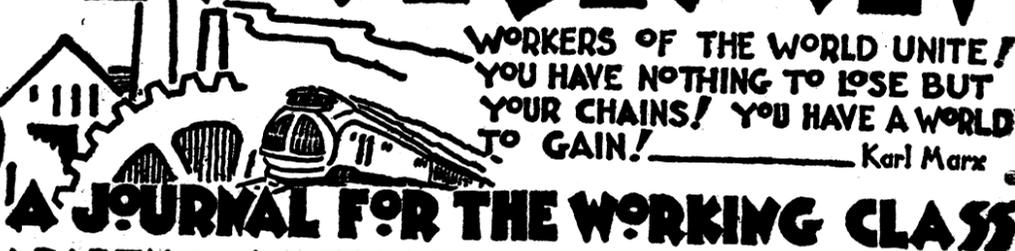


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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

ON WORKERS' RETIREMENT: The following was taken from a question and answer column in a local newspaper:

Question: "I have been retired with an income of \$69.85 a month. How can I live on that?" (K.R.W. asks this question.)

Answer: "You can't even afford to die on that."

Among the solutions suggested in the article to help KRW overcome his problem was: 1, to cuss out the government if he wished. This might give him some satisfaction but no extra soup; 2, go and live with relatives or apply to the Welfare Dept. for help and, 3, try to find a job and earn more money. Some of the job suggestions included baby-sitting, handyman, yard man, service man to upper-class families, companion, house keeper, secretary to a wealthy widow, etc. It was even suggested people go back to the kind of work from which they have retired. We think the reader will agree the suggestions are hardly worthy of the space upon which they are printed.

There was one bit of advice missing (naturally) from the list of ways and means of staying alive after 65. That advice is for retired persons to recognize the inability of the capitalist system of economy to give the vast majority of them a decent and respectable existence in the later days of their lives. And if one understands this he must remember one is never so old that he should retire or retreat from the fight to bring about a new society under socialism where the dignity of our senior citizens is not forgotten.

A golden opportunity to take an active part in the emancipation of all mankind is opened to the retired worker who enjoys (?) leisure time and a sense of the importance of rebuilding this world of chronic problems, not least among them the role of the retired worker.

We invite you to join the ranks of the Proletarian Party.

IT'S ALL IN THE POINT OF VIEW: In the true style of a salesman who can figure a way to turn almost any situation into an advantage, Ray R. Eppert, president of Burroughs Corp., says the recession has been good training for salesmen and managers. He called the recession a "healthy influ-

ence" which will bring nothing but good through "stimulated and renewed efforts."

These remarks, made before the Detroit Sales Executives Club, put us in mind of a conversation we recently had with an unemployed worker. This worker told us he was wondering (while standing in line at the unemployment compensation office one day) what the president of the company he used to work for was doing at that very minute. He said he figured the boss was being stimulated at the bar in his club after a healthy morning

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HOME SCENE

Republican Debacle

The election results in November were worse than the Republican Party had feared and better than the Democratic Party had hoped. From Maine to California, the Democratic tide inundated Republican office seekers and holders. The Democratic Party now controls about two-thirds of the members in both houses of Congress and close to three-fourths of the State Governorships.

This Republican Party debacle in the election occurred despite the President's vigorous campaigning in the several weeks before election, employing scare techniques, unique for the highest officeholder of the nation; and before him, for several months, the militant campaigning by the "expert and champion" Vice-President Nixon, in scare and smear techniques, stands monumental.

The political dopesters are attributing varied reasons for this debacle, but amidst them all, the decisive and pointed cause for the Republican Party collapse at the polls, was, the RECESSION. Some four million workers were still unemployed, and millions more were scared of losing "their" jobs, which was more "scary" than the Republican hogwash about the Democratic "radicals" leading the nation down the road of socialism.

It appears that the voters, at times, display long memories. Workers and small businessmen, urban and rural, associate the Republican Party with Big Business and the Big Depression of the 1930's. The Republican Party had not been able to eradicate that ominous association, in the minds

SOCIALISM IN PRACTICE

A social system, or economic order, like all things in life must prove itself, its right to existence and recognition, thru practice. "The proof of the pudding is in the eating."

The correctness of any theory, socialist included, can only be judged in the light of its practical application. Accordingly, one can no longer refer to socialism as a mere theory, a utopian dream or some such thing that can't be realized because it is contrary to human nature and existing social institutions, such as private property, religion and established gov-

ernment. The fact is that it is here and by all indications is here to stay.

Unlike fascism which made an unsuccessful bid to existence, with the exceptions of Spain and Portugal, which are still vegetating, socialism not only exists but is making progress. This proves its vigor and vitality.

Why was fascist existence so short-lived? Because the internal contradictions of capitalism which gave rise to it could not be completely eradicated. The capitalist economic premise of private property with its class relations was retained; hence also the problems that go with it remained. Whatever limited headway it made during its short stay was effected thru reaction, inhuman repression, violence and war. Instead of reconciling or removing the contradictions it intensified them, made them worse. Hence its demise.

Socialism commenced with the opposite premise, namely, that capitalism has already lived its social life; that capitalism's internal contradictions cannot be solved in any other manner except thru a complete revolutionary transformation from the economic foundation up, with private property turned into social property and the working class in complete charge of things. With the abolition of capitalism and capitalist domination all its major problems or contradictions are at once removed and a new socialist era commences. This is substantially what transpired wherever socialism took over.

To account for the phenomenal progress made by backward Russia (Soviet Union) in the economic and cultural fields, or by China in less than 10 years, is to the credit of the new socialist order, with inherent powers even greater than those released by early capitalism.

Admittedly capitalism has in centuries past revolutionized everything beyond the ken and capacity of feudalism, in production, commerce, navigation, science, in all avenues of social life. But socialism is surpassing the capitalist rate of progress. It is releasing new energies, mass energies previously stifled by exploitation, ignorance and class domination, generally.

of those people. Having suffered a couple of recessions under Eisenhower, a Republican, the electorate feared the oncoming of another big depression and turned on that "Grand Old Party."

The Democratic Party, on the other hand, is reputed to be willing to spend large sums of money, billions if need be, to alleviate suffering, prime the economic pump, to get the economy off ground floor. Those are the traditional feelings on both capitalistic parties by the present generation of voters.

During the 1920's, this country was enjoying one of the greatest booms in all its history, with the Republican Party at the helm. Hoover, running for Presidency, in 1928, promised "a chicken in the pot and 2 cars in every garage." We all know what happened in 1929. Since then, the Republican Party has been associated with hard times—depressions.

F. D. Roosevelt, the Democrat, elected in 1932, brought forth the New Deal and the spending spree, in an effort to get out of the depression. When World War Two broke out in 1939, there were still 10 million unemployed in this nation, despite all the schemes and billions spent. It took that bloody mess to break the depression and put the unemployed back to work.

The Democratic Party is just as indissolubly linked to hard times and depressions as its twin capitalist brother, the Republican Party. So, too, is the Republican Party just as indissolubly linked to war periods as its other half, the Democratic Party. Hard times and wars have taken place during both their

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

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in the Florida sun telling his friends what a good thing this recession was for making everyone realize what healthy stimulation there was to be found in a depressed economy.

GOOD ADVICE: We couldn't help but agree with the Rev. Theodore Henry Palmquist, of Washington, when he told a national meeting of Methodists in Chicago that, "we are outnumbered by the colored races of the world almost 6 to 1 and we had better join the human race before it is too late."

Of course we find it difficult to take his advice and join the human race in a society that breeds war, depression, insecurity, jangled nerves and a form of individualism that can only lead to a dog eat dog existence on the world scene as well as in our daily struggle to stay alive. In fact, we cannot join the "human race" at all until we throw off the yoke of capitalism and all the inhuman characteristics that go with it.

Only by establishing socialism is it possible to do away with these most devastating and destructive of human activities.

With all due respect to Rev. Palmquist, the sooner the better. And you can help!

DELINQUENT PARENT: France wasted no time in taking action against French Guinea when that country voted for independence in elections to accept or reject the new French constitution. The Paris government is pulling out French administrators as well as cutting out all economic assistance immediately.

Thus this little country on the coast of Africa has been dumped on the door step of the world to be picked up by the first power to make the best offer.

One editorial put the time table for Guinea's future action as follows: "A first request for United States' aid and a dozen Sherman tanks will arrive in Washington about Thanksgiving. If a favorable response is not at once forthcoming, New Guinea will report a threat of Communist aggression some time between then and Christmas."

And we might add that the other allied powers will be mad at France for unceremoniously dropping another problem child on the

world market without so much as a backward glance.

WANTED: NEW NAME. It's getting so a real radical will have to find a new description for himself. What good rebel or even left-winger would want to be identified with what tricky Dick Nixon calls "Radical" Democrats.

FRIEND OF LABOR? — Victor Riesel, now famous labor reporter for the American press and radio has taken advantage of the publicity afforded him since his unfortunate acid blinding accident of three years ago. He has set himself up a self-styled friend of labor and spokesman for capitalism all at the same time.

This was made most evident in a recent article written for a British magazine. In the article Riesel "advised" British labor unions to copy the U.S. labor movement and take a stake in the capitalist system themselves. He suggested they invest their money in industry to help keep it going as a means of enjoying a larger slice of the profit pie. He pointed out that the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (for example) had used the techniques of capitalism in investing over \$20,000,000 in the construction industry to help keep building firms in business.

This is a typical point of view among many self-appointed champions of labor. The success of a U.S. labor union, and its leadership seems to be measured in terms of the number of dollars skillfully invested. We hope the British workers will be class conscious enough to realize that in turning a labor union into an investment brokerage house the rank and file become mere supporters of a leadership dedicated to the preservation of capitalism.

In this process of reasoning it is simple to see the workers' daily interests become secondary to the larger problem. They must compromise their demands for the "common good" because they are told they have a "stake" in capitalism.

Mr. Riesel is doing a yeoman service for the capitalist class in this country where that ground work has been well laid. Class-conscious workers can only hope his salesmanship is less effective abroad.

L. D.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There is much "unfinished business" left over on the agenda for the new year, to cite a few of those difficult world problems.

For example, the French ruling class, in spite of its brutal attempts at suppression, has not been able to crush the rebellion of the natives of Algeria.

The British imperialists have similar troubles with the natives of Cyprus who periodically resent British rule over them in a forceful manner.

Then there is the "Berlin dispute." The Russians proposed that all occupying powers, including themselves, get out of Berlin and leave it in the hands of its inhabitants, the German people. Thus the dispute of whether Berlin should be entirely under capitalist or working class rule could be more easily decided.

But the American ruling class was horrified over such a "solution," and threatened to go to war over it. The Russians replied, in

SOCIALISM IN PRACTICE

(Continued from page 1)

This bids fair to gain even greater momentum in proportion as the new foundation is firmly cemented, old capitalist attitudes and prejudices removed, outside interference diminishes.

It must be recognized that even tho the ultimate goal of socialism or communism is a completely classless and stateless society in which the economic principle of "each according to his ability and to each in accordance with his needs" obtains, practical considerations in the first stage do not as yet permit of that situation. There is as yet sufficient internal opposition, physical and mental, which needs control, guidance and re-educating. Old concepts and attitudes must be overhauled and demonstrated by experience to be against the common good. A new ideology must be established. The transformation of human nature is not only a possibility; it is an actuality which takes many years to achieve. Defense against foreign capitalist interference must be provided for. That is the meaning of the socialist state. It is the guarantee for the protection of the building of the new order.

The maintenance of a modern state power is an expensive business which is a drain upon any economy, socialist included. Such prodigious funds should otherwise go towards the more constructive uses of the economy. It is envisaged that when class relations permit of the disbanding of the state apparatus that such funds will be diverted to productive use. That is the meaning of the "state dies out." The state as such cannot be abolished overnight. By a process of time and circumstances when the need for it gradually disappears, then it becomes a needless, a useless institution. It dies because of lack of function.

The constructing of socialism, or its practice is unlike that of erecting a building where you have a definite blueprint and the required physical materials. Socialism is not a blueprint wherein all the details can be worked out beforehand or a priori. It is based upon the Marxian materialist philosophy which premises the general objective of a classless society. It has to be constructed with the material ready to hand. It is HUMAN material that has lived under capitalist conditions of life, with all its prejudices, class concepts of right and wrong, attitudes towards work and payment, etc. It is this human material that has to do the reconstructing while it

effect, that should such a war occur, what with modern missile weapons, its destructiveness would reach the American continent also.

We don't know whether everyone is looking forward to a "happy new year." However, it's bound to be anything but a dull year.—A.W.

is being reconstructed itself, simultaneously. It is a dual process of building with one hand and tearing down with the other. The capitalist class elements. The opposition, both inside and out, must be watched and combatted. Anti-socialist ideology must be fought and rendered harmless.

That is no easy task and mistakes have been committed. They are an unavoidable part of the social process of building a new society out of and amidst the old. Marxians have never claimed to be free of error. They do, however, see the relation between error and truth, and that as errors are corrected, truth emerges. We learn from mistakes.

Over the years many have turned against socialism because of certain happenings in the Soviet Union; for example, some of their purges, the repressive means employed, the squelching of the Hungarian insurrection, etc. No one is denying that repression has been used; no one is denying that there is no complete freedom there for everyone. But then, could it have been otherwise and the socialist foundation still retained?

Suppose they had allowed more freedom, might it not have degenerated into victory for counter-revolution and capitalism? That situation seems to have proved itself pretty well in the example of Hungary where they were carrying this "freedom" principle too far, practically right into the hands of the capitalists.

The question of freedom and necessity are clearly integrated. One does not exist without the other. The conditions of material necessity determine how far one can go on with freedom. And as long as class conditions obtain, freedom can never be more than class freedom. Any other freedom is vague and abstract.

The primary problem is to first settle with the problems and contradictions of capitalism. That is achieved thru social revolution. The post revolutionary problems are for socialism and the working class to manage. They are socialist contradictions and difficult but worthwhile. They require patience and willingness to sacrifice and understanding. Those who have deviated or even "fled" from behind the iron-curtain, so-called, are either of the propertied classes outright, or didn't possess the vision or will to sacrifice a little today for more tomorrow.

But despite all, and amidst deviations, mistakes and zig-zags, the socialist part of the world is progressing and building the new world and new man. Its inherent strength is overcoming obstacles one after another equally as its accomplishments keep growing.

Barring another war, which socialism seeks fervently to avoid, this new order will soon amaze the world with its doings.

R. Daniels

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OUTLOOK FOR 1959

It is natural for both capital and labor to be concerned about the future, hence, at this time, that inevitable question: "What will the New Year bring?"

The capitalists, of course, want greater profits. Cheered by the pick-up in business early in December, their spokesmen made a forecast, but with "guarded optimism," that things will be better in 1959. They said that although one can't expect a real "boom," nevertheless it will be a "good solid year." Whether this will prove to be more than just a wishful prediction remains to be seen.

One thing is certain, the year just ended was not considered a good one. The business recession caused curtailment in production, thereby reducing the gross national product from a high of \$445 billion in 1957 to a lower rate running at \$425 billion in the first quarter of 1958. This reduction was not such a big one to the capitalists as a whole, but it was enough to throw many workers out of their jobs.

By June 1958 the jobless reached a total of 5.4 million "registered unemployed." When we add to that figure the many unfortunate jobless workers who were not covered by unemployment compensation, including also those who had exhausted it, the estimates ran as high as 7 million totally unemployed.

This sudden throwing of so many millions of workers out of their jobs could only happen under Capitalism, in so-called "free America." It could never happen under Communism, where the workers own the industries collectively. As a matter of fact every worker is fully employed in such working class countries as the Soviet Union and Peoples China.

The Industrial Reserve Army

In spite of the revival of business just before Christmas, there still remained around 4 million unemployed. What are the chances of these workers becoming rehired? Very slim indeed! They are no longer needed in industry. Machines have taken their place. Automation and mechanization went on apace. In the battle of competition, the business recession, in many instances, spurred on the capitalists to cut their cost of production by replacing men with machines.

Furthermore, such basic industries as steel and automobiles have over-expanded through the years, far beyond the capacity of the market to absorb its huge quantities of products. The result is that the steel industry, operating today at less than 75 per cent of its capacity, can amply supply the present market demand for steel with a much smaller working force than formerly, and still guarantee its stockholders a substantial profit. Only the workers are the losers, but not the capitalists.

It is now conceded that even with a full business recovery, millions of workers will remain without work. Thus we see how the perfection of machinery, made by competition compulsory for each capitalist manufacturer, company or corporation, causes a constantly growing displacement of the workers from their jobs.

Many years ago, Marx and Engels, great working class leaders and thinkers, foresaw this development in the capitalist mode of production and showed how in the course of time machines displace workers, thereby creating

what Engels termed a permanent "industrial reserve army" of unemployed. This jobless "army" was used as a lever by the capitalists to keep down to a minimum the wage-demands of the workers still on the job.

Unemployment has become a permanent feature of the "American way of life." Capitalism cannot solve this problem because its system, based on the exploitation of labor and production for profit, is the direct cause of it. Only the workers, the modern proletarians, can solve the problem of unemployment. They will have to abolish capitalism and replace it with a system based on production for use and the needs of the whole of society, i.e., by socializing the industries.

"Built-in Stabilizers"

The American public is constantly deluged with assurances by capitalist spokesmen that never again will the nation be plunged into a big depression like that of the 1930s with its many business and bank failures, and its massive peak of 17 million unemployed.

This time, we are told, there is "protection" against that, the government "built-in stabilizers," unemployment insurance, federal, state, and local spending on highway projects, housing, slum clearance, public works, etc. And, of course, there is "defense spending" for the armed forces, the \$41 billion appropriation for guns, aircraft-carriers and submarines, jet planes, nuclear weapons and bombs, and the latest missile-rocket, satellite development, etc.

But the use of such "built-in stabilizers" to restore ailing business is nothing new. They have been tried before without success, as, e.g., the New Deal measures begun in 1933 by the Roosevelt administration. Such "priming the pump" measures did not bring back prosperity; it took World War Number Two (1939-45) to do that.

Inflation and High Prices

One thing that governmental spending does do, it causes inflation, a lowering of the value of the dollar, and its consequence, high prices of all commodities. And capitalist governments cannot prevent this.

The total government budget approximates \$80 billion for the year 1959. The government gets its money for this mainly through taxation and revenue. It's out of this source that it will have to pay for all those "built-in stabilizers." But the government budget is insufficient to cover all the expense, and already a \$12 billion deficit is envisaged. This will tend to increase the total governmental debt now around \$280 billion.

Where will the money come from to cover the government deficit? It will come from the usual source, through borrowing from the banks. In return the banks receive government bonds which can be used by them as backing for issuing new paper currency. This is an inflationary factor.

Inflation hits the vast majority, the working people, harder than any other section of the population. It means a lowering of the value of the dollar; more of them must be paid for purchases. The costing of living goes up. Especially hard hit by high prices of the necessities of life are those living on "fixed incomes," the jobless workers receiving unemployment compensation, and the more than ten million retired, old-aged people, the recipients of pensions and that thing called "social security benefit."

Most of these people are already paupers, proving that Karl Marx was right when he said that, under capitalism, "The modern laborer . . . instead of rising with the progress of industry, sinks deeper and deeper below the conditions of existence of his class. He becomes a pauper, and pauperism develops more rapidly than population and wealth."

It is remarkable that in spite of the large

surplus of goods on hand, prices did not come down to any appreciable extent during the 1958 business recession. Of course, the inflationary factor played a part in this.

But also, having its effect was the curtailment in production by the capitalists taking the advice of their own "economists" who had right along been urging that unless the inventories were reduced, normal business could not be restored. Thus, although, inventories (surplus goods) were kept from increasing, nevertheless they are still high, at approximately \$49 billion worth of "manufacturers finished goods" glutting the warehouses — and this, in spite of the high-pressure selling to reduce them. The suggestion that inventories could be further "reduced," and quicker, by lowering the prices, is not favored by the capitalists; for obvious reasons, there is very little, if any profit in that.

Overproduction and Competition

By acknowledging that inventories are too high, the capitalists inadvertently have given further proof of the Marxian theory of the contradictory nature of capitalism, of its economic crisis of overproduction. Attempts were made by the capitalists in the Depression of the 1930s to solve this problem by deliberate destruction of part of the surplus goods. However, this proved to be unprofitable even though it tended to bolster prices. Furthermore, destruction of goods, especially foodstuffs, was resented by the hungry masses, it tended to make them more rebellious.

American capitalists try to sell their surplus goods on the world market. But here, ironically, they are getting tough competition from their own "allies" (Britain, France, Western Germany, etc.) whom they helped to get on their industrial feet in the early post-war years. As a result, American exports dropped by 3 billions of dollars during 1958, from a high of \$19 billion to an approximate low of \$16 billion, toward year's end.

In the past, this cut-throat competition between capitalist nations, for control of the world market, resulted in two World Wars.

And now the whole capitalist world is confronted with a new world competitor, the working class nations, Soviet Union, Peoples China, and the East European Democracies. The latter are doing "good business" in the game of "competitive coexistence" especially with the smaller and "under-developed" nations of Asia, Africa, and Latin-America with whom they have mutually beneficial trade relations with "no strings attached."

It is not a very bright outlook for world capitalism. It cannot even boast of complete monopoly of the two thirds of the world left for it to exploit. Only a capitalist will shed tears over this, but not the exploited masses.

American Labor's Political Plight

The recent strikes of American workers in the automobile industry, in air transportation, farm equipment industry, etc., should be sufficient proof that henceforth they will get more opposition to their wage-demands. Competition is forcing the capitalists to cut production expenses, and in the future they will be more inclined to give wage-cuts than increases.

Organized labor (AFL-CIO), in the main, voted the "Democratic ticket" in the last election. Now it is beginning to dawn on the workers that they are still being exploited. But their own labor "leaders," like Reuther & Co., are not in favor of working class political action. The workers are going to learn the hard way, through their bitter experience.

There is no way for the workers to rid themselves of their exploiters and misleaders but through revolutionary working class political action, through the Proletarian Party way, that has for its objective the complete abolition of capitalism.

Al Wysocki

A LOOK AROUND

A WORD ABOUT CHANGE: Two tiny countries on the huge continent of Africa have decided to join hands in an effort to break down national barriers and form the nucleus of what they hope will become the Union of West African States.

The new republic of Guinea, formerly a French colony, and Ghana, before 1957 a British possession, "inspired by the 13 American colonies," have proclaimed a new republic.

It should be important for all of us to see this trend continuing throughout the world. It is the embryo form of a new development among countries once held back by the heavy hand of colonial oppression. Unity among nations (especially small nations) is a necessity of survival in a world of specialization. Technical development demands the pooling of resources and abilities if a somewhat equal advancement of mankind is to be realized. Held back for years

by colonial domination, the new leadership of recently liberated countries are pinning hopes for their success on an ability to expand their countries' facilities. If this requires merging with other countries, than reactionary elements imbued with nationalist or chauvinist ideas must and will be swept aside along with their personal or selfish motives, sometimes peacefully, sometimes violently, depending upon their strength. Here again we see economic necessity kicking over institutions and traditions when they no longer fit the conditions of life.

We point this out for those who would despair over the reactionary conditions of life the working class movement in this country finds itself in today. To them we would like to say—one thing in life is certain — that is, change. But change can be best effected by those who do not sit idly by and wait for rot and deterioration to close in during the process. We

urge you to join our ranks and take an active part in the greatest change of all—that is the change to socialism. Only by active participation and self-conscious action can the working class capture state power and thereby lay the foundation for a society where the fruits of labor will belong to those who produce the wealth.

ON THE TREADMILL OF INFLATION: Uncle Sam is about to go on a savings bond selling spree according to recent reports. It seems the public debt is such that all stops are out in a drive to figure ways to ease the shock of next year's national budget. The Government feels a campaign to sell more Series E Savings Bonds will help the treasury out of a jam. For more than two years they have been paying out more money for redeemed E bonds than they have been taking in from the sale of new ones.

Proof of the failure inherent in the idea of Savings Bonds during inflationary periods is indicated in rumors that the Treasury Dept.

may ask Congress to up the current 3¼% interest rate to make the bond drive more attractive.

Buyers have long since learned the fact that a so-called gain from \$18.75 at purchase to \$25.00 eight years later (\$6.25) is more than offset by the inflation of U.S. currency. (\$25.00 today will buy you fewer goods and services than \$18.75 could 8 years ago.) Raising the interest rate will merely mean paying out more watered money a few years hence, repeating the same process again.

One can see from the above outline the hopeless task facing those who strive to keep alive a system of economy no longer able to function properly on even the most elementary level of check and balance. It is time we stopped standing by watching a few witch doctors trying to patch up a sick and dying economy with their magic tricks. It is time we turned our attention and activities to building a new world under socialism where "interest, profit and rent" will become words we can drop from our vocabulary. L.D.

HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 1)

regimes. Both are capitalist parties to the core. Their differences, at most, is one of method, not objective—they are both foresworn to defend the capitalist system.

The Democratic Party, since the inauguration of the New Deal, in 1933, more so than the Republican, is committed to state capitalism, attempted regulation and control of the nation's economy to prevent or forestall economic pitfalls and try to keep on the prosperity track at all times. "Modern Republicanism," such as Eisenhower and other liberal Republicans advocate, is essentially in agreement with such policies. Some of the Old Guard Republicans are still looking backward to the old style capitalism with its rugged individualism. They are politically blind and lost.

The Democratic Party's initiative in establishing the New Deal

with its reforms, has given it a workingman's coloring, even tho it stands foursquare for capitalism. On the other hand the Republican Party's long fight against the New Deal and its reforms had given it an anti-labor, anti-small people reputation, even though today, many Republicans endorse or at least go along with the state capitalism order. But the Republican Party's long fight against the reforms is long remembered by the voters and especially in hard times during which the Republicans don't seem to stand a ghost of a chance in elections. The workers have yet to learn that the Democrats with their reforms are essentially as much anti-labor as the Republicans.

"Right-to-Work" Issue

In five of the six states, where the "right-to-work" issue was on the ballot, it was defeated in the

November elections. California, Ohio, Colorado, Idaho and Washington rejected the measure. Kansas, alone, predominantly, an agricultural state, approved the measure. Thus nineteen states now have right-to-work statutes on the books, with Indiana alone, amongst them, as a recognized industrial state.

Proponents plugging the enactment of the "right-to-work" proposition, were such employer groups as the National Association of Manufacturers, Chambers of Commerce and various "right-to-work" committees; whose organizations are dominated by medium-size employers, amongst them some of the most reactionary elements, politically, in the nation.

Opponents of the measure, were organized labor and their sympathizers, plus liberals in and out of politics.

Whenever something "big and dirty" is attempted by capital over labor, it is neatly wrapped and packaged, with high sounding, respectable titles and terms. Raising an army by draft or conscription is too crude and open, so it is now refined as "selective service." So, too, the "right-to-work" measure, which is designed to outlaw the closed shop, union shop and other forms of compulsory unionism.

Contrary to its suggestive sounding, the "right-to-work" measure has nothing to do with the workers' right to a job. Under capitalism, the workers are employed ONLY when it is profitable for the capitalists to employ and exploit the laborers. The so-called "right-to-work" is fictitious and anti-labor.

Many large-scale employers, for-

merly anti-union, have come to accept unionism as a necessary "evil" in modern times. These see in unions, a disciplinary force for the good of labor-management relations. Even large-scale organized resistance by the unions to capital, may be preferable to the latter than multiple large-scale disorganized resistance to capital in its exploiting process, especially since the official unions are not against the capitalist system as a whole.

However, it is different with the small and middle layers of the capitalist class. To them, unions are a hindrance to their unrestricted desire and usages to exploit labor and improve their competitive position. That is why their hearts bleed for the "right-to-work" laws, for labor's benefit, of course, they tell you.

The right-to-work issue brings to mind the pamphlet: "The Right To Be Lazy," by Paul Lafargue, son-in-law of Karl Marx. In it, Lafargue satirizes and castigates the French workers for their passion for work and the resultants thereof.

It is noteworthy that work per se, is repugnant to the idle rich and they avoid it as they would a plague. The right-to-work is for labor and its meaning to capital is the right to work the workers without hindrance of labor organization.

The workers' watchword must be to enjoy the fruits of their labors. That they will come to only when they are free of the capitalist cliches such as the "right-to-work" and other such nonsense, by taking over the means of production for the benefit of the toilers. L.B.

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