

SPEAK YOUR PIECE

Clark's Point of 'Demise' Of CP Termed 'Exaggerated' NEW YORK

Editor, Daily Worker:

I am sorry to see Joe Clark leave the Communist Party and the Daily Worker. Although, in my view, he was not the most effective kind of person to do his job, by and large, he did his job well and was an asset to the paper.

But, I believe, the very things which made him not completely effective as a person, a Marxist, and a writer, were the same things that caused him to leave the Party and the paper. And these same qualities are true of quite a few others who have left the Party and therefore, I believe, are worth discussing.

Joe Clark has a brilliant mind and has accumulated a wide area of valuable knowledge and skills.

But, I believe, that in this country, the dialectical principle of pressure of an opposite works overtime with respect to such personal characteristics.

The person who has a brilliant mind and is able to express it directly and forcefully in his youth, tends with great emphasis to have the importance and quality of such a brilliant mind, greatly exaggerated for him. And the whole corrupting atmosphere of capitalist, highly competitive life (with its greatest satisfactions to the wisest, cleverest, slickest) make such exaggerated emphasis become a habit of mind which the owner hardly recognizes in himself. And this, I believe, can be true also of someone who spends a large part of his thinking hours in an atmosphere, which could have an effective counterforce. Such an atmosphere would have to have an almost constant, therapeutic, critical, and analytical, process going on to counter effectively the corrupting forces from the opposite direction.

Two reasons militate, it seems to me, against such an atmosphere being, today, readily put into effect to the degree that would be necessary in all cases.

1. There is work to be done, in this case a paper to be gotten out every day. And it must be done with the best forces available. Mistakes will be inevitably be made but with the best forces available they will be fewer.

2. The very nature of such an attempted atmosphere as described above would make for many serious conflicts, for a long time, on unnecessary and useless levels, with the surrounding, corruption, atmosphere and would tend to separate, still further, at first, such people from the great number they must write for and work with.

The Daily Worker still has a highly competent staff of people who respect their own intelligence, but do not exaggerate its importance.

According to Joe Clark's figures there are still ten thousand women and men in the Party who have come through some extremely difficult times with enough strength to remain in the Party. And this is not to speak of the thousands of young people in the schools, colleges and shops, who are drawing nearer to the Party every day.

To me, this would indicate that his statement of the "demise" of the Party is slightly exaggerated. His great description, in his letter of resignation, of the great worth of the Party in the American political struggle of the past and the great need for it today, would seem to indicate the exact opposite to me; that there is before us, a great period of vitality and growth.

SAUL GROSS

Sept. 8

Claims Clark Expresses His 'Reasoning'

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

Editor, Daily Worker:

Congratulations to Joe Clark. At last, a straightforward account of the why's of his leaving. He has the courage to say what is thinking. He most certainly expresses my reasoning, and many others like me.—G.

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