Following the end of World War Two a new force emerged, the cold war, with new contestants and objectives. The old capitalist rivalry for profits, control over world markets and resources. Now the contest was between two rival social systems, capitalism versus socialism, with the United States and Soviet Union at the lead.

This war took on devisive forms, economic, political and military. The spark that signalled off this new form of battle was the Soviet Sputnik. By being the first nation to launch a space satellite, the Soviet Union has, in effect, made a bid for world leadership in science and technology. This was an invitation to battle. The capitalists know full well its immediate and ultimate effects. Its immediate meaning is linked up with the matter of intercontinental missiles, which obviously the Soviet Union has already mastered, thus upsetting the whole military position and plant of the capitalist powers. Of even greater portion is the matter of technology which is closely linked to the new capital and technology. It is characteristic of the class struggle that no phase of human endeavor is exempt. Every social field, material and spiritual, is affected.

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Unemployment

The new year commences with the grim prospect that unemployment now mounting, will snowball to over 5 million by the following month. February. That is not a pleasant greeting of a happy and prosperous New Year to the worker and his family who may fall into the army of unemployed.

That business is slipping is no longer a question. It has dropped noticeably during the past 6 months. That joblessness is rising is a hard fact. Unemployment jumped 680,000 from October to November of 1957, reaching 3,188,000. That is 500,000 more than a year ago for the month of November and the highest figure for that month in eight years. December, January and most likely February are expected to register increases to the point of a roll of joblessness.

The question is, will business pick up in the Spring, returning some of the unemployed to jobs? That is the big question.

It is being told that the present letdown in business is similar to the periods of 1953-54 and 1948-49 recession. Those recessions were short and the hope today is that the present will follow a similar pattern.

But there are signs that the present slowdown is more serious with less chance for quick recovery. During the 1953-54 and 1948-49 slowdowns, the housing and auto businesses, the mainstays of the post-war boom economy, were thriving, actually rising, despite the general letdown in other areas of the economy. But today housing construction is definitely down and the auto industry is not too encouraged. More than those two prosperous businesses, the 1948-1949 recession was laced by the Korean War in 1950. The recovery from the 1953-54 recession was hastened by business spending heavily on automation. Now that automated factories are more prevalent, the job-destroying effects of automation will make itself felt upon the American workers. In previous economic storms, the workers found shelter in a variety of jobs. Today, many of those jobs have been eliminated by automatic machines. Automation is sure to multiply the number of unemployed as never before.

Some union leaders looking ahead, aware of the implications of automation, are beginning to talk about a 30-hour work week and other share-the-work schemes. The capitalists, too, perhaps more so, are cognizant of the meaning of automation and are not asleep. The exposure of corruption in some unions by the Senate Rackets Committee may set the stage for the ultimate acceptance of anti-labor legislation. Restricting labor may have been the intent right along, by the capitalists thru the business Rackets Committee. Anti-labor legislation would be a mighty fine legal weapon for capital, especially during troubled times. The union movement as a whole may have fallen (Continued on page 2)

"Flop Heard Around the World"

As the old year was approaching an end, the United States made its first attempt (on Dec. 6) to launch an outer-space satellite which resulted in dismal failure. It was a let-down for the space program. As a fact the missile launching was well advertised in advance, that it would be successful, and the first of a series of launchings was planned for the Russian Sputnik's No. 1 and 2. The failure was such a bitter disappointment that it was echoed by the American press in a fine story, as e.g., the Chicago Sun Times which headlined it the next day as follows: "VANGUARD FLOPS—So Does Our Propaganda."
Science and the Materialist Concept of History

(Continued from page 4)

This standpoint involves the entire social organization, the form of the family, political form and structure, the religious ideas and setup, ethics, etc. all more or less reflect and correspond to the technological base. Given a major change in the latter it sooner or later forces changes in the superstructural forms. Systems inevitably suffer revolutionary change when their social relations or the setup have become outmoded or made obsolete by changes in the economic base or production forces.

The fate of feudalism was thusly sealed when the growth of industrial science, physics, against its narrow social bounds, with its serf-labor, guild system, restriction of the Church, etc. The rising industrial and merchant classes were to be strong enough to take the contest, established the then new social order, capitalism.

The struggles of the classes, between the bourgeoisie and feudal nobility were political (as all class struggles are) for reasons inherent in the power of the Church and its organic connection with the state, it took on, in instances, a religious form.

With the Mideast Red, or The World Is Doomed. He advises "another reappraisal" and talks with the Soviet Union. He happily put it, as follows: "The Spartak era has forced us into the grim realization that we no longer enjoy military supremacy.

He further concluded that "Like it or not, we may as well recognize that Russia and the communist countries are here to stay... that relations are greater in area, size, and population. Either we learn to live with them or the world faces destruction.

It all boils down to the question of "to be or not to be" but no one knows whether Wall Street will take Knight's advice, and his last warning that "Time is running out.

L. B. Wysocki

(Continued from page 1)

Repercussions of the "vanguard bungle" were felt in Great Britain also. There, the government was set to music, a biting calypso song with guitar accompaniment broadcast on the BBC television program, to wit: "Oh America comes the significant thought. "Their own little Sputnik won't go off. "They been pressing the button for a month or more. "But they can't get the blighter off the floor."

As for the Russians, it was said that they were very restrained in their behavior, they simply quoted the American press comments about the "vanguard flop," And, we may add, as for the class-conscious workers throughout the rest of the world, they are still laughing; and that, of course, you know, is a very good way to begin a New Year.

Bulgaria Haunts the NATO Eisenhower, Dulles, Wall Street & Company found it difficult to get the hundred percent support from their NATO "partners" for the missile-nuclear bases program against the Soviet Union. It was very evident that the Bulgarian letters offering "peaceful coexistence" (coupled with a warning to the West European nations, including Britain, that they face destruction) to the event the U.S. precipitates a world war have had its effect. The European nations, especially Norway, Denmark and West Germany, urged that the Soviet peace proposals be taken more seriously with a view to further negotiations and not merely dismissed, a la Dulles, as "propaganda.

HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 1)

In a trap in cooperating as much as they can with the instrument of capital, the Senate Rackets Committee... Since 1946 when the Employment Act was made into law, guaranteeing "full employment," the workers have been told that they don't have to worry about getting work. Also, since then, we've been assured of "built-in stability" in the economy. But those guarantees and assurances haven't stopped one capitalist from laying off workers (say, in a downturn and he couldn't make a profit on their labor. The government may give some unemployed jobs on public works but it has its limits. Reformers have tried to put it at thing but no cure of a permanent nature.

Unemployment is "built-in" in the capitalist system. Under capitalism, the means of production are privately owned and operated to make profits for their capitalist owners. When business is booming and profits are rolling into the coffers to no end they need. When business is on the decline, they lay off all they don't have use for. And the only time, jobs were to be had for the asking was during the war, its preparations and its aftermath: reparation periods. Other than that, capitalism has been in a general decline and in a state of economic crisis. Capitalist production tends to overtake the demand for its goods. Surpluses or inventories pile up, production is curtailed and workers are laid off. This is the "built-in" problem in the system. Social or collective production and individual appropriation is the contradiction that makes for unemployment. For the capitalists, this contradictory system means, wealth, power and a good life. For the worker it spells tragedy—insecurity and poverty.

The solution lies in resolving this conflict through the collective, social ownership of the means of production, and social appropriation of all that is produced. Of course, this could only be brought about by complete abolition of the capitalist system thru working class political action of the immense majority.

L. B.
PROLETARIAN NEWS
A Journal for the Working Class
Devoted to the Education of Workers and Their Struggle for Power
Published Monthly by the
Proletarian Party of America

Subscriptions—12 issues for $1.00
Send All Subscriptions, Contributions, Etc., to
PROLETARIAN NEWS
323 W. North Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois

January 1958

PROLETARIAN NEWS

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India, Indonesia and NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization)—whose military set-up was organized under Eisenhowser's direction—has, more or less, fallen apart. America is now long holding up its end of the loaf, and hoping that West Germany will be able to take over a larger share of the burden, so as to replace forces with- drawn by Britain and France. Thus, there is a serious crisis in west Europe, within NATO.

Capitalist "unity" cannot free itself from its own imperialist rivalry. The relentless economic war now going on, the battle of competi- tion for control of the "free enterprise" nations themselves— is dividing their ranks. Britain is feeling the weight of West Germany's competitive drive in the textile industry. Japan is capturing an increasing share of the world textile trade. Even in shipbuilding—recognized as one of Britain's top industries—Japan took first place in 1956.

In addition to the strenuous struggle amongst the imperialists themselves, the Soviet Union has penetrated, with its modern products, into countries once exclusively supplied by the "free enterprise" nations. The money lenders of certain nations and invested in their economy. It has supplied some of them with considerable quantities of modern armaments. Consequently, America—"the arsenal of democracy"—finds itself confronted with the new economic and political rivals, by the new "free enterprise" nations. The Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, and other workers' nations, have been supplying countries in the Middle East and in east Asia with modern armaments as well as various types of industrial equipment. This development also has contributed to the general economic crisis now building up to confront the western capitalist imperialists.

Capitalism has only a limited capacity for production, and to the endurance of its all-too-patent wage-slaves, whose bended backs are now carrying a tremendous burden. "It is the pinch of poverty which breaks the camel's back," and the western working class camel has about reached the exploitable limit. A new crisis is building up, with new problems crowding in upon top of the old ones. Strikes are breaking out in Britain and America, and joblessness is on the increase. Inflation has reduced real-wages, whether planned that way or not, and the workers are feeling the pinch. "It is not such an economic, too, so great that there is demand for fewer hours of toil. Hence, internal economic crises.

In eastern nations—India, Indonesia and others—the political drift is still left-wards. Those nations are transforming their economy, and, in so doing, they are looking less to the west for aid and more to Peoples China and the Soviet Union, and the countries of eastern Europe. Some of them have taken advantage of the competition between the two blocks of nations, and have taken assistance from both. "Competitive coexistence" is not exactly new. It has prevailed among the capitalist imperialist nations themselves, and is now a new implication, namely a competitive struggle between the allied working class nations, with their non-profit economy at home, and the capitalist nations with their profit motive economy.

The Soviet Union, Peoples' China and other working class nations have definitely become a force in the world market. Of course they have not yet acquired the strength to do battle with each other, but their products now penetrate into those sections of the world market which the western imperialists have regarded as their exclusive field.

This competition, however, works both ways. West Germany, for instance, is taking an increasing share of business with Peoples' China, and other countries allied with the Soviet Union. Britain, Japan and other capital- ists nations also operate within the economic sphere of the workers' nations. As commodities exchange at their value, this international trade is to their mutual advan- tage, and that will prevail so long as businesses in general expand. If the world market shrinks, or the volume of products increase beyond its capacity to absorb them, the com- petitve struggle will become fierce, and, as the world market has its limitations, the crisis of overproduction will ultimately manifest itself.

The new economic system, where a non- productive consuming class no longer exists, is certain to out-compete the capitalist nations, where a large portion of the produced wealth is appropriated by the ruling class. A terrific battle of free trade or no trade is the thing of just that sort of situa- tion. This is not dissociated from the arma- ments struggle. They go together.

While competitive armaments, and the war danger, may be the over-shadowing issue in the present crisis, its economic roots lie in the war between the "free enterprise" nations and the imperialists themselves, the profit and non-profit economy.

If the classless economy forces capitalism to cut prices to the bone, and taxation for arma- ments increases, the profit seekers in their despair may try to do so bold and lose an atomic war of destruction. As the capitalist world shrinks, and the workers world expands, a stage will ultimately be reached where the balance of power will shift to the new non-profit economy. It is at this turning point that a life or death crisis would face capitalism. Under such circumstances, will the rich rulers of capitalism submit to the inevitability of war, or will they seek to turn back the evolutionary tide?

While the answer to this question lies in the future, it is most unlikely that those rich ex- plorers, the multi-millionaires, will let this happen without eating their own "dogs of war." There is quite a number of rich American parasites, and some in high political places (not to mention those of Britain and other nations), who would sooner see the extermination of western capitalism, than to see a "free enterprise" nation lose its comparative market advantages.

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Hoping for peace but preparing for war is as old as capitalism. This contradictory position is the outcome of the inherent contradictions within capitalism. International business competition is the cause of modern war. And, so long as the struggle for the world market, and spheres of economic investment remains, so long will the war danger be with us. Both World Wars were brought on by this capitalist imperialist rivalry. And, as strong as ever. However, there is a new rearding factor, namely, fear of the workers world, fear of the U.S.S.R. and the nations allied with it.

Much of the world has already been lost to capitalism. The fear of losing the rest makes the imperialist shudder and is driving them to desperation.

The burden of armaments, by itself, will not bring capitalism to its knees, but it will be a component part of the process. This is already true, as we see the economic pressure under the load, and Britain is feeling the strain on its economic resources. Their advent in Egypt, a year ago, cost Britain fully a billion dollars. Britain and France have approximately half that sum, and the continual strain of the Algerian war has brought French imperialism to the breaking point. At this time (December 15th), the western imperialists are meeting at Paris to try bolster their broken ranks.

**The Modern Sword of Damocles**

"In this era of push-button war, one of the greatest hazards is how to keep some eager beaver from pushing the wrong button, thereby triggering the greatest war in history." **

Experts agree that half the planet could be destroyed before anybody discovered that it was all a mistake." (From the "Iron Age," August 30th, 1956)
WHAT'S COOKIN'. All this hulla-bloo about tightening our belts and going on a longer work-week in order to catch up to Russia lays us a little worried. The big guns in Washington are reporting the population of these United States is solidly behind a program for more work and less play in order to be first and best at everything including shooting the moon.

The thing that has us worried is who are all the empty-headed folks backing up these suggestions? So far we haven't met a one and we are aquainted with a lot of them. If anyone asks you for your opinion on the subject you might tell them this little piece of news recently released, to wit: The General Accounting Office (GAO) of the U.S. has accused the Army and Air Force of squandering weapons and money for the military foreign aid program. Comptroller-General, Joseph Campbell, sent a report to Congress in which GAO claimed U.S. objectives were unrealistic and financially unsound.

It seems this country has sent more arms than needed to some allies and not enough to others who could use them. Then too, the Allies haven't been pressured enough to carry their share of the load. As one might well guess, the report calls for big-budget changes and corrections of the situation, all of which will be duly investigated. (That is, unless higher taxes make it easier to purchase such squirming sums—such as the $24 billion for allied military aid appropriated since the end of World War II.)

* * *

U.S. has the fellow said when he cooked dinner while his wife was sick, "It's a mess, ain't it?"

GLOOMY FORECAST: 50 million American casualties or 40 billion dollars for bomb shelters is the recommendation of the Federal Civil Defense Administration (FCDA). It was, of course, based on the assumption that a third world war would break out. "There is conclusive evidence that the whole U.S. population of 180,000,000 would have to be protected on the coast and on islands, and we don't have the money to do it," FCDA said.

A SQUEAK AND A SQUAWK: The U.S. missiles and satellite program has been developing like an egg wagging down a slightly inclined board, and of course it sometimes wobbles right off the side of the board and ends up in a big yolk. The reason we are aware of this is it runs because of the tremendous reams of wrong information regarding missiles development available to the reading and listening public. When you add up the announced mistakes, apologetic investigations, speculations and calculations, you have a lot of useless words that leave you just about where you were before you were aware of such things as missiles and satellites.

From the experiences in this country one can develop a healthy respect for the Russian policy of announcing their advances as an accomplished fact and leaving the birth pains for the planners and developers who are going through them.

ASLEEP AT THE SWITCH: The mad scramble to capture the hearts and minds of what Vice President Richard Nixon calls the "uncommitted third" of the world's people has caused Uncle Sam to stumble over the feet of France, who is trying desperately to keep a toe hold in North Africa.

The U.S. decision to send arms to Tunisia over the bitter objection of France (too close a friend of a troubled Algeria) was hailed by some to be a decisive turning point in Americans' foreign policy.

We often wonder where these experts get their point of view. There is certainly nothing new in the idea of a capitalist nation dumping an old "friend" any time the situation demands it. France and the U.S. are bitter rivals for African markets and raw material and they will cut each other's throat every chance they get to win the day. This type of policy is not only not new but a basic characteristic of the capitalist form of economy. The fact the U.S. leadership is just waking up to the importance of the "uncommitted third" does not mean a new foreign policy but merely a change of direction. Look at the history of South America and it will tell you.

L.D.

Science and the Materialist Conception of History

(Continued from Page 2)
ena and in constant flux. The task of science is to keep gathering more knowledge about it all the time. And knowledge like the phenomena is an endless process.

The base for capitalist science is capital and its material interest. The base for socialist science is the material interest of the latter forms a wider, freer base. Mystery is necessary to an exploiting system. It seeks to perpetuate it. The wide circulation of mystery books and plays are evidence of its necessity. The fathoming of mystery thruly understanding is equally necessary to a socialist, free order.

In its efforts to catch up in science American capitalism will try everything thru inducements and attempts to popularization. To the extent that they do that they will hurt themselves. To encourage workers to think scientifically is dangerous. They may turn that scientific attitude to other social channels, commence asking questions why many things are as they are, what is the cause of this, that, and other thing?

On the other hand the entire set of social values under capitalism, the emphasis upon monetary success, the aim to struggle and work, the labor, etc., does not lend itself to a serious attitude and respect for knowledge and science, does not lend itself to study and investigation for the community when each one attempts to make good for and by himself. Two obstacles that will inevitably curb capitalist science are: first, practical conditions and resistance resulting from the capitalist philosophy of life; second, the idealist philosophical thinking of the scientists themselves. These are the conditions that give advantage to social science: first a new revolutionary socialist philosophy of life, where the interest of the individual is organically connected up with the wellbeing of the community; second, the scientific philosophy of Marxian dialectical materialism.

R. Daniels

The Irrreligious Wage-Worker

"The life led by the laborer in the great industries has removed him even more than the capitalist from the influences of the environment of nature which in the peasant kept up the belief in ghosts, in sorceries, in witchcraft and other superstitious ideas..."

"The labor of the mechanical factory puts the wage-worker in touch with terrible natural forces unknown to the peasant, but instead of being mastered by them, he controls them. The gigantic mechanism of iron and steel which fills the factory, which makes him move like an automaton, which sometimes catches him, mutilates him, bruises him, does not engender in him a superstitious terror as the farmer does in the country, but leaves him unmoved, for he knows that the limbs of the mechanical monster were fashioned and mounted by his comrades, and that he has but to push a lever to set it in motion or stop it. The machine, in spite of its miraculous power and productiveness, has no mystery for him.

"The laborer in the electric works, who has but to turn a crank on a dial to send miles of motive power to tramways or light to the lamps of a city, has but to say, like the God of Genesis, 'Let there be light,' and there is light. Never sorcery more fantastic was imagined, yet for him this sorcery is a simple and natural thing. He would be greatly surprised if one were to come and tell him that a certain God might if he chose stop the machines and extinguish the lights when the electric might had been turned on; he would reply that this anarchistic God would be simply a misplaced gear or a broken wire, and that it would be easy for him to seek and to find this disturbing God. The practice of the modern workshop teaches the wage-worker scientific determinism, without his needing to pass through the theoretical study of the sciences."

(From "Social and Philosophical Studies" by Paul Lafargue)