Past, Present and Future

Back in school days we studied in our language classes about verbs and their tenses, past, present and future. That described either an action or condition of things and people. As in language so it appertains for us generally, whether they belong to the organic or inorganic, physical or spiritual kingdoms.

All phenomena are subject to the law of motion or change, of coming into being and passing out of existence or non-being. This change-process goes thru a series of developments we call history. It is best observed in the organic kingdom and human society. Here the process is characterized by a regular development thru stages: birth, growth, maturity and decline. The laws governing that development we will allude to later. Suffice it to say at this point that these changes—excepting the spiritual—are physical, that is, material. They are real and objective, existing in space and in time of point. All things exist and move in space and time.

When we therefore, refer concretely, say to a given individual, nation or a society, we either speak of them as at present, or as the past, or their future. For example, if it's Abraham Lincoln, he belongs to the past tense, or past history. Eisenhowen, on the other hand, is part of present history. Or we might talk about American history of the colonial or revolutionary period, that is the past compared to present-day developments in America. Similarly with regard to society. We can go back to the dark ages, ancient history or even further back into unwritten history. We can also take a glimpse into future history, even if it might be considered by some as speculation.

What should be borne in mind is that time is a changing thing, a variable quality. "Time marches on." This little saying was aptly and correctly coined. But time not only changes, it is real and objective.

There are those who contend that time is man-made and subjective. That is, mental. However, that is not true. The calculation of time may well be man-made. (That is to say the beast in the forest may not possess man's understanding of the nature of time. Yet he is just as subject to its wear and tear.) But time itself is of the nature of all things, including beast and such, and not only to that tiny fragment of it, man.

All nature has a history, goes thru a process of change, internally, in its condition or state of being. The flowers, the trees, the rivers and mountains, entire planets go thru that process of coming into being and fading away. That is time, a succession of one change after another, one condition over-taking another. The earlier followed by a later, that is a change in (Continued on page 2)

HOMELAND

Budget Battle

When General Eisenhowen entered politics and campaigned for the presidency in 1952, he promised, among other things, to cut government spending. Much of his popularity amongst business men stemmed from the belief that under an Eisenhowen administration, budget-cutting and tax reductions would result. Elected to office, Eisenhowen picked experienced, practical business people to run the executive branch of the government. It is true, Eisenhowen's team of executives, at the start, made some gestures toward economy, but they didn't get very far.

During his second term in office Eisenhowen submitted his budget last January. And since the beginning of the year the battle over the budget, in and out of Congress, has raged. The "record peace time budget," approximately $72 billion, has alienated some business support. The prospect for tax reductions doesn't look too promising. But Congressmen appear to be putting up a fight for budget-cutting. President Eisenhowen has made a couple of television appeals in an effort to rally support for his budget. So far, it is June, at this writing, a budget for the fiscal year has yet to be enacted.

Despite all the wrangles over the budget, no serious cut can be made. Over half the budget goes to the military. No patriotic Congressmen, patriotic to capitalism, sworn to defend the profit system, will dare use a "meat-ax" on defense appropriations. Farm aid, veteran administration support, housing, rivers, harbors, bridges, airports, power-dam developments are built-in spending, laws on the books, untouchable. Proposed spending for schools, roads, health insurance, scholarships and combatting juvenile delinquency, may be curtailed, postponed. They are not the meat of the budget. But as mentioned above, defense spending is the big item and Congress will shy away from any serious budget slashing.

As far as the workers are concerned, the governmental budgets, are no problem to them. Labor is exploited and robbed at the point of production. The standard of living is generally at a bare minimum, with record high or low budgets. The budget question is capital's problem and it is bound to get worse as capitalistic problems multiply.

The Wage-Price Spiral Hoax

On July 1st, the steel workers are scheduled to receive about 10 or more cents an hour, as agreed by the contract signed last year after a strike. The steel industry is said to be withholding announce-ment of steel price increases until after July 1st, to make it appear that rising wages is the cause of the boost in steel prices.

Prices of many things have gone up late. The Department of Labor reported recently that wages and salaries during the past decade (Continued on page 2)
THE H-BOMB PERIL

(Continued from page 1)

Recently the Soviet Union had proposed a 2- to 3-year moratorium on nuclear tests with inspection. Whether the United States will agree to this proposal of a temporary halt in nuclear tests remains to be seen. One must remember that no official statement of the decision is expected before the conclusion of the present round of tests. It is possible that the present wave of activity is a reflection of the next round of tests.

Space limitations do not permit a fuller treatment of this most important subject in this article, which everyone will agree merits serious consideration by the whole of humanity.

Al Wysocki

THE HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 1)

have risen faster than productivity. This is grasped on to the "fact" to belabor the point that higher wages are responsible for price hikes. That line (and a hawk it is), namely, that wages determine prices, is as old as capitalism.

About 100 years ago, Karl Marx, delivered an address, explaining that hoax, printed in a pamphlet, "Value, Price, and Profit." In this pamphlet, Marx demonstrates that prices fluctuate according to the changing relationship of supply and demand. Such a situation of wage increases is an immediate cut into the profits of the capitalist class. That is why the capitalist bitterly contest wage hikes. It is this struggle between capital and labor over wages, elementary though fundamental, that gives rise to class opposition and class battle over the proceeds of labor has been going on for over a century, has made the interests between capital, and the haves and have-nots, irreconcilable and insoluble under the present social relationship.

Economic laws, beyond the control of the capitalist class and its political hierarchies, determine wages, prices and profits. The capitalists may try to tinker with them in the last analysis the economic laws that harden themselves. Monopolists may try to pass on the rise in wage costs in higher prices, but the market condition may determine otherwise. Competition among other metals and the relationship of supply and demand for such commodities will finally determine the price of steel.

Labor power, too, the commodity that the worker sells, when one looks at the job, is also subject to economic laws. The market condition determines the price of labor-power, that is wages, and it is invariably higher than what it should be, equivalent to the cost of living. To reiterate, the price of the commodity labor-power, wages, has nothing to do in determining the price of other commodities. The difference between what labor produces and what it gets in the form of wages is a hard and fast rule. The more labor gets the less profit remains for capital. For labor to get hooked on the hoax that labor can do anything it wants to do is to labor's advantage. Beware of this popular prejudice promoted by capital. For more detailed facts we refer you to the study of that book by Marx, "Value, Price and Profit." You will be surprisingly enlightened.

L.B.

THUMBNAILS

RIGHT STEP: May 17, 1957 marks an historic day for the 15,-000 Negroes in this country. For those who attended the pilgrimage to Lincoln's shrine in Washington D.C. that day it must have been especially rewarding because of the great success it enjoyed. Notable among the speakers (of which there were many) was Rev. Martin Luther King of bus strike fame. He called for a strong fight on behalf of Negro and black workers and an important one. It seems that only by catching up to their fellow white workers will they become conscious of the fact that wage slavery is every worker's road-block to true eman- tions, regardless of race, color, or creed.

THE DANGER OF DANGER:

We don't know whether to be amused or appalled by current dis- cussions regarding civilian Atomic Bombs. The very thought of a section of the human race reaching the point where they can have ridiculous discussions about the relative degree of danger from an atom explosion is frightening indeed.

This seems to us about as sane as (Continued on page 4)
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Rifts In Capitalist Imperialism

Since 1916, when Lenin wrote his famous book—"Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism"—much has happened, and it is happening in a very general way: The dominant imperialism, from the standpoint of the Marxist world-outlook, the passing of four world-shaking decades has substantiated Lenin's keen analysis, and while there has been no basic change in the historical process, there has arisen unforeseen shifts within the orbit of finance-capitalist imperialism.

The old struggle, the finance-imperialist rivalry, was fought out on both World Wars, is again looming large. A fierce competitive struggle for the world market is now in full swing and is forcing the "friendliest" of capitalist allies to compete with one another. The whole new economic and political channels. This development carries with it certain aspects and dangers which the keenest thinkers of forty years ago could not possibly visualize, even if they did recognize the general trend.

What we wish to stress is the changes that have taken place within the framework of capitalist-imperialism on the one hand, and on the other, that the capitalist world, which is now confronted by a powerful proletarian alliance—the workers' world—rapidly modernizing, getting stronger daily and quite prepared to defend itself should the finance-imperialists attempt to destroy it.

In 1914, Great Britain was the world's number one empire, both as regards to its territorial holdings and finance-imperialist investments. Its old political "balance of power" policy and its "two power standard navy" were shattered by the upsets of World War I. In 1917, its imperialistic Russian ally was overthrown by revolution. The British-speaking world, which Britain is now confronted by a powerful proletarian alliance—"the workers' world"—rapidly modernizing, getting stronger daily and quite prepared to defend itself should the finance-imperialists attempt to destroy it.

The British, for instance, have huge investments. The economic interests have been fortified by the monopoly stage, with the trustification of industry and the growth of the banking system, the great financial houses, commonly called, in America—"Wall Street." It has a finger in many national pies, and can operate successfully under the flags of other nations. Its operations are carried on through the banks and the diplomatic service.

According to current press reports, America's foreign trade with Japan amounts to 66 billion dollars this mark year. The exports do not account for all of this. Branches of U.S. companies, with factories located in other countries, and employing workers of those nations, with their monopoles and tax exempt privileges, are operated very profitably. This sharing in the exploitation of the workers of one land is one of the chief characteristics of finance-imperialism.

Before World War I, American finance-capital's foreign investments amounted to two or three billion dollars, and it was a debtor nation. It emerged from the war as the world's leading creditor nation and equal with, or more than, Britain in the field of foreign investments. Between the two wars it had reached to around 8 or 9 billions thus invested. By the close of World War II, by 1946, its foreign investment was reported to be between 13 and 14 billions of dollars. Today, apart from government loans, private and corporate investments outside of the U.S. is now well in advance of $38 billions.

The capitalist world, in general, is the field of finance-imperialism, and big business of all nations have their foreign investments. The U.S. Britain 'graciously' accepted the "generous" offer which took the form of the Five-Five-Three Agreement between the U.S., Britain and Japan. After that, Britain no longer "ruled the waves." In both World Wars, the German, French, and British navies, while the British navy, while American sea-power expanded tremendously. The U.S. Navy is now so far ahead that no other nation is likely to equal it. The British and French follow in third place, as the Soviet Navy has surpassed it.

Meantime, the U.S. had developed the A-bomb, and for a time was its only possessor. All this put America, as a power, well out in front. However, from many respects, is the greatest empire ever known. But, again, let us stress the fact that it differs from the older empires, such as the British, French, and Spanish. These territorial empires are not so outstanding, altho greater than ever, its money-bags, its economic power is colossal. The latter it wielded effectively in the modern financial system.

The American imperialists proclaim that their massive forces—spread throughout the world as they are, in close to sixty nations—have for their aim the defense of what they call "the free world." This self-imposed role of protector of capitalism, which they assert, is because the Soviet Union, Peoples China and their associate nations threaten world peace. This excuse, helps to hide, to a considerable extent, a fact that most that, in fact, do not dare or cannot face up to it. The same is true of those nations which are becoming more and more under Wall Street's thumb, is restive and an increasing demand is being made for the free-trade policy, in trade with its big neighbor, Peoples China.

During this post-war period, since 1945, the British and French empires have received some, staggering blows. They have resisted and are, still striving to salvage as much as possible but they have been forced to compromise and retreat from former strong positions. Under the American pressure, was removed, backed the stand of the United Nations which forced Britain and France to abandon their Egyptian adventure. The British, for instance, have huge investments. The economic interests have been fortified by the monopoly stage, with the trustification of industry and the growth of the banking system, the great financial houses, commonly called, in America—"Wall Street." It has a finger in many national pies, and can operate successfully under the flags of other nations. Its operations are carried on through the banks and the diplomatic service.

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Rifts In Capitalist Imperialism

(Continued from page 3)

former President Truman laments the trend and blames it upon the Eisenhower administration. He declared: "Our allies have come to the conclusion that they cannot trust our policy, that our country is not all that was admired and respected but our government has lost both confidence and respect." • • • "We seem to be slipping backward as the forces of Communism advance in the Middle East and Far East," John Brown, who writes on "The American Scene" in the British magazine "Contemporary Review," for May, says: Internationally, the emphasis is now on the Middle East. Ever since the United States decided to try fill the vacuum in the Middle East, caused by the abrupt ending of British and French influence in many Middle East countries, there has been a growing concern over the direction and scope of American foreign policy. There are those who feel that the Middle East is regarded by the Soviet Union as her soft under-belly which has to be protected at all costs. To th\n
Past, Present and Future

(Continued from page 2)

the benefactor of their labors. Obsessed by such well calculated scare the mass of workers, In America, have no confidence in a separate future of their own. They stick closely to the bosses' future, mistaking it for their own.

But history recognizes no delusions. It makes and unmakes them. The development of the latest feudalism was once such a delusion and the peasant fervently and submissively accepted such. But with the Reformation, and the rise of the bourgeoisie, that delusion was exploded. Equally with present-day delusions, they, too, can go by the board. Historical necessity works wonders in that way. What once was, became not, and what is, can equally fade away.

This fear of the future can best be reduced by understanding the character of the social process, the relation between the present and the future. No present can forever be contained in the past. The present is the germ or seed for the future. Unlike the dreamers or reformers who strive for a perfect, imaginary, ideal state of society, history has its own method of determining its future. The pattern of the future is always built from the materials of the present and not out of mental air.

We now return to a point that needs discussion, the laws that determined the change process. We will say no more about the changes in physical nature except that it is an internal development. In relation to society it, too, is an internal development that proceeds and develops through opposition of material forces. First you have the opposition or contradiction between social production—by labor and private appropriation—by capital. Secondly, as a result of that primary contradiction you have a secondary contradiction between capital and labor, known as the class struggle.

Capitalism, historically, has developed the means of production beyond its power to control them. Production has reached its possible social limits, virtually crying for a larger (than capital) free consumer to take it under its wings. It is akin to the new highways they are now forced to build for the new demands of increased auto traffic. The old roads just can't cope with the new demands.

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