

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## More on Making America Beautiful

Editor, Daily Worker:

Michigander's letter suggesting that we emphasize that "America Can Be Beautiful" under socialism, impressed me. Last Monday night at the opening of the Cooper Union Forum series, Dr. Henry Steele Commager mentioned the same thing in his 10-point program for the consideration of American politics and politicians—but (by assumption) even under capitalism.

Commager was more optimistic than I am about America's future, but lit into us for not realizing our potential as a nation with great historic advantages. As noted above, he mentioned our lack of city planning, lack of not just good but beautiful housing, parks, wide streets, playgrounds, etc. in most of our cities. Why don't we have more cities as beautiful as Paris, Rome, Florence, and Hamburg; why can't we plan projects with indoor gardens, balconies, nurseries, etc. like Scandinavia has, he said.

He deplored the stepped-up plundering of the public treasury and natural resources under later administrations which threatens to undo some of the good inaugurated under the two Roosevelts, Theodore and FD. On our need for better methods of crime prevention and treatment, schools and especially more, and more "inspired," teachers at the secondary level and above, he was eloquent.

Of course he urged an end to government censorship over the minds of men and over their voluntary associations in organizations and ideas of their choice, an end to passport arbitrariness and other idiocies, an end to tendencies toward corruption, by the Leviathan-state and mass media of communication, of the mass mind, etc.

Life can't be beautiful under any system without health, mental and physical. Dr. Commager mentioned especially the poor showing of the health of American youth compared with youngsters of some other nations.

In response to questions from the audience, Dr. Commager admitted the two-party system was riveted to American life because of our electoral system and other factors, but said a Third Party was, paradoxically, necessary and healthy as a "conscience;" that Wallace did us a service by running on the Third Party ticket; that the educational function of politics was endangered by the sameness of the two old parties' programs and their failure to raise real issues.

On monopoly as a threat, he said monopolies were not the same thing they were in the

muck-raking days and might be brought under control and curbed by taxation. Here I think he was too optimistic. If monopolies and monopoly-dominated government backed by, and backing, the national military are to be allowed to 'continue to develop and direct' our national resources and national life, IT MUST NOT BE AT THE EXPENSE OF THE PEOPLE.

I'm sure, "Life Can Be Beautiful" even in the new atomic age—even for us, the non-privileged majority of the American people, but only under socialism.—READER

## 'Narrowness' Held Not the Main Evil

Editor, Daily Worker:

It seems to me that many letters in the D. W. are shallow and illogical. Every day the same refrain is told, without much variation, that the Party and the paper are too narrow, that the leadership is to blame for the backwardness of the American working class and the isolation of the Communist Party.

We certainly need to face the facts and keep in mind the first requirement needed for mass struggle and a powerful left. We should know that the people have to be dissatisfied with their conditions, furious and willing to do something about their oppression, in order that they get in action. We could have the most wonderful program and the wisest and most experienced leaders and get nothing if the masses are more or less satisfied with their old cars and television sets. The fact is that for the last 10 years, or so, I have been noticing that the people of the 30s were not the same as those of today.

Add to this situation the wave of repression, the moral cowardice of the vast majority of the intellectuals and so-called "liberals," the fact that almost nobody seems to care a hoot about the Constitution or have the least idea of the long dead "American tradition."

I sincerely hope that I might be wrong about all that. But I insist that our so-called "narrowness" is not the main cause of our isolation and smallness.

For instance, a lot of voices are calling for a "broad organization," what they call "a real American party." Well, we had the Progressive Party, and here, in New York, the American Labor Party. But everybody knows that they had to fold up. But the critics might say that these organizations still were not broad enough. According to this kind of logic, the more shallow, and vacuous a party now, the better it would be.

Then we have those who want the Daily Worker to be, above all, a newspaper "American style" that is, plenty of news written in the latest journalistic fashion—and by implication, a lot of jokes, funnies and all the trappings that we know so well. This people insist in forgetting that a revolutionary newspaper should be an organizer, devoted to the education of the working class.

Today, it seems to be, the American working class is the most backward in the world. This backwardness has tainted a lot of people in our ranks, and it explains their strange behavior in trying to divert the Marxist core from our Party and the Daily Worker.—MAURICE

## Johnny Williamson Greets Prisoners

LONDON.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Although an ocean separates us, dear Pop, Al, Jerry, and Betty, I join with all the other dear comrades who awaited or are waiting your arrival from prison. Your smiling faces will reflect your strengthened confidence in our great cause of Socialism.

My inability to greet you in person is not of my making. The same reactionary government that imprisoned you, uprooted me from the American people and temporarily tore me away from our Party, after several decades of active and leading work, by means of a brutal deportation order.

Despite the ruthless political attacks of the Truman and Eisenhower governments—spurred on by the pro-fascist McCarthy's, Walters and Eastlands—what we always knew about the steadfastness and indestructibility of our Party, is now seen by millions of Americans. As a result of the people's growing recognition that failure to defend the rights of the Communists endangered the rights of everyone, together with the exposure of the hysterical and phony defense issue, as a consequence of the strength and activity of the peace camp of the world led by the great Soviet Union, the tide is beginning to turn.

As a result of the sharp self-criticism and correction taking place in the Soviet Party, the capitalist enemy hoped to divide and weaken all Communist Parties, and the U.S. was no exception. The Communist Parties of the world, while drawing all the lessons for themselves, have not fallen victim to these latest machinations of Mr. Dulles.

—Johnny Williamson.