

PROLETARIAN NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

A JOURNAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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TWO OF A KIND

The Republican Party

One of the most important developments in American history was the INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION. By that we mean the transition from the hand production of Washington's time to the machine production of the Lincoln period.

By 1850, a whole new class had arisen—the owners of steel-mills, coal and iron mines, railroads, steamships, and other means of production and transportation. This development was mainly in the North, from the Pittsburgh district to the Great Lakes region, and as far west as the Mississippi. This new class demanded of the existing government, legislation in its favor. The demands were rejected or ignored. No class in power ever sees other interests than their own.

The Constitution, drafted — behind closed-doors — in 1787, gave political supremacy to the classes that framed and adopted it. The leading class was the plantation owners, exploiters of chattel-slaves. Their allies were the merchants and bankers of the eastern seaboard. Outstanding among the slave-owners were Washington, Jefferson, Madison, Monroe, Randolph, and others. John Adams, John Hancock, Ben Franklin belonged to the merchant and shop-owning class. Alexander Hamilton and Aaron Burr were bankers, rich men all.

Those rich masters of the new nation had certain political differences. While they divided into Federalists and Anti-Federalists, they were solidly united when it came to the defense of their general property interests. During the first 70 years, their differences brought into being two rival political parties—the Democrats and the Whigs — but their disagreements were slight. Even during the war, deliberately made upon Mexico (1846-1848) for the purpose of seizing half of its territory, and the "brigand's peace" which followed, there was little disagreement. Abraham Lincoln, then in Congress as a Whig, did protest and denounce that war of robbery, but most people then believed that "the end justified the means."

Immediately following the war with Mexico came the crisis which led to the Civil War. However, it was only with the rise of that en-

tirely new class — the Industrial Capitalists—that the crisis became severe enough to precipitate the Civil War. The capitalists of the North wanted tariffs, high tariffs, to "protect their infant industries." The government represented the older order of things, the entrenched slave-holders and merchants. It would not yield an inch. It retaliated with the slogan—"Tariff for revenue only."

Altho the Southern ruling class also were capitalists, they were of a peculiar type. The exploitation
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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION — 1956

At the time of this writing (Oct. 14) the national election campaign is in high gear. Both Republicans and Democrats are stepping on the gas, raising issues, real or simulated, each probing for weaknesses in the opposition in the hope of strengthening their respective position in the final decision.

It is not our object to make any prognostication. Nor do we think it matters a great deal which of the two parties gets in. Basically the situation will remain unaltered. As one worker put it: "No matter who gets in I have to continue

my daily grind." This humble reaction contains the truth, the elementary. A more complete elaboration of it could be stated thusly: both the Democratic and Republican parties represent business' or capital's interests, neither representing the class interests of the worker. The class relation between capital and labor remains unalterably the same no matter who is elected, Eisenhower or Stevenson. Capital remains boss, employer; labor, employee, dependent upon the job.

Politically, then, the American workers are quite puerile and backward. While workers and peasants in other parts of the world have made forward strides in their political maturing and social recognition, American labor stands pat, LOYAL to the repressive and reactionary deeds of U.S. monopoly capital. It is deserving indeed of a badge of honor (or is it dishonor?) for its lackey-like servility to capital.

Whatever voice of protest was raised in the past for independent working class political action has been squelched under the banner of anti-communism, and American labor supported such faithfully.

Given the present political atmosphere, with no third party opposition or organized protest from labor, it simmers down to a relatively inconsequential contest between the two old traditional reliables. Both have traditionally proved their reliability to business and the nation. Since basically there is no difference, each being committed alike to the safeguarding of American capitalism, the system of private enterprise, their opposition is on minor issues, not on objective, but as to method of attaining the same objective.

The two party system works wonders for capitalist democracy in America. Tho in their early development they evolved, not out of design, but rather in response to diverse economic interests, the Republicans representing the richer elements and the Democrats smaller and poorer elements, they can now be said to be more nearly approaching one another, as representative of business as a whole, in which big business plays the dominant role. Yet the Democratic party, because of its history can
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HOME SCENE

School Segregation

The public schools' fall sessions in the South opened with a bang. Mob violence greeted attempted integration of white and Negro youngsters into classes under one roof. State militia had to be called upon to reenforce local police. The Supreme Court ruling of a few years back, declaring school segregation unconstitutional, looks good and democratic on paper; but its practice seems to be another story.

President Eisenhower and Adlai Stevenson, presidential aspirants and leaders of the Republican and Democratic parties respectively, both, thru their pleadings of moderation in the civil rights dispute, have by this very lack of firmness in backing up the law of the land, encouraged racists in their delaying and terroristic actions. These acknowledged political leaders, fearful of antagonizing any voters, race-haters included, during the election campaign, have taken this so-called middle-of-the-road position, avoiding a stand on principle, thereby exposing their self-righteous moral pretensions. On this issue, with both candidates taking a similar stand, the voters can find no difference between the two.

Meanwhile, the politicians in charge of the Southern states, from the governors down, are scheming and putting into effect roadblocks against the integration of the schools. In back of these politicians, are white Christians spewing hatred against their black brethren, Negro Christians. The Bible's teachings of "love thy neighbor" is contradicted by Christian practice, as witness the mob
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scenes in Texas, Kentucky and elsewhere in the South. Religious training has not eradicated race hatred. In fact, the churches themselves are guilty of practicing segregation. The solution lies outside of the holy places.

The liberals and reformers both have failed in their long battle against discrimination. Not because these weren't militant enough; not because they didn't have heart; not thru lack of effort; but because these courageous and unsparing individuals and organizations limited their fight against the effects and not the cause of racial strife.

Race hatred and discrimination stems from and breeds in class divided society. Capitalism, basically, divides the population into property-owning capitalists and propertyless workers. The former, capitalists, derive their income and wealth thru exploiting labor for profits. The laboring class is the exploited victim and subject class. To perpetuate this arrangement of thriving on the backs of labor, the capitalists take advantage of secondary differences, such as race and religion among the workers. These differences of color of the skin are deliberately exaggerated and focussed to keep workers divided and fighting amongst themselves. In this way, capital gains by breaking up and segregating their enemy, labor. Labor is the loser with its ranks split up on the race issue. The common feature of labor as an exploited and subject class, with capital as their enemy,
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PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION — 1956

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and does exploit this traditional role by parading as the party of the small man.

The two party system serves a double purpose, of appearing democratic, by giving the people an opportunity to make a change, if they desire; secondly it acts as a preventative against a genuine class protest from labor in the form of a third party. It is an effective political safety-valve against a threatening labor.

Since labor is not in the running with a political platform of its own, which would represent its material class interests, the field is naturally left exclusively to the parties of capital to determine how and who is to manage its home and foreign affairs. And in this there is but slight deviation except for personalities and other minor modifications. Both are equally firm in their attitude towards labor at home, and rabid in their anti-communism and in their defense of the imperial interests abroad. Both claim they stand for peace and prosperity and claim their part in maintaining such, when in reality these are more the effect than the cause of economic and social conditions which play the overpowering role.

The issues have dwindled down to personalities, of individual leadership, of health, experience and integrity etc. all of which are as the saying goes: "6 of 1 and 1/2 dozen of the other." They are of little consequence. The real issue

before the American workers is capitalism itself.

What does it spell in economic terms, in terms of every day existence? To be sure right now we have a period of relative peace. But for how long can we trust the world's imperialists from blowing up in one of their frenzied moments in the face of colonial unrest? To be sure, America, that is big business, is still enjoying prosperity, and labor has employment. But how much assurance has anyone as to its continuation? What with the credit inflation, the plight of the small farmers, the effects on labor from increased automation in industry, are we so sure that severe economic depression is out of the question.

When we think of these very possible developments in the very near future the present doesn't loom so big or bright.

Politics is not a thing in itself, nor is it a static matter. It is geared to an economy. As an economy or system keeps going down it becomes more difficult for the subordinate class to exist. In this case it is labor. Today the workers still have jobs and think in terms of capitalism as the best form of society. When, however, conditions take a turn for the worse, which they well might soon, we are certain to see radical changes in their political and economic outlook. Their class interests dictate a change and they'd be foolish to resist it.

L.B.

HOME SCENE

(Continued from Page 1)

is lost sight of. The workers have yet to learn the basic lessons in life's struggle.

* * *

Hard Facts

"You know," said a leading business man last week, "I'm thoroughly confused. I've read reports that 1956 will go into the books as a record business year. I've also heard other reports that soft spots are developing in the economy and we may be heading for trouble." (N.Y. Times—Sept. 30, 1956)

As the economy enters the last quarter of the year, the following facts are noted. Gross national product has been running at an annual rate of \$408,500,000,000; personal income of \$323 billion; business spending for new plant and equipment of \$36.7 billion. The production index in August stood at 141 per cent of the 1947-49 average, one per cent higher than a year ago with tops of 144 last December. The employment picture is bright with 66,800,000 people working compared to 65,500,000 last year, with a reported 2,200,000 unemployed, the same number out of work as last year. Retail sales are about 4 per cent over a year ago.

Now for some minus signs. Manufacturing and trade inventories have risen to \$85.4 billion, this is \$6.5 billion higher than a year ago. Consumer credit in July stood at \$37,143,000,000 almost \$5 billion more than last year. Last year 1,328,000 new dwelling units started; this year 1,100,000. Car output 1,684,000 less than a year ago.

"The monthly average this year is 1073 business casualties, with related liabilities of over \$47 million, an amount exceeded only during the depressions of the early 1920's and 1930's." (John Harriman — Globe—Oct. 8, 1956)

Farm prices, after firming in the first part of year, started to dip in midsummer. The Federal Reserve Banks raised their discount rates to put a damper on record borrowing. Short term loans by member banks has risen to 4.14 per cent, the highest rate since August of 1932.

"But we do know people who are bothered, confused, by seeing industry going so hugely into debt in order to turn out goods in such great quantity that consumers have to go heavily in debt to buy

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TWO OF A KIND

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of wage-labor is the usual source of wealth under capitalism, but they exploited chattel-slaves. However, they produced for the world market, sugar, rice, tobacco and cotton. The latter was their chief crop. It was the period of "King Cotton," the world's ruling commodity. Fortunes were being made by raising it, just as they were being made in England by spinning and weaving it on the new machinery — the Spinning-frame and the Steam-loom.

The South's economy was agrarian. The bulk of their crops were shipped to Europe. With the payments which they obtained they brought back into America the finest products of Europe, such as fine furniture, silverware, carriages and works of art. They also brought in silks and satins for their ladies, and thousands of yards of cheap calico cloth to cover the backs of a multitude of slaves.

All that they brought in "tariff free," or just a nominal rate to cover port expenses, and the like. Why should they tax themselves? —they reasoned. "Let the new 'industrial upstarts' go hang themselves" they, in affect, said. It was this attitude that brought into being the REPUBLICAN PARTY. It was founded in Philadelphia in 1856 and aimed to serve the interests of the men of the new machine age and their pursuit of profits.

John Charles Fremont of California was their first candidate for the Presidency. He made a good showing but was not elected. Four years later, they nominated Abraham Lincoln of Illinois and he was elected with fully a third of the votes. The Democrats had split, and two of their candidates were defeated by Lincoln.

The crisis, preceding the Civil War, and for long after, was overshadowed by the question of slavery. That was the issue that "stirred men's souls," but it was not the real issue, and Lincoln well understood this. He made the issue clear when he proclaimed its objective as the Saving of the Union. Even during his debates with Stephen Douglas he insisted that slavery was a secondary question, that keeping the nation united and preventing it from splitting in two was the real issue. Then, when it did split and an attempt was made to establish a separate nation, with a separate government, it was obvious that such a settlement could not be accepted by Lincoln and the Republican administration. Such an outcome would have meant the loss of the election by the Republicans and a greater loss for the industrial capitalists, whose victory it was. Control of the whole nation, not just a part of it, was their aim. They wanted the power to determine the national and foreign policies in their own class interests. The Republican party, and the outcome of the Civil War, gave them that power.

The eastern bankers and merchants adjusted themselves to the new state of affairs. They had swung into line with the Republican government. The industrial capitalists were now firmly in the political saddle, and they held a tight rein until about the period of the William McKinley administration at the close of the century, when a new section of the capitalist class reached out for power — the financiers, the banking houses and monopolists (the Trusts). The Republicans had defeated the "Free-silver" fight of the Democrats under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan, in 1896. That campaign was the last big battle of small business and the farmers against the "money power." It was a victory for Wall Street and from then until now its power has gone unchallenged. It is the nation. It holds America in the hollow of its golden hand.

The Spanish-American War obscured this transition, to some extent, but the national "hero" of that period, Theodore Roosevelt, who succeeded to the Presidency upon the assassination of McKinley, fought it when he became President. He was the "Trust buster" but he did not have a very clear understanding of the development and its tremendous power. William Howard Taft had a better understanding when, during his presidency, he told the "Trust busters," "You cannot unscramble eggs."

From the turn of the century onward the Financiers have dominated the big industries — United States Steel, General Motors and such — and have formulated and carried through the home and foreign policies of the government. America is now the world's greatest empire. It is the newest type of imperialism—Finance imperialism, with the money-bag in front and the atomic-bomb in reserve.

Present issues on the home front are giving the Republican Party little concern. Business has been comparatively good. Distress, while never liquidated, is at a minimum. The desegregation issue is being straddled. Being a Supreme Court decision the Republicans dare not openly renounce it, but they will not make a strong fight for it for fear of stirring the South against them. The same is largely true of the Taft-Hartley law, which they promised to improve upon. They will continue the vague promise. While the farmers are no longer the important section of the population they once were (they are no less than 18 per cent of the population) the promise of subsidies will be held out.

On the world front, Peace supported by atom-power — "Peace through strength"—will continue to be the policy, and, of course, the "containment of Communism." This certainly means the holding on to all outposts, and the assist-

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PROLETARIAN NEWS

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DEMOCRACY TODAY

Some years ago, when Fascism was in flower, much was said and written about the virtues of democracy. Much confusion and many contradictions were expressed. In time, the theme was more or less exhausted with no apparent clarification.

Most of its proponents regarded democracy as a state of mind, something that was acquired through political education. Very few saw it as an instrument of class rule, a political form that had evolved out of social conditions, out of class struggles. We think it is timely to again stress its class characteristics.

Like every aspect of social evolution, the forms and concepts of democracy have continually changed, and its class usage has become ever more effective. Even for the comparatively short period since the days of Hitler and Mussolini, and the great struggle which eliminated them and their movement, allegedly fought for the "defense of democracy," there has been considerable change in its concept and application.

Today, the "democratic" capitalist powers which defeated their Fascist imperialist rivals are making use of many Fascist methods, altho doing so in the name of democracy. As capitalism has now entered the period when it has to struggle for survival it is being forced to adopt out and out repressive methods. As the working class awakens and applies its democracy, as it strives to gain political and social supremacy over the rich parasitic minority, the Capitalists will use their "Democratic State" in its true reality, as "the public power of coercion" to hold the working class in submission.

There is a common belief that democracy is a thing in itself, free of class content. This still deceives many workers who should know better. This is because they have failed to recognize its political forms. Democracy first developed in classical Greece. Its promoters conceived of it as a form of political equality among property owners. In so far as it applied to the State, it was the State of the slave owners.

In all of its forms, since its inception, it has had class content and application. Even in "democratic America," it was slaveholders, the Washingtons and Jeffersons, who founded the republic. When Tom Jefferson spoke of "the best government" being the one that "governs the least," he was but expressing the democratic interests of the slaveholders who wanted a minimum of governmental interference with their plantation affairs, where each one was like a little king on his own domain. Democracy then was not for slaves or "poor white trash" even if they constituted the majority of the Southern population.

In capitalist countries, such as Great Britain and the United States, democracy is supposed to embrace all, rich and poor alike. This delusion is encouraged. Deception is one of the most effective ways of enthraling a people.

Those who imagine they are participating in "freedom and democracy" now are likely to organize and fight for what they believe they already have.

Instead of workers proclaiming the "defense of democracy" and self-styled "democratic socialists" demanding an "extension of democracy" (which in substance would be an extension of capitalism) they should be attacking and exposing the fraud of capitalist democracy, which poses as "the rule of the majority," while in reality it is the rule of a minority class. It never has been anything else under capitalism and never will be even where parliamentary government is the most liberal.

Writing on the political role of the workers, Frederick Engels said: "Our ultimate political aim is to overcome the whole state, and therefore, democracy as well." He also has pointed out that "the possessing class rules directly by means of universal suffrage." The capitalist "democratic state" is their state. They make the laws. It is their democracy, and it works well in defending the rich exploiters, and subjugating the exploited workers. Formal democracy, while it has extended suffrage to the workers, has left them grasping at shadows while the capitalists walk off with the substance. Anatole France exposed the character of bourgeois democracy when he wrote: "The law in its majestic equality forbids the rich as well as the poor to sleep under bridges, to beg in the streets and to steal bread."

It will be said that bourgeois democracy is better than bourgeois monarchy, or feudal absolutism. And that is quite true, in the historic sense, but this more advanced political form was not introduced in the interest of the workers, even if they demanded it, but in the interest of the capitalists. It makes their state run more smoothly. Its "educational" institutions—schools, press, pulpit, radio, etc.—prepare the masses for their own self-deception and enslavement to capitalism.

Capitalism democracy is the most efficient form yet devised for fooling and ruling the productive masses. Large numbers are led to believe that capital and labor together are the government, that there is a "government of the people," that the government exists "by the consent of the governed." These catch phrases are very effective in deceiving the masses as to the real role of the state. Also its "one man, one vote"—millionaires and workers alike—creates the impression that the workers are participating in government, that they are part of the State, while, as a matter of fact, they are rigidly excluded.

The capitalist state is the "the capitalist class organized as ruling class." They, and they alone, are the State. We realize that it is difficult for the average worker to comprehend this, because from childhood onward his "education," that is his schooling, fixes his mind with the deception of "self-government." Under these circumstances, if the State is what Marx asserted it was, namely, "the public power of coercion," then the worker who supports capitalism is cooperating in the coercion of himself.

"Representative government," so-called, only represents the interests of the capitalist class, whose State it is. So long as this state form is intact—no matter how the voting goes—the capitalist class will rule and exploit the workers. Some workers have a conscious understanding of this fact. Others have a frustrated feeling in the matter. They feel that the political cards are stacked against them. An increasing number take a "What's the use" atti-

tude and don't vote. That may disturb the capitalists, but it is not the answer.

Class conscious voting, aimed at the abolition of capitalism, not its reformation, is the revolutionary way for workers to use their ballot. The "lesser evil" theory, supporting the left-wing of capitalist politics, is folly, as it strengthens capitalism. Those who advocate such a course, whether consciously or otherwise, are betraying the working class. This is often done in the name of "practical politics." An election victory, in such a case, is a working class defeat.

Another sort of confusion has been developed over the question of dictatorship. All states, even the most "democratic" are either openly or potentially dictatorships, otherwise they would be powerless. If a worker is led off to war, with the alternative of five years in prison if he fails to respond, it certainly is dictatorship. Among confusionists, and tricky reactionaries, there has been much denouncing of "police states." But, all states are police states. A "democratic prison" can be just as uncomfortable as a "totalitarian" one.

There are two sorts of dictatorship—capitalist class dictatorship and working class dictatorship. The Dictatorship of the Proletariat, which came into being in Russia in 1917, has been much misunderstood, and also much misrepresented, by supporters as well as opponents. It has been a dictatorship over the property owning classes that tried to make a comeback through counter-revolutionary civil war. Without the dictatorship, the workers and peasants government—the Soviets—would have been destroyed.

While the Soviet government was an openly avowed dictatorship it also was the broadest democracy yet known. It embraced the masses of workers and peasants, the vast majority, within its structure. The Russian people, through their Soviets, are the State. The Soviet is the form, the dictatorship is a method. The latter will disappear first, when no longer necessary. The classless society of the future will be Stateless. The "public power of coercion" itself will disappear. In place of the State will come an "administration of things." This development would be further advanced were it not for the menace of the capitalist powers, especially America.

Some people may think that because we oppose the fraud of capitalist democracy, posing as a "government of the people," that we are opposed to the use of the ballot, even if we stress its character and limitations, but that is not so. Wherever workers are permitted to vote they should use the ballot. BUT, only for their own candidates, for workers dedicated to the entire abolition of capitalism.

The workers should use the ballot, the press and the public forum, whatever means are available, but only to oppose capitalism. Of course, the ballot has its limitation, like the other means of expression. It is unlikely that the working class can conquer power that way. That will largely depend upon what the capitalist will do. Frederick Engels was aware of this when he wrote: "Universal suffrage is the gauge of the maturity of the working class. It can and will never be anything else but that in the modern state. But that is sufficient. On the day when the thermometer of universal suffrage reaches its boiling point among the laborers, they as well as the capitalists will know what to do."

John Keracher

(To be continued)

Notice To Our Readers

As you will note, with this issue (November) the Proletarian News again appears in print—but in a smaller edition. We hope that with

continued support from our readers it will be possible in the near future to get out the larger—8 pages—edition.

Of course you know that the regular appearance of the Proletarian

News depends mainly on the support it gets from its readers. At this time we want to thank those who have responded to our August letter of appeal for funds. However, there are some readers who have not yet responded.

We urge them to do so as soon as possible. Rest assured, whatever you send will be most helpful. Mail your remittance to:

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333 W. North Ave. Chicago 10, Ill.

TWO OF A KIND

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ing of such nations as can be used as props of this policy, with the Dulles verge of war diplomacy to be continued. The old "Manifest destiny" and "America can do no wrong," is not being so loudly proclaimed, but it is being continued, and apparently with no opposition, if not actual general approval.

The working people, as a class, show very little in the way of an independent political stand. The Labor Unions are pursuing their old policy of supporting the "lesser evil." They will give considerable support to the Democrats, but the bulk of them will pursue a different policy, if it can be called such. It can be summed up in one word—Drift.

The Democratic Party

Usually referred to as "the Party of Jefferson and Jackson," the Democratic Party has gone through a long evolution. Its founders would not recognize it today. For long, it was the Party of the "solid south," an instrument of the slave-holders. But, the complex developments which led to the Civil War caused it to split. As a consequence two Democratic candidates for the Presidency faced the Republican, Abraham Lincoln, in 1860.

With fully a third of the votes, Lincoln was elected President, and the Civil War was on, to prevent division, to "Save The Union." It was saved for the Industrial Capitalists.

Following the Civil War, the Democratic Party was so shattered that it took a long time to rebuild it. When it became obvious that the Republican Party was the agency of big business, the small business people and many of the farmers began to turn to the Democratic party. It was in this way that the Party of the former slave-holders began to serve different interests. In the main, it was now the Party of the small business

people, striving to survive in a desperate struggle with big business.

In 1896, it rallied large numbers, under the leadership of William Jennings Bryan—the silver-tongued orator of Nebraska—in the famous "free-silver" campaign. It was a spurious issue. The idea was that if silver was put upon the "free list" at a ratio of sixteen ounces to one ounce of gold, that general prosperity would ensue. Bryan lost the election to the Republican tariff candidate, William McKinley. That was practically the last struggle of the small business people against the Trusts and the rising money power, the financial houses.

For a period of more than seventy years, between 1860 and 1932, the Democrats held office but sixteen years. Grover Cleveland was elected in 1892, and distinguished himself as the breaker of the Pullman Strike in 1894, when Eugene V. Debs took his first prison sentence as the leader of the American Railroad Union.

In 1912, the Democrats carried the election with James Woodrow Wilson as their standard bearer, but by then it was securely in the hands of big business. Today, both major Parties are financed by the powerful capitalist industrialists and bankers. The "interests" are interlocked, and so are their Parties. The Wall Street gang, the multi-millionaires dictate the policies of both. Their rivalry is but shadow-boxing to deceive the masses, prior to elections.

Woodrow Wilson served big business exceedingly well, but the reaction from World War I brought the Republicans back into office. The Great Depression put the Democrats back into office, with Franklin D. Roosevelt, probably the ablest representative of American finance imperialism, holding office longer than any other President—four terms in all.

Both World Wars were fought

under Democratic administrations and the big business interests grew to tremendous proportions during those periods. America is now world empire number one, but it is of the new sort, finance imperialist, the most modern kind. Its greatest weapon is economic. It wields its money bags most efficiently. It is reported that 45 billions of private capital is invested by American capitalists throughout the world, outside of the U.S., that is, apart from government loans. A debtor nation in 1914, America emerged from World War I in 1918 as the world's leading creditor nation. It is that today.

It has become difficult to detect a difference between the Republican and Democratic parties, their policies vary so little. Neither party represents the working people, the vast majority. Both represent the rich minority. Big busi-

ness gets first pickings. Small business gets second pickings, The workers, as a class, get picked.

The purpose of politics is to gloss over the irreconcilable, to compromise what cannot be resolved. The conflict of opposites, extreme poverty and extreme wealth, for instance, have to be tranquilized, to keep society from flying apart, from seeking a solution in revolution.

The State, as such, exists because of the irreconcilability of the social contradictions. It is "the public power of coercion," wielded in the interest of the class in power. Here, it is the capitalist class. The working people, ultimately, will have to tackle the problem of social contradictions. They will have to take over the political power and reorganize society. There is no other way.

J.K.

HOME SCENE

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them." (John Harriman—Boston Globe—Oct. 11, 1956)

It is evident from the above statistics that the present prosperity period is propped to a large extent on credit. This credit play, spectacularly successful, up to now, is nearing its climax. Already small business, which constitutes the bulk of the failures, has lost out. Small farmers and related industries, such as farm equipment and supplies are feeling the pinch. Big business, is still singularly successful. But it too is operating on borrowed time. The speculative 1920's led to the depression 1930's. The money managers of the nation are lost for an answer. To effectively curb credit inflation, they may help set in motion the forces of deflation and depression. On the other hand, to go along with greater credit expansion, carries with it the danger of the depression bursting suddenly and dramatically as in 1929. Those are the hard facts of the case.

L.B.

BUSINESS AS USUAL?

On Sept. 22nd last, the State Department announced that 10 American citizens had applied for passports to go to Egypt to take advantage of the high pay being offered to Suez Canal boat pilots. The State Department announcement said there was nothing they could do but explain the dangers involved in such a touchy situation and go ahead and issue the passports. Of course these men would replace some of the "regulars" who walked off the job when their English and French bosses told them to.

We can't remember when the State Dept. has taken such a generous point of view and issued passports so freely in the face of an international crisis. Could it be that the American plotters are harboring secret desires, contrary to what they say? Could it be they proposed a program for settlement of the dispute so impossible it would and never could be acceptable to the Egyptians? And how about that friendly offer to lend money to the British and French governments so they could round the Cape of Good Hope (imagine the extra shipping costs tacked onto the price of the goods) to avoid

using the Suez Canal? Could the U.S. State Dept. possibly feel all these moves would weaken her friendly capitalist rivals in an innocent sort of way and throw a little more business their way? It seems the Capitalist philosophy of taking advantage of an opportunity today, despite how it may affect them tomorrow, is still the order of the day.

L.D.

U. S. Prestige Declines

There is much lamenting in some sections of the American capitalist class, particularly by the Democratic party, over the decline of U.S. prestige abroad, especially following the flare-up over Egypt's seizure of the Suez Canal. The reports indicate that the British and French are much incensed over American "intervention." This indignation was echoed by Adlai Stevenson (Democratic presidential candidate) when he accused President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles of "inaction" and "deception" for telling people that "when we lose ground abroad, we are assured all is well." Walter Lippman, writing for the Chicago Sun-Times, Oct. 17th, accounts for the low U.S. prestige as follows:

"Lacking any positive policy of our own for building a new regime at the canal, Dulles found himself working principally to restrain Britain and France from following their policy. This has caused deep and dangerous resentment in London and Paris. Instead of taking a bold and independent line for a new deal at Suez, Dulles took a line of agreeing with London and Paris just enough to hold on to them, and not enough to support them. It was, to give it its name, a tactic of frustration which had as its aim the avoidance of hostilities without offering any real proposal of a settlement."

This Dulles "tactic" of frustrating Britain and France, however, did not earn for him the gratitude of Egypt because of his "alternative plan" of an "economic boycott" of the latter. So American prestige (if any) is still lower with Egypt and the Arab states.

Now what is creating even more frustration, not only for Britain and France, but America as well, is the recent action of the Soviet Union in vetoing their proposal of "international control" (read, imperial control) of the Suez Canal when it came up in the U.N. Security Council meeting. While Western imperialism's prestige is going down in the Middle East, Soviet prestige is going up, which is much cause for rejoicing in the working class world.

Al Wysocki

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