that the Daily Worker is that kind of newspaper, that we are dedicated to the fight for real freedom, that we are a crusading newspaper, fighting in the interests of our country and humanity.

BUT IT IS NOT ENOUGH to be a fighting newspaper. A fighting newspaper requires a fighting readership. We have that kind of readership. No newspaper enjoys such devoted support from its readers as we do, none has such intimate contact with its readers. We depend entirely upon our readers and without it we could never have been in existence for 25 years as a daily newspaper. In the course of this quarter of a century our readers have contributed literally millions of dollars to our support.

The time has come for a great new effort by our readers, for a big spurt in our circulation. In the past year, despite enormous obstacles, we have succeeded in building

the circulation of the Daily and Sunday Worker. But when we look upon what confronts the American people in the coming weeks and months, the ever-increasing danger of war, the fateful election campaign, the trial of the 12 Communist leaders which is destined to become the most important trial in the history of the world, it is clear that we need a far larger circulation.

Because we are a real people's newspaper we cannot depend on the methods of the millionaire press to increase our circulation. We cannot depend on newsstands, the mails and advertising. Our sole reliance is on the people, on our readers, on the individual who sells our paper and gets subscriptions. Experience proves there is an unlimited market for our paper in America. The only limit to our circulation is the number of people involved in the sale of the paper and the amount of time each person puts in.

WE APPEAL TO YOU for your support. We are organizing a brigade of our readers that will devote real time and energy to the sale of the Daily and Sunday Worker and the securing of subscriptions and renewals. We know you are active in every struggle that goes on for peace and security.

Learn to use our paper in those activities. It is one of your greatest assets, but one which we are sure you will agree you are not making enough use of.

This is no time to retreat or hide. This is the time to stand up and fight, to take the offensive. We are confident that you will respond to our appeal as you always have in the past.



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