SOVIET IMPERIALISM - PART 2

Red' Bosses Exploit Workers in the Soviet Union

for the National Economy of the USSR, state retail prices of meat and poultry rose 29 per cent between 1960 and 1973. During the same 13-year period, retail prices in Moscow's state-run shops went up 4 per cent for flour, 33 per cent for beef, and 66 per cent for cabbage. Free market prices rose even more rapidly. They were 35 per cent higher than in the state-run stores in 1960; by 1973, they had risen 63 per cent. Since 1973, inflation has increased everywhere in the world at unprecedented rates. It is therefore safe to assume that the figures cited above are now far higher than two years ago.

No survey of capitalist oppression in the Soviet Union or anywhere else would be complete without a look at the development of the super-profits generated by racism. Brezhnev & Co. go after these with a vengeance. There are many different national minorities in the USSR, as in the USA or any large country. Although all groups are exploited, those who bear the heaviest brunt of racism are the non-Russian minorities. According to the book, The Soviet Union and the Union Republics in 1973, the average wage of non-Russian workers is much lower than the average wage paid to Russian workers. For example, the average wage of Byelorussian workers is 16 per cent lower; in Georgia it is 20 per cent lower; and in Moldavia it is 20 per cent lower.

The working class in the non-Russian republics suffers correspondingly from inferior goods and services, lower per capita retail sales, etc. Per capita retail sales in Uzbek, Azerbaijan, and Tajik republics were barely 60 per cent of those in the Russian Federation. According to the 1973 Yearbook of Soviet National Economics Statistics, the number of doctors for every 10,000 people in the Central Asian republics was one-third less than in the Russian Federation.

SOVIET WORKERS WILL DEFEAT FASCISM

Because of the Soviet working class' great revolutionary tradition—developed in the 1917 Bolshevik seizure of power, 40 years of socialist development, and the heroic, victorious war to smash the Nazi, today's Soviet rulers cannot afford the luxury of a liberal-democratic shell for their class dictatorship. They are forced to rule as fascists. Strikes are illegal in the USSR. Any attempt to organize against the government—even non-violently—is illegal. Any attempt to suppose the racist policies outlined above is illegal.

However, class struggle is the law of life and must continue as long as capitalism continues. This is as true in the Soviet Union as it is in every other part of the world. According to the newspaper Trud, absenteeism and slowdown in 1973 resulted in the loss of some 50 million working days. Absenteeism in the building units of the Moldavian Ministry of the Countries in 1973 reached 66 per cent of the total number of the workers there.

Absenteeism and slowdowns alone are not the best tactics for going on the offensive against the bosses. However, these facts demonstrate that the Soviet working class is not sitting still while Brezhnev & Co. roll over it. As the rulers of the USSR internalize their drive to replace Rockefeller & Co. as the world's top imperialists, they will have to turn the screws tighter and tighter on the Soviet workers. The process that we see much more highly developed today in the USA must, in essence, reach similar proportions in the Soviet Union sooner or later.

Conditions will change, especially as U.S.-Soviet rivalry sharpens and increases the danger of World War. The "red" roguish of the Soviet Union are not supermen. As they become further and further involved in the internally contradictions of their system, the Soviet working class—which has been there before—will steel its revolutionary will, recognize its forces, build a true communist party that will learn from the achievements and errors of the past, and seize power to re-establish the dictatorship of the proletariat in the Soviet Union.

...This development is inevitable. Workers all around the world who must fight the same battle themselves, will greet it with the same detesting applause they accorded to the Bolshevik Revolution of 1917.