

# SPEAK YOUR PIECE

## Is Ike Afraid To Talk in Moscow

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According to this morning's press the Administration debated whether to request the Soviet Union to arrange for a television appearance of President Eisenhower; this, of course is only talk. In the first place, the millionaire cabinet would hardly agree, no matter how earnestly the President may believe in submitting himself to questions from the people. If President Eisenhower could sit before a battery of television cameras, using exactly the same principles and system as Comrade Khrushchev did, and answer questions put to him by three representatives of the Soviet Union for one hour, then I am certain that he would have to admit that our system of capitalist slavery is outmoded and doomed to disappear. Such, an interview, unfortunately will not take place, even if the Soviet Union should request it, because if it did, our children, not our grandchildren, would live in a Socialist America.

How about it Ike, ask them for time, Khrushchev was not afraid.

A READER

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## Likes Trends In China

Fresh breezes have been recently blowing from China. I refer to summary of the directives of the C.C. of the Chinese Communist Party, published in the D.W. on May 21. The directives are based on the reports made by Mao Tse-tung. They constitute a landmark in further development and application of Marxism. The Chinese leaders challenge dogmatism, do not hesitate to break away from the old ways and call for new methods in working with the people to build socialism in China. This certainly can inspire communists in other lands seeking new paths. Of course, it would be incorrect to suggest that methods proposed by the Chinese leaders could be transposed or mechanically applied by communists in other coun-

tries. It is obvious that vast differences exist in historical, political, social and economic conditions. However, it seems to me that there are some lessons of value for the Marxists everywhere. The report calls for a free debate and states that, "Everyone should listen with an open mind to the opinions of others." The Chinese leaders do not seem to worry that free debate will undermine unity. They suggest: Free debate and unity of action, the right to dissent but no factionalism. It further declares: "But criticism should not be imposed upon a person who doesn't accept it." In our past practice, anyone who didn't accept criticism was stigmatized, regardless whether or not such criticism corresponded to reality or to truth. Criticism is a very potent weapon and an essential tool in correcting mistakes, improving work and growth. But to find out whether a given criticism is just, it must be verified by life, and involve a broader participation and periodic reviews. It would also appear that patience and persuasion are important aids in exercising criticism. The report call on leaders to participate in manual labor and to end all separation from the masses of people. Here again it would be wrong for communists in other lands merely to imitate this. But the simple truth is that in order to be in any way effective, it is necessary for all communists to be in contact with the people at the point of production, or at any point of association. One will never know people if one limits himself or herself to the contact with functionaries and advanced ones at that. In order to know how people think, feel and react, you got to be with them. Sectarianism has its roots in not knowing or understanding people. As one writer, describing the events in China patly put it: The people's point of departure is the immediate and personal. The leaders are guided by the principles, by the long range view. It is necessary to learn how to bridge this gap.

-R. F.

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