

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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THE ANTI-LABOR CLIMATE

The long embittered steel strike, the passage of the "killer" labor Landrum-Griffin bill, strongly indicate the anti-labor climate prevailing in the nation. Capital, firmly entrenched here at home, seems intent now on erasing some of the innocuous political and economic reforms gained by labor during the social crises experienced by the capitalists in the past few decades. Labor, on the other hand, while organized in large numbers, unconscious of its larger class interests and goal (in fact, supporting the policies of its enemy, capital) is on the defensive.

The passage of what George Meany, head of the American union movement, termed the "killer" bill, the Landrum-Griffin law, should (but probably won't) once and for all dispel the cultivated notion that labor in America is all-powerful, politically and economically. The propaganda that American labor is so powerful, that its strength needs to be balanced for the good of the nation, greased the way for the passage of the Taft-Hartley, slave-labor law and now the "killer" Landrum-Griffin law. The fact of the matter is that labor in this country never attained the stature even in name as its brothers across the seas. It never had a political party of its own with influence. Its book membership, now of around 18 million, is no threat to the capitalist political parties extant, Republican and Democrats. Its numerical and organization force is dissipated in the search for friends amongst its enemies, capitalist politicians.

But labor's very "friends," liberals, elected last year to Congress, could not stop the "killer" bill and some even supported the restrictive measure. This new law, seemingly beneficial to labor with its "bill of rights" and financial accounting, establishes the right and duty of the capitalist government to intervene in the internal affairs of the unions.

Intervention in the internal affairs of unions, once breached could be extended, to the now imposed "bill of rights" and financial accounting. Candidates for union office, may, for example, have to get government approval, judging by the mood of Congressional investigators. Once the government

has its foot in, the union's business is restricted, hampered and obstructed. Politically, American labor has rarely been so weak as now. The last two national reform legislative pieces, the Taft-Hartley and Landrum-Griffin laws are reforms aimed to weaken labor.

While the American trade union movement never wetted its feet for independent political action, sticking to its threadbare policy of "rewarding friends and punishing enemies," outside its own ranks, it was proud and boasted of its economic actions of pressing for immediate and minute demands; with the capitalists as rapacious as ever and the workers as defenseless as yesterday. That is inherent in the industrial jungle with an outmoded and limited policy of "a fair day's pay for a fair day's work."

Today, with war and postwar labor shortages at an end, plus the coming-in-on-its-own of automation, the capitalists are in the driver's seat and are asserting their favorable position. The trade unions are floundering on the rocks of automation with its attendant technological unemployment. Their traditional policies are inadequate to meet the changing times. They appear hopelessly out of step and at a loss for constructive solutions, with their traditional, outmoded, 19th century palliatives.

The stumbling block in the steel, waterfront and other industrial strife-ridden conflicts is primarily over work rules. It is more than a coffee break issue. It is over, mainly, "what constitutes a fair day's work for a fair day's pay." The capitalists charge the workers with "featherbedding"—the use of too many men to do the job. While the unions countercharge, that the bosses are seeking unrestricted speed-up practices, a free hand to sweat and rob the workers of their last ounce of energy.

While isolated cases of "featherbedding" may exist, the capitalist

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ATTENTION — The October issue of Proletarian News was not published due to lack of funds. However, we thank those readers who helped make possible this issue. If you have not yet contributed, send whatever you can; it will be most helpful.

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CAN NATIONS DISARM?

During Soviet Premier Khrushchev's visit to the U. S. in September he broke out with the surprise proposal of total disarmament. Some labelled it propaganda; others utopian. Whatever the motive, it must be recognized that it was a responsible man talking, representing a first-rate power, and he wasn't exactly talking through his hat. For no one better than Khrushchev is aware of its immediate impracticability and the reasons for it. Yet in full knowledge thereof he advanced it; first, as an expression of the universal hope for peace; secondly, because of socialism's anticipation of a world in which war will have become an anachronism.

It is difficult for the bourgeois mind to conceive of a world without police and armies. An armed force is just as natural to them as graft is to politics. Private ownership of property is also just as natural to them as eating. It is essential to all social systems based on exploitation, and the state or police force is equally necessary for the enforcement of their "law and order."

Any suggestion of a socialized property or a stateless society is unthinkable to the bourgeois mind. Nevertheless, there is a growing recognition of the "evil" aspect of this so-called natural condition (capitalism), that it is rapidly getting out of hand. The enormously growing burden of modern armaments, through taxation, has become a directly threatening force to the profit structure, posing the following dilemma: that the force it is building to secure its existence is becoming the means of upsetting that very existence. This is the contradiction implicit in the present missile-armaments race, and we think both sides are aware of it.

Marxism sees the question of the state and armaments in a different light, not as god-given or nature-imposed, but as an outgrowth of social conditions. Society in its development gives rise to certain institutions and forms suitable and necessary to its exist-

ence. As society changes, old systems give way to new ones, corresponding changes take place in the entire social superstructure affecting its politics, philosophy, religion, art, etc. Everything, social, changes correspondingly to fit into the new way of economic existence, i.e., the new mode of producing the necessities of life.

The state as a social institution did not always exist. The pre-civilized societies, known as savagery and barbarism, knew no such organ. The reason is obvious, they had no need of such. In their primitiveness and simplicity they were self-governing. Unlike today, the entire people bore arms with no fear that it would lead to internal disorder. In times of peace these weapons were used for economic purposes, hunting, etc. In times of war whole tribes engaged in battle against rival tribes. Essentially there was no social cleavage, the economy was communistic, property owned in common. These, therefore, were classless societies, with neither poor nor rich, masters nor slaves.

It is only with the development of private property during the later stages of barbarism, at the dawn of ancient civilization that the state arose. It was the answer to a social need begotten by new social and economic conditions. It had a function to perform. What was that new social condition? It was private ownership of property and the exploitation of labor.

Classes had developed, rich and poor, property owners and propertyless, masters and slaves. Now society was no longer a homogeneous unit. It was internally torn by civil strife born of economic differences. No longer could the whole people be trusted with arms. They might use them against their exploiters and masters. They had to be disarmed, which they were. Now a special and separate force was set up and with police power, to keep the slaves and the poor in their "proper place." That was the function of the state, as Engels said in his "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State" (pp. 206, Kerr ed.), as follows:

"The state, then, is by no means a power forced on society from

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outside; neither is it the "realization of the ethical idea," the image and realization of reason, as Hegel maintains. It is simply a product of society at a certain stage of evolution. It is the confession that this society has become hopelessly divided against itself, has entangled itself in irreconcilable contradictions which it is powerless to banish. In order that these contradictions, these classes with conflicting economic interests, may not annihilate themselves and society in a useless struggle, a power becomes necessary that stands apparently above society and has the function of keeping down the conflicts and maintaining 'order.' And this power, the outgrowth of society, but assuming supremacy over it and becoming more and more divorced from it, is the state."

In the same work, Engels says "We have seen that an essential mark of the state consists in a public power of coercion divorced from the mass of the people," (p. 142) and further declared, to wit:

"The state is the result of the desire to keep down class conflicts. But having arisen amid these conflicts, it is as a rule the state of the most powerful economic class that by force of its economic supremacy becomes also the political ruling class and thus acquires new means of subduing and exploiting the oppressed masses. The antique state was, therefore, the state of the slave owners for the purpose of holding the slaves in check. The feudal state was the organ of the nobility for the oppression of the serfs and the dependent farmers. The modern representative state is the tool of the capitalist exploiters of wage labor." (pp. 208-209)

There should be little ambiguity as to the origin and function of the state. Dominantly and essentially it is an instrument of class subjugation. It is seldom recog-

nized as that, concealed as it is by functions of a secondary nature, such as police directing traffic, etc. Its real importance asserts itself in case of strikes and civil disorder. Then the iron heel steps forward.

The state has additional property responsibilities (1) to regulate and reconcile the diverse interests among the property owners, so that "fair play" is rendered to all according to the rules of competition and exploitation; (2) externally to promote and spread the influence and domination of its ruling class beyond its borders in exploiting other peoples and territories. It is thus an organ of class subjugation and an instrument of war.

Why is it so necessary to inquire into and understand the conditions and basis of the state? Because if the same or similar conditions still attain it follows logically that the state, coercive power, cannot be dispensed with. For ruling class nations to disarm means the abolition of the state. For armed force is the essence of the state, without which it is but a shell.

In looking over the many, many wars over the centuries, we find that armies were built and maintained at the expense largely of the propertied classes for the furtherance and protection of their economic interests. Regardless of whether they were fought under the guise of religious, moral or political ideals, invariably they could be traced down to the cold economic interests spearheaded by the master class. Under conditions of private property it could not be otherwise. With the growth of capitalism the trend has been for more frequent wars, on a larger scale with greater arms and armies.

It has now reached a point bordering upon the fall of capitalism and the negation of private ownership of property in any form.

Capital is the last form of private property. The capitalist state is the last ruling class state. Following that is the socialist state, the dictatorship of the proletariat, which is not a ruling class state anymore. It is a workers' state which exists not for the purpose of maintaining class rule, but to abolish it and all class distinctions. That is why a socialist nation can talk of disarming, not as an immediate task, but for future implementation, i.e., as soon as class distinctions have been completely liquidated and capitalism eliminated, when there will be no more any need for a state or armed force.

All that will be left of it, is what is necessary to conduct the administration of things.

It is then difficult to envisage total disarmament within the present scope of things. The best to be expected is partial disarmament, and temporary postponement of war. For a complete and permanent solution of this problem, it will first be necessary to establish the conditions for peace—a classless, communistic society. When there are no classes to coerce and exploit, an armed power becomes unnecessary. The state dies out for lack of function.

R. Daniels

THE ECONOMICS OF UNION GROWTH

(Continued from previous issue)

The present attempts of the capitalist class to curb union growth and activity with injunctions, and such reactionary legislation as the Taft-Hartley act, are only a continuation of an anti-labor policy of long standing.

History proves the above analysis. When unions appeared in America in the last decade of the 18th century, employers took no action against them as long as they remained basically welfare organizations; but more and more after the turn of the century they became combinations to raise wages. Employers realized that they could have the unions prosecuted for "conspiracies in restraint of trade" under old English common law doctrine. One of the first of these cases was the trial of the Philadelphia Journeymen Cordwainers for criminal conspiracy after a strike for higher wages. The conviction was for (1) combination to raise wages and (2) combination to injure others. The union was found guilty and fined. Bankrupt as a result, the union disbanded after 12 years of existence. The "Monthly Anthology and Boston Review" (Vol. 3, 1806, Article 64) stated, "In the correctness of the decision all sound lawyers, and all who wish for the eternal peace and industry, will acquiesce."

The legal fight against unions was carried on. However, 1800-1815 was a period of prosperity during which the shoemakers and printers organized local unions in a number of cities, and carpenters in a few places. These trials, combined with a recession following the Napoleonic war in Europe, brought a low point in the early growth of labor unions by 1820. All of the shoemakers' unions and most of the others were wiped out, although a few unions of printers survived by turning themselves into mutual benefit societies. Unions disappeared or remained quiescent in the 1829-32 depression. There was a revival in the 1833-36 boom period, the local unions in Philadelphia increased to 33, New York had 52, Baltimore 23, and Boston 16. The Commonwealth vs. Hunt (1842) decision which recognized the right of workers to join unions came during the depression

which followed the complete industrial collapse in 1837, though there was little economic or union recovery until the 1850's.

The period of 1863-73 was a period of war and postwar prosperity during which National Union organizing began. In 1872 it was estimated that total union membership was about 300,000. But again, 1873-78 was a depression period which killed off most of the local unions and many of the national organizations. Since then the growth of union membership has occurred mainly during periods of rising employment: 1897-1904, 1916-20, 1940-45.

Depression periods usually cause a decline in union membership, though after each decline, the movement has come back stronger than before, due mainly to an increased consciousness on the part of the worker of the benefits of working class organization, and to more favorable legislative and judicial decisions.

Periods of prosperity, however, have been periods of reaction. The Pullman strike of 1894 occurred after wage reductions of 25% for the workers of the Pullman Palace Car Co. An American Railway Union boycott came to their aid. President Cleveland sent troops to insure the movement of mails; a convenient excuse to break the strike. The combination of Federal troops and a blanket injunction brought this strike to an end. When the United Mine workers struck in 1902 the operators of eight railroads in monopoly refused to arbitrate with the attitude, "We are Christian men to whom God in his infinite wisdom had given control of the property interests of the country."

After 1902, following a period of rapid union growth, employer opposition became stronger. Professor C. Daugherty in summarizing this trend in his book, "Labor Problems in American Industry," wrote:

"Most of the powerful ones believing that unionism was growing too strong and fearing further encroachments on their control of industry, decided to break off relations, and the years from 1902 to World War I were character-

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drive for speed-up is motivated by its thirst for greater profits. With the arrival of automation and labor surpluses, the capitalists are now in a more favorable position to achieve their profit aspirations. For labor to resist push-button automation is futile, it is here to stay and go forward. To declaim against it, is reactionary.

The answer to rising automation and its resulting effects are beyond the structure of capitalism. The unions staunchly support the profit system. The union and its membership can talk about the anti-labor climate, kick about it, but as long as they remain faithful to capitalism that breeds it, they'll have to endure it. Of course, it might be contended that labor can still resort to striking. But that too

has its limitations. Capital's government is ever ready to force the strikers back to work with injunctions, e.g., as recently, by using the Taft-Hartley act against them.

Long ago Karl Marx (in his Value, Price and Profit) pointed out that quite apart from the general servitude involved in the wages question, "the working class ought not to exaggerate to themselves the ultimate working of these every-day struggles." That they are fighting with the effects and not the cause of their exploitation. That the real solution lies in the complete abolition of the capitalist system. That instead of the conservative motto, "A fair day's wages for a fair day's work!" they ought to inscribe on their banner the revolutionary watchword, "Abolition of the wages system!"

L.B.

PROLETARIAN NEWS

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Soviet Power and World Peace

Soviet Premier Khrushchev's offer of peaceful coexistence on behalf of the Soviet Union to the United States during his visit in September was emphasized in his final speech by this significant statement:

"There can be no stability or tranquility in the world so long as the two strongest powers are not on good terms with each other."

He cited the analogy of two neighbors who did not like each other and built a fence between them, and abused each other day and night. He posed the question: "Is it a happy life such neighbors live?" and answered, to wit:

"Anyone will say that it isn't. Sooner or later things can come to blows. However, bad neighbors still have a way out: One of them can sell his house and move elsewhere. But what can states do? They can't move elsewhere. What is the way out?"

"You have capitalism, we have socialism, well, are we to have a worldwide shambles over this? Or are we to establish normal relations and live in peace, each his own way. In the Soviet Union everyone is in favor of peaceful co-existence."

"Have you ever pondered over this question: If we are not planning to fight, whatever for do you and we need all these armaments? I am told that your country every year spends an average of over 40 billion dollars on armaments. As for us, I won't conceal that we spend about 25 billion dollars a year for the same purpose. Surely a better use for the people's money can be found."

The above quoted remarks speak for themselves. The two biggest powers in the world are the United States and the Soviet Union, both armed with the most terrible means of destruction, nuclear bombs, and missiles to hurl them. The devastating consequences of war between them was recently pointed up by President Eisenhower in an answer he gave at a press conference, namely, that it would be "mutual suicide."

It is beginning to dawn upon a lot of people, even upon some of those in the U. S. who are painfully trying to swallow their belligerent hatred of communism, that the world, and least of all capitalism, can no longer afford another world war.

Soviet Power is here to stay. It cannot be destroyed. It is a far stronger power socially than capitalism, and possibly militarily as well. Yet it does not threaten any nation. Soviet Power is opposed to all force and violence, especially the wars that capitalist nations often resort to in their cut-throat competitive struggle for control of the markets and the resources of the world, e.g. such as World War One and Two.

In his speech, Khrushchev further pointed out that the Soviet people are grateful to Marx, Engels and Lenin who blazed the trail to socialism for them, which has been followed also by many nations of Europe and Asia, that "the working people, on taking over political power, put an end to the tendency to acquire wealth at the expense of others." He aimed a barb at all capitalists and exposed the source of their wealth, as follows:

"Indeed human greed is a terrible thing. Has there ever been a case of a millionaire not

wanting to become a multi-millionaire." * * * "Clearly nobody, not even with his whole family and not even if he were to live several lives, could earn a million dollars, let alone a billion, by his own work. This can be accomplished only if one appropriates the labor of others."

It was the struggle of the working people against being exploited, against the "human greed" of the ruling class, that caused the social revolution in Russia long ago and gave birth to Soviet Power. Let us see how it happened.

42 Years of Soviet Power

This year, on November 7th, finds the Russian people celebrating their 42nd anniversary of Soviet Power.

This is cause also for workers the world over to rejoice. For Soviet Power, also known as the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, is the organized political might of the immense majority. If Karl Marx were living today, he would describe it like he did the Paris Commune of 1871, to wit:

"Its true secret was this. It was essentially a working class government, the product of the struggle of the producing against the appropriating class, the political form at last discovered under which to work out the economic emancipation of labor."

In Russia, in 1917, Soviet Power overthrew the dictatorial rule of the wealthy but powerful minority of landlords and capitalists. It abolished their system of private ownership and monopoly of the land and industry. In its place, Soviet Power established the Socialist system, the collective ownership of the means and instrument of production, thereby ending the exploitation of man by man. It wrote, and enforced the law in the Soviet Constitution, namely, "He who does not work, neither shall he eat." It decreed that it is a duty and a matter of honor for every able-bodied citizen to perform useful labor in accordance with the principle: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work." This, of course, was only the first stage of socialism, but it rid the nation entirely of the idle aristocratic riff-raff and the capitalist parasites.

One of the significant features of the Russian 1917 Revolution is that it occurred during the First World War, that imperial conflict that Lenin denounced as "international banditry." He called upon the Russian masses to turn this imperial war into a civil war, to overthrow the Czarist ruling class and to take the nation into their own hands. But it took much suffering before the masses heeded his advice. It was the mass slaughter of Russian soldiers at the front and poverty behind the lines, that caused the Russian masses to rebel and raise their demand: "Peace, land, and bread."

Revolution erupted, the first phase, March 1917, when the Czar was forced to abdicate, and the capitalist Provisional Government was set up (later headed by Kerensky) which attempted to continue the war and to exploit the workers and peasants. But it too was overthrown, and the Russian masses led by the Bolshevik Party, under the slogan of "All power to the Soviets," on November 7, 1917, took the nation into their own hands.

The young Soviet nation, however, in order to survive, had to sign that "distressful" Peace Treaty of Brest-Litovsk in March 1918 with Germany. But peace did not last long because the capitalist powers, Britain, France and America, through armed intervention tried to destroy the Soviet government by precipitating a civil war (1918-20).

However, the Soviet Union survived, thanks to the heroic defense of its class conscious working people. Furthermore, through hard work and self-denial they transformed Russia from a backward nation to one of the most highly industrial. Farms were collectivized

and mechanized with tractors, harvester-combines, etc. By 1939 the Soviet Union had reached such a stage of well being that she was considering putting bread on the "free list," when World War Two broke out with Hitler's invasion of Russia in June 1941. But the valiant Red Army defended the nation and by 1945 hurled back the German military machine and buried it in the debris of Berlin.

The Soviet Union tried to stay out of World War Two, at first by advocating the policy of "collective security" which was rebuffed by Britain, France, and America, and secondly, by signing a "non-aggression pact" with Germany in August 1939, which was violated by the latter's invasion of Russia.

At war's end the Soviet Union emerged a strong world power, with allies like the working class nations of Eastern Europe. Soviet Power grew also when the Chinese workers and peasants overthrew their exploiters, native and the foreign imperialists. This year, Peoples China celebrated the 10th Anniversary of its October 1949 Revolution. The workers world has increased to one-third of the planet, with approximately one billion people, all of them on the road to communism!

Is it any wonder that the capitalists got fear-struck and furious, and in their frustration started a "cold war" against the working class to attempt the destruction of Soviet Power. The American "police action" in Korea (1950-53) tried that, but it was stalemated by the allied Chinese-North Korean working class armies. Today frustrated world capitalism is seeking a "modus vivendi" with communism.

Unsolved Problems

There are many unsolved world problems, e.g., like the question of Germany and the status of Berlin. The Soviet Union proposed the realistic approach of signing separate peace treaties with East and West Germany.

Overshadowing all is the question of disarmament. The arms race is a burden to all nations. However, capitalist nations are reluctant to disarm, not only because they fear the "communist menace" but also because they feel the need of arming themselves in their competitive struggle with each other.

Furthermore, arms production is "good business" and very profitable for those capitalists engaged in it. In America it props up "prosperity." If disarmament occurred, with cuts in the armed force and closing of the arsenals, it would cause a business depression with consequent unemployment.

Be that as it may, the Soviet Union is sincere in proposing total disarmament. It feels the burden of the arms race most acutely. Total disarmament would result in a tremendous increase in the standard of living for the Russian people. They would arrive much sooner at their goal of the highest stage of communism: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs."

The question of world peace is everybody's concern, for the obvious fact that life is the most precious thing on earth. Just recently the Soviet Union sent up a rocket with a satellite hitting the moon, and another, "Lunik III," orbiting it and the earth. The question of what to do with "outer space" looms forth. The Soviet Union announced that it should be used for peaceful and scientific purposes, that she has no intentions of putting up armed bases on the moon. This report was received with mixed emotions by the gentlemen in the Pentagon who are now pondering the fate of the U. S. armed "earthly" bases.

In conclusion, we, of the Proletarian Party, point out that the only and real solution for world peace is still the best: that is for the world's workers to unite and get rid of the cause of war, capitalism, completely.

Al Wysocki

THE ECONOMICS OF UNION GROWTH

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ized by a definitely increasing anti-unionism.

"Scientific management and efficiency systems were introduced in many plants, much to the discomfiture of many skilled craft unions. A variety of union-smashing tactics were adopted by employers. Vigilante groups and citizens' committees were fostered to resist unionization activities."

Court decisions upheld as a rule most of the employers' anti-union practices, and as a result union membership fell considerably.

Labor shortages in the First World War gave unions an unprecedented boost, but at the close of the war manufacturers began a determined anti-union effort whose success gave this period its popular title, "the open shop era." To weaken and disrupt labor organizations, employers introduced a variety of welfare measures ranging from athletic fields to pension plans, as well as such repressive measures as the use of spies and strikebreakers. Company unions dominated by employers were established, and "Yellow Dog"

contracts, requiring a worker to promise as a condition of employment that he would not join a labor union.

The depression of the 1930's brought on the Wagner Act, the Norris-LaGuardia Act, and the LaFollette Committee which uncovered many of the practices of capitalists, and whose record serves as a testimony to the perversion of capitalism. It uncovered the organization of independent unions controlled by management, by such companies as Remington Rand, Ford, Montgomery Ward and Douglas Aircraft. It uncovered the "Mohawk Valley Formula" which was a general effort to disseminate propaganda to influence public opinion against unions and strikes with the effect described by the N.A.M. as, "The great court of public opinion has broken the strike and nothing could save it." For espionage and "protection," G.M. was found to have spent (1933-36) \$1,019,056; R.C.A., \$1,007,350; National Biscuit Co., \$721,451. In 1933-36 Pinkerton alone employed 1,200 labor spies. Over 100 held union offices of

some importance.

The prosperous period of World War II gave birth to the first Federal anti-strike bill in the country's history, the Smith-Connally War Labor Disputes Bill. In the postwar period of prosperity, union activities have been carried on in the shadow of the restrictive Taft-Hartley act.

Today we are emerging from a relatively prosperous period in which unions have achieved great numerical strength. Present figures run as high as 18 million union members, most of whom are in the AFL-CIO. Historically, we could expect anti-union legislation at this time. However, if labor can mobilize public opinion the reactionary legislation may be effectively avoided.

It must be remembered, however, that should a depression bring back "pro-labor" legislation, it will be reform legislation and not revolutionary in nature — unless a qualitative change occurs in the consciousness of the working class.

When in July 1934, H. G. Wells interviewed J. Stalin, he asked, "Is not a reform a small revolution?" Stalin replied, "Owing to pressure

from below, the pressure of the masses, the bourgeoisie may sometimes concede partial reforms while remaining on the basis of the existing social economic system. Acting in this way, it calculates that these concessions are necessary in order to preserve class rule. This is the essence of reform. Revolution, however, means the transference of power from one class to another. That is why we cannot count on the change of social systems taking place as an imperceptible transition from one system to another by means of reforms, by the ruling class making concessions."

The potential strength of the working class—which depends on its numbers—is constant, and independent of the strength of the unions which fluctuates. Class consciousness is the critical factor in mobilizing this powerful army of men. But to effectively put an end to the exploitation of labor, this class consciousness must lead the workers to a higher form of organization, to a working class, revolutionary, political organization that has for its objective the abolition of capitalism.

A. St. Maur.

A LOOK AROUND

LUCKY HERNANDEZ: There's a fellow named Hernandez, recently retired from the Ford Motor Co. as a machine operator who some way or another got everyone to thinking he was pretty lucky. The only thing we can figure is the fact he was so darn unlucky before his "good fortune" fell from the blue, it made it seem he was pretty well off.

Hernandez was worried and wondered how he was going to feed and clothe his family when his pay was cut from \$380 a month to a meager \$70 a month pension from Fords (his reward for many years of hard work) plus the usual \$116 a month from social security. He was especially worried because 9 of his 12 children were under 18

and still living at home.

Well sir, it turned out that he had more social security coming than he thought. When all the noses were counted the authorities figured he would be eligible for a maximum benefit of \$254 a month 'til the kids were all 18 years or over.

It was this good news that started everybody calling him lucky Hernandez. The newspaper article telling about the pot of gold, with pictures and all, said he should change his address to "Easy Street."

I guess it's all in the way you look at it, but after the shock of getting more than they bargained for has died away I would like to drop around to "Easy Street" and

ask Hernandez or his wife — or even the kids — how lucky they feel feeding, clothing and housing a family of 9 kids and two adults on less than \$58.62 a week. That's \$5.33 for each person for one week or about 76 cents a day apiece. Like the old saying goes—with a little more luck they might just make it. (?)

BOOM OR BUST? West Germany is enjoying a boom period which, if not checked, will lead to a bust according to some on-the-spot experts. The fear of overproduction (with no market for goods produced) has some officials in a worried state of mind.

One of the suggested methods for reducing the production of the working force in West Germany (now including all but 1% of available manpower) is to reduce the work week from 45 to 40 hours. The union leaders are for it but, according to reports and surveys, the workers are rather cool to the idea unless their pay remains the same. Or better still—if anything over 40 hours can be considered overtime and payable as time and a half. The taste of prosperity is still fresh in the minds of the once poverty stricken German workers.

Along with this general discussion of the merits of the 40 hour work-week is an opposition group headed by some of the large newspapers. One argument claims that God worked 6 days and originated the one day week-end — if it was good enough for him it should be good enough for everyone. And still another (and one of the shabbiest we have ever heard) contends that medical surveys show a sharp rise in death from heart failure of late and most notably on Monday mornings, that this is due to a too

sudden resumption of work after a relaxing week-end. It is believed the abrupt return to work is too much for the old human system and implies a man should not have too much leisure time if he wants to avoid the risk.

Judging from reports and fears of German officials there will be little to argue about on the subject of leisure time if the present boom in Germany continues unchecked. The whole West German working class will have more leisure time than they care to think about. It's a thing known in capitalist economy as unemployment.

CHAMPION WARMONGER: In case you may have forgotten, or need the information for a quiz show, Syngman Rhee is still president of the South Korean Republic and he is still itching to have a nice little war with North Korea for the purpose of re-uniting the country — under his benevolent statesmanship. As a matter of fact he has called on the U.S. to let him launch an offensive drive right now to chase the Communists out of North Korea. He said only force can prevent a third world war (figure that one out) and the U.S. was standing in the way of a unified Korea because she made the mistake of thinking it could be done through peaceful means.

There's one thing we can say for old Syngman Rhee—he is the most consistent of all the warmongers the U.S. counts amongst its political bed-fellows. He has been for war from the first time his name hit the headlines. As a matter of fact he has called upon the Western powers to go to war so many times it may turn out he holds a world's record.

L. D.

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