

Monday, September 23, 1957

Joseph Clark Hits Moscow Trials And Smith Act Frame-Ups

(The following excerpts are from a letter by Joseph Clark published in the Sept. 14 New York Times. Clark recently resigned as Daily Worker foreign editor and from the Communist Party. — Ed.)

"It was a striving for justice that impelled me and others to join the Communist Party. It was a revulsion against the injustices of Stalinist communism which impelled so many of us to leave. Nothing appalled me more about the Soviet Union than the suppression of 'dangerous' books and ideas. Nothing made me more ashamed than learning that the trials of Trotsky, Zinoviev, Bukharin and other Bolshevik leaders were dastardly frame-ups, as were the Rajk, Kostov and Slansky trials.

"But in our own country there are men in jail whose 'crime' is political association and connection with 'dangerous' books and thoughts. I have in mind, especially, two old personal friends, Gilbert Green and Henry Winston. (I do not wish to infer that they are sympathetic to my present views). Both are serving five-year sentences under the Smith Act and, additionally, three-year sentences for contempt of court. . . .

"It could only help our country if Winston and Green received amnesty . . . from those who can open prison doors and allow them to rejoin their families."