

WHY THEY WORRY

A Capitalist Diagnosis of the Crisis -- Violence and Revolution -- Why the Crisis

by Jay Lovestone

Appalled by the world-wide economic crisis, some of the staunchest defenders of capitalism are becoming groggy in their apologies for the existing social order. In every country the capitalist class is plainly worried these days. Even the cock-sure Wall Street magnates are getting a heart-achy feeling. Some of their "thinkers," teachers, and preachers are asking such fundamental questions as to tend to raise doubts about the sacredness and eternity of the capitalist system as a whole.

A PASTOR "SEES" THE LIGHT

An especially significant expression of this doubt is the recent sermon of Harry Emerson Fosdick, pastor of the Riverside Church in New York, Rockefeller's own "house of God." Very likely what is on the tongue of Rockefeller's pastor is very much on the stomach of Rockefeller himself! Hence, one cannot attach too much importance to Fosdick when he says:

"Communism is rising into a prodigious world power. Our whole capitalistic society is on trial. Something is the matter with the operation of a system that in our Western world puts millions upon millions of people who want work out of work. . . . And capitalism is on trial with Communism for its world competitor."

Brave words for the pastor of the House of Rockefeller, lord of Ludlow massacre fame! Of course, Mr. Fosdick isn't talking to himself. Since Hamlet's departure, soliloquies have gone out of date. And that's just why the powerful New York Times is quick to scent the importance of this voice from Rockefeller's oracle. The comment of the New York Times editor demands examination and reply by class conscious workers, for this important editorial is typical of the best exploiting class defense.

A CAPITALIST DIAGNOSIS

The New York Times takes sharp issue with the assertion of implication of the Reverend Mr. Fosdick that "the failures and misdeeds of the capitalist regime are bringing us face to face with the alternative of Communism." In reply, the somewhat nervous editor hastens to say: "To prescribe it (Communism) for our social diseases would be like telling a patient suffering from overstimulation to take a good stiff dose of strychnine." What piffle! Really, there's too much wind in someone's brain! Since when is Communism synonymous with a stimulation of capitalism? It's true that the various capitalist "remedies" against the unemployment plague such as public works, speed up, wage cuts, tariffs, restricted immigration are only stiff doses of strychnine. These "remedies" have the effect of only stimulating the beats of the already all too-tired overstimulated heart of capitalist production. The present deep-going crisis of world capitalism takes root in its unbridgeable gap between the growing capacities for production and its ever-more limited marketing possibilities.

Under a system of exploitation, like capitalism, the consumption capacities, economically speaking, of the great mass of people are thwarted and paralyzed. That's precisely why capitalist over-production spells widespread underconsumption and dreadful misery for millions upon millions of workers, farmers, and even the lower layers of the middle class. The net result of all the state capitalist efforts, of all the plans to "improve" the present system of production is to widen the gap between the productive capacities and the marketing possibilities and therefore only to lay the basis for deepening the crisis. Let the Times editor cut out the nonsense that state capitalism and capitalist tyranny on a national, concentrated, centralized scale are an example of Communism. Such capitalist cures only aggravate the ailments of capitalism and tend to hasten its final doom.

NEW YORK TIMES ON VIOLENCE

At any rate, the Times is against Communism because it could be adopted "only after the existing governments had been overthrown by violence and bloodshed, with at least a preliminary reign of terror." Poor, gentle, docile soul! We have a hunch that it's not violence as such that the New York Times editor opposes. We have not forgotten the "peaceful" way in which the American revolutionists handled the Loyalists in the War of Independence. Nor the "polite" carpet baggers' regime set up over the defeated Southern chattel-slave owners after the Civil War. And certainly we can never forget the "silk-gloved" treatment given striking workers by the United States government. In all of these instances the New York Times applauds violence, bloodshed and a "reign of terror." Otherwise it could not be a loyal American ruling class newspaper which prints all the news "fit to print."

No one will take too seriously these "fears" of the frightened Times editor. Every worker should know that it's not violence as such that the capitalist class and its spokesmen are against. The ex-

plorers and their lackeys are only against such violence, such bloodshed, such a reign of terror as is aimed against the present ruling class, the capitalist class. The boss class is "pacifist" and has "conscientious scruple" only when it is about to feel the heavy hand of the class conscious revolutionary proletariat. But we might remind the New York Times editor—and in this we are addressing ourselves to the proper agency—that the quicker the capitalist class resistance is broken, the quicker the capitalist class is dislodged from its position as exploiter, the less will be the violence, the less the bloodshed and the sooner will the Red terror end.

Of course, we know our history, and we don't base our war plans against the robber class, against the imperialist plunderers, on illusions. We Communists know that all history is a history of class wars, that class wars are fought in certain ways, and that ruling classes have certain habits.

WHY THE CRISIS

From this "subline" ("hatred of violence") the New York Times editorial travels the whole course to the ridiculous when it plasters Reverend Fosdick with the following wisdom:

"Why should we suddenly discover in the particular business setback of the past year and a half that the blame for it rests wholly upon capitalism. In previous panics that single cause was not alleged."

This is really laughable. Here we have an economic crisis gripping and shaking the entire capitalist world. It begins primarily in the strongest, in the so-called "healthiest" section of world capitalism. The very causes making for capitalist prosperity not only remain but are multiplied and strengthened and yet "prosperity" has not only vanished but is buried ever and ever deeper. Hence we have the alleged "very strong" points of capitalism (great productive capacities) being just the very forces driving the wheels of economic crisis at a frightful pace. Yet, the Times pretends that the causes of the economic crisis are not inherent in the very system of capitalism as such but that these causes are only the "various manifestations of human folly." Not even Reverend Fosdick who peddles in expensive souls would dare talk such thin stuff!

And when we say capitalism we don't mean a single capitalist, a single capitalist factory, a particular capitalist monopoly, Japanese or German, French or Italian American or British. When we speak of capitalism we speak of that economic and social system, as a system, which is based on the private ownership and control of capital, on the private ownership and

control of the means of production and exchange socially used, on the exploitation of the users of these machines (the workers) by the owners of the machines, etc. Now, in this correct light, capitalism is not a single, small cause but is a fountain, nay, a cesspool of many incurable economic maladies the sum total of which at particular moments manifests itself in the form of an economic crisis.

DOESN'T KNOW THE WAR IS OVER

That's the present situation. The Times editor forgot there was a World War. He tries to forget that the war is over, that another one is in the making, that the last World War has shaken the foundations of capitalism, that one sixth of the world is not in the hands of the working class, that the colonial masses are in rebellion by the hundreds of millions, that Communism is an ever-growing mighty world force today. The Times points to "speculation," "reckless and unwarranted discounting of the future," "inexcusable debauch" as causes for the present crisis. Yet, what are these causes but manifestations of capitalism at work. Imagine capitalism without anarchy, individual character, without a temple, more correctly a stable, of speculation (stock market), without debauch?

Finally, the Times brings words of cheer to America's gloomy pastor by saying that capitalism has had crises before and has recovered. Well said! But little room for cheer. The whole history of capitalism is a history of crises. But now capitalism is in its final stage, in its imperialist epoch, in its epoch of decay and decline. Hence, today the recovery from a crisis is only a relapse laying the basis for an even more acute crisis coming on. Crisis follows upon crisis, each one worse than its predecessor—until the culminating crisis when the proletariat will deal the death blow to the whole inefficient, expensive system of capitalism based on unemployment, war and mass misery.

No! Capitalism is not on trial, Mr. Fosdick and Mr. New York Times editor. Capitalism has already had its trial. It is already convicted! It has already fulfilled its historical role. It is no longer historically necessary. Today, capitalism is bad, is anti-social. A new world, a Workers' World, is in sight, is in the making. Face to the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics! That's why the capitalist's worry! And that's why the working class should close its ranks and fight harder than ever to usher in a new, a classless society—a Socialist society. We already have a good example and a splendid inspiration—the Union of Socialist Soviet Republics.

The Youth Movement

PROGRESS OF DISARMAMENT

"IN TIME OF PEACE — PREPARE FOR WAR"

Along with the peace pacts, and peace treaties, we have the following assurances of world peace.

1. A war tank that rips wall at 45 miles an hour.

A war tank powered with a 338 horsepower liberty airplane motor and weighing nearly ten tons travelled about a field at Linden, N. J. several days ago, at a speed of 45 miles an hour, bumping over logs two feet thick, slashing thru frozen ponds spinning about on its own length, smashing barbed wire entanglements and crumpling walls two feet thick. The machine's caterpillar tracks were quickly removed and the tank moved over a paved highway on solid rubber wheels at 75 miles an hour. The machine was developed at the cost of \$400,000.

Both the American and Japanese governments are interested in the new toy of destruction.

2. Fastest warship in the world has completed trials for the British Navy.

The new destroyer flotilla leader Codrington weighs 1,520 tons. It was completed last June. She obtained an average speed of 33 knots during a four hour test and reached a speed of 40 knots at times. Her engines never were let out to full power. Nothing in the other navies has been produced to outdistance this British warship, which with a full load could streak across the Atlantic in three and a half days if top speed could be maintained.

England is not alone in the development of more dangerous warships. France, Italy, "disarmed" Germany, and "neutral" Sweden are developing new types of battleships. And the U. S. of course, must

have a navy "second to none."

3. 350 mile diving speed in new navy planes.

Aviation which was hailed by the capitalist press as another guaranty for world peace, is actually a deadly instrument of war and destruction.

"A speed of 350 miles an hour in a vertical power dive, an ascent from the ground to 10,000 feet and return in five minutes, floating ability when the machines are forced down on water and a high speed at great altitudes are some of the features of forty-six new Boeing single-seater fighting planes, first delivery of which was being made to the navy at Bremerton, Wash., today." (New York Times.)

SAILORS MUTINY

That the sailors of the English Navy are dissatisfied and restless was proven by the mutiny that occurred on the submarine tender Lucia at Plymouth on Jan. 4th. The mutiny resulted from the short Christmas leave that was granted to the Navy-men. Just as the workers are bitterly exploited by their bosses at work, so the boys in the navy are driven by their "superiors" through the rigid discipline on board. An order was issued that a group of men paint the ship on Sunday morning. This order brought the mutiny to a head.

Thirty of the men were removed to the royal naval barracks. A court of inquiry was established by the naval officials to investigate the affair. This investigation is being held behind closed doors. Nothing new has been reported since these facts were disclosed. The action of the sailors has disturbed the British Admiralty, and it was forced to issue an explanation.