The recent visit of Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan to Cuba resulted in a trade treaty with terms very favorable to Cuba, who will receive from Russia a twelve-year, interest-free credit at an average per cent rate of interest to be used in purchasing equipment, machinery, and materials. The Soviet Union also contracted to buy one million tons of Cuban sugar yearly for the next five years at world market prices.

This was a great victory for the Soviet Union in the era of peaceful, competitive, coexistence with the capitalist world, toward winning over the neutral undeveloped countries, including the Latin Americans. That it was so conceded, we gather from the shocked, the frustrated anger of the U.S. capitalist ruling class, as, e.g., the Chicago Sun-Times, Feb. 16, editorial, headed, “Mikoyan’s Trojan Horse,” to wit:

“Vodka glasses must be clicking in the Kremlin over Deputy Prime Minister Mikoyan’s slick trick in Cuba. Unfortunately, the self-congratulations are well justified. By binding Cuba to Russia in a long-term pact providing for extensive purchases of Cuban sugar at $100,000,000 worth of credit for Cuba’s depressed economy, Mikoyan has materially strengthened Russia’s economic and ideological pipelines into the hemisphere.”

Where do we go from here? Condemn Prime Minister Castro (of Cuba) as an ingrate? He would snicker. Embargo U.S. purchases of Cuban sugar? Russia would increase its own purchases. Sit back and watch for Castro or the Cuban people to come to their senses? It could be a long, long wait. For the moment, at least, we seem to have Castro right where he wants us.”

There is also fear expressed over the honor of a Cuban-Russian arms deal (of jet-fighter planes) and Marguerite Higgins writes in Chicago Sun-Times, Feb. 15, that this “has created in Washington the same sense of shock that must, for instance, have prevailed in London five years ago when Egypt’s President Gamal Abdel Nasser announced his arms deal with the Soviet bloc.” However, she maintains, there is little to be gained by the U.S. retaliating against Cuba; the State Department experts themselves pointing out that “Castro’s deal has merely brought to attention the rapid, irreversible rise of extreme nationalism throughout Latin America—a rise that this country as a whole and Congress in particular has failed to face realistically.”

She mentions some of the early “diplomatic mistakes” of the U.S. government, that of opposing such rising nationalism in India, Burma, Egypt, Iraq, etc., of attacking their nationalism, of taking the position that “those countries who can’t afford to play agreements or deals.” Since then, she states, the U.S. has conceded “India’s right to non-alignment, including the right to invite Russia in to build dams and railroads,” the result being less friction between India and the U.S.

She warns that economic retaliation against Cuba (such as discontinuing preferential treatment to Cuban sugar) will push Cuba deeper into Moscow’s arms.” She stated that “whatever Washington thinks of Castro, it does not think he is a Communist and his government aims at a Soviet style dictatorship,” but is under no illusion that Castro will turn pro-U.S. overnight.

President Eisenhower (who omitted Cuba from his Latin American tour) also stated it would be a mistake to attempt economic retaliation, and expressed concern for its adverse effect upon the Cuban people. However, he failed to mention the greatest concern of the American capitalists, over the effect it would have on their investments of close to one billion dollars in Cuba.

It so happens that ever since the overthrow of the dictatorial, Wall Street supported Batista regime, the Cuban government under Fidel Castro has instituted long overdue reforms, the lowering of rents for workers in the cities, the distribution of land to the poor farmers, etc. Cuba had been chained by U.S. imperial capitalists to a one crop, sugar economy (before the revolution) with the result that

(Continued on page 2)
CUBA AND RUSSIA

PRIVATE VERSUS SOCIAL INTERESTS

(Continued from Page 1)

when prices declined, field hands and sugarcane cutters became destitute.

The Cuban government is aiming at a more balanced economy through confiscation and the divi­sion of the landed wealth. This has been denounced as "commu­nism" by the U.S. reactionary cap­i­tal­ist press.

Some of the more liberal ele­ments in the U.S. regard this reac­tionary attitude and are pointing out that it is not the way to make friends of the Cuban people. Mar­ge­rate Daniels, who was censured by the U.S. capitalist ruling class in her concluding paragraph, to wit: "Besides, trade and aid is a sword that can cut two ways. It is often said that communism bleeds on poverty. There is plenty of pov­erty in Cuba. If Mikoyan and his bosses want to take the risk of improving Cuba's living standards (and thereby, presumably, helping to eliminate the poverty on which communism thrives) whose pur­suits will he be serving?"

Here is our answer to the above: Definitely not the purpose of capitalism. The complete elim­i­nation of the Cuban masses is the neces­si­ty of the Cuban masses comple­ment elimination of capitalism ex­ploitation. Until that is done, the class struggle persists, the cause of all revolutionary movements. One thing is certain: Soviet-Cuban trade relations will build up good will between the two countries.

It is the real friends, not through exploiting, but through helping them. Fur­thermore, the Soviet Union's own economic and scientific progress is bound to convince not only the Cuban workers but also the toiling masses of the world, of the su­periority of the communist system over the capitalist.

A.W.

A LOOK AROUND

The swastika rash is symptomatic of that insecurity, the striking blindly for an answer. The capital­ists may feel safe at such blind reactions but are they?

International tension has been with us since the early 1930's. The rise of Hitlerism, World War Two, the Communist Revolution in China, the Korean War and the Cold War between capitalism and prop­aganda communism. As that isn't enough, the development of atom and hydrogen bombs threat­ens the very existence of human­ity to the point of insanity. The frustrations, lends itself to degenerating solutions and the swastika rash. Scape-goating is easier than any standard thinking for genuine answers.

Superior and inferior race ideol­ogy is a product of class divisions in society. Propertied social orders breed such classifications as an upper, the propertied class, and a lower, the laboring class. Class hatred is an offspring of such divi­sion. Race, religious and national classifications are depositories to get the suffering class, the lower or­ders off the track of the main issue and struggle. Racial bias has ever been used by a ruling class to di­vide and rule the lower class. It's an old trick and seems to work for periods.

Now matter what the color of skin, shape of nose, religious be­lief, or national origin, men have a common anatomy, a common physiology, a common psychology. They have the same basic economic needs and are conditioned by the same environment. As Shakespe­are said in the Merchant of Venice: "Have not a Jew eyes? hath not a Jew hands, organs, di­mensions, senses, affections, pas­sions? fed with the same food, hurt with the same weapons, subject to the same diseases, warmed and cooled by the same winter and summer, as a Christian is? If you prick us, do we not bleed? if you tax us, do we not pay? if you poison us, do we not die? and if you wrong us, shall we not revenge? If we are like you in the rest, we will resemble you in that."

Human behavior, regardless of skin color, shape of nose or other such trivials, is determined largely by all social forces. The social setup is more influential than the characteristics of skin color and such in determining the way of life. A GOAT is not confounded with violence and hate did not help Hitler and his gang to prevail. The neo-Hitlerites are destined for his same end. L.B.
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A Question of Security

What every worker desires most in life is economic security, i.e., a steady job which is sufficient for the needs of himself and his family. Although he would like also the highest standard of living that is possible, nevertheless certain basic necessities of life: food, shelter and clothing. But can capitalism guarantee him such permanent security? It is our contention that capitalism cannot, because it is a system that exploits labor for profit, and is periodically hit by the economic crisis of overproduction. For further proof let us see how it functions today.

The Labor Market

The Department of Labor announced on Feb. 11th that employment dropped by 1,900,000 from December to a January total of 64,020,000 American workers holding jobs. Despite the decline as seasonal, the January total of employed was considered a "record" as compared to previous years. However, it was admitted that it included 260,000 workers from Alaska and Hawaii for the first time, otherwise the total employed would have been lower by that amount.

The Labor Department also reported that union membership rose to 14,020,000 from 13,720,000 a year ago. It was explained that the reason the rise in unemployment was not as large as the drop in employment was because many of those holding jobs in December did not look for work after losing them, e.g., such people as housewives and students. The Labor Department counts as unemployed only those who do not have a job but are still looking for one.

However, the report did not reveal the figures as to how many of those unemployed workers stopped looking for jobs after becoming discouraged when employers refused to hire them, preferring younger workers. It is a well known fact that the unemployed workers, 45 years of age or over, find it difficult to get jobs because of this discriminatory practice by the employers. There is no economic security for them, especially after they have exhausted their unemployment compensation or savings. They have even been denied "county relief," the paupers' pittance, on the score that they are still "able-bodied" and should be available for work since they are not totally disabled.

Unemployment is here to stay. Ever since the business recession of 1958 when estimates ran as high as 7 million unemployed, it never got under the 3 million jobless mark, even with the business pick-up of 1959. This did not worry the big capitalists; in fact they preferred to keep unemployment high to make workers look or minimize the wage demands of those workers still on the job.

As we note, the unemployed have now increased to 4,140,000 (the official figures). What are the chances of these unemployed coming rehired? Very poor indeed! Due to the rapid technological development, automation in industry, machines and electronic devices have taken their place. The beauty of competition had compelled the capitalists to cut their cost of production, especially the wages, but this has not resulted in an increase of employment for the workers. In so doing, they have created two kinds of surpluses: surplus labor (the jobless) and surplus products.

We recall that in the previous year the business pick-up resulted in an overproduction of commodities, particularly steel, thus again threatening a business slump. But then came the steel workers' strike in the summer and fall of 1959. At first it was welcomed by the steel corporation capitalists, who saw in it a chance to do two things: 1st, to counter the wage demands of the workers which weakened their union, and 2nd, to sell the surplus steel at a handsome profit through the "scarcity" created. However, when the strike reached its 114th day, the capitalists, fearful of the competitive imports of foreign steel, were eager to settle it. But, so were the workers, who by then had already exhausted their savings and were facing privation.

We also remember how the steel corporation capitalists complained about the "unfairness" of the strike settlement to them, of its possible inflationary effect in view of the wages being increased, and thereby threatened another rise in the price of steel. But, since then, the steel corporations have reaped a greater profit than ever before without raising the price of steel. Productive steel workers that had been unemployed for one month alone, January, they produced over 12 million tons of steel, which was a record achievement. Steel production at present is at a high of around 95 per cent of capacity. Estimates of 70 million tons of steel for the first half of this year have been predicted. Thus, again, it is being produced faster than ever before without raising the price of steel.

But overproduction has hit the whole of the nation's economy. The gross national product for 1959 was $479 billion, and this year it is running at a higher rate, at $510 billion. This annual expenditure of approximately $40 billion is being propped up by the annual expenditure of almost $40 billion for "defense" (the armed forces). Then there are the government's "public works," road-building, housing projects, etc., so reminiscent of the "WPA" of the Big Depression era of the 1930's. But this depression lasted around 10 years, in spite of all F.D.R.'s post-war efforts to keep America productively running. It took World War Two to restore prosperity, with production for destruction during the war; and later, in the post-war period, reconversion of the defense industries into the capitalist nations involved in the war.

The United States was the most fortunate in escaping the destructive effects of the war and emerging as the capitalist nation with the highest standard of living in the world. She had enjoyed an unparalleled period of prosperity in her history, during the war and post-war years, a period lasting almost 20 years. The United States has thus been able to maintain its "intellectual" defenders of capitalism (writers, professors, etc.) who now contend that this continuous prosperity has re­futed the Marxist tenet of the recurring economic crisis of capitalism. However, they overlook or minimize the business recessions.

They also contend that the "well-fixed" working class is no longer "exploited" but are instead "exploited" or "perverted" capitalists but as members of the "middle class," and therefore will not re­spond to the Marxian rallying cry and solution "wages for all, a revolution to overthrow the capitalist ruling class, and, however, every of the means of production under collective ownership through a working class State; the dictatorship of the proletariat.

But, the Marxists are quick to point out that American capitalism's 20 year period of so-called prosperity was just a brief moment of time, from the historical viewpoint. There is, of course, no denying that the American workers are not responding, as yet, to the Marxian revolutionary message. One must also admit that some of them are so "well fixed" that they have a "home with patio, two cars, and a swimming pool," and even the vast majority are getting by, with 3 meals a day and a place to flop. Furthermore, the workers have been subjected to capitalism's coercive machinery, and are faced with a "frightening" socialist terror (the official figures). What this continuous prosperity has re­futed the Marxist tenet of the recurring economic crisis of capitalism. However, they overlook or minimize the business recessions.

Nevertheless, one hit hard enough with the inevitable "boom, bust" periods of capitalism, especially when government's "public works" with its peak of 17 million jobless, the American workers are bound to respond and arrive at the same conclusion that the Russian and Chinese workers found: that any system that can't guarantee the masses real security, is only fit to be overthrown.

Of course, the capitalist ruling class does its utmost to prevent its revolutionary overthrow. One of the measures used is "feeding the hungry masses." Today it is "Q.W.O." (Quarterly Work Opportunities). But the so-called "social security" is really for the capitalists, security against a revolution. The so-called "increased wages" to retrain aged workers trying to live off the pension that goes by that name soon discover that it was designed not so much to prolong their existence but to shorten it.

The Decline in Union Membership

Another method used by the capitalists goes by the name of "keeping labor in its place," aimed against all workers' organizations including the unions. As a result there has been a serious decline in total union membership, from 16,000,000 in 1959 to 13,000,000 a year ago, a loss of 500,000 members. It's a fact that many members dropped out of the AFL-CIO and other unions when they became jobless and were rehired because they were needed in their place. But the labor unions failed to make good the loss through organizing the unorganized, mainly because of capitalism's opposition. There was a revival of the old time practice of the employer firing any worker who attempts to organize his fellow workers in the open shops. Also the enforcement of capital­ism's "right to work" was productive of many unfair labor practices against workers and their unions. But the picture of capitalism being in a prosperous enough position to grant working conditions and wages to the unorgan­ized workers in some cases, comparable to those in a union shop, had more to do with keeping workers from forming or joining a union than any other factor.

The unions' leadership also is to blame for the decline. Not only the racketeering officials but the so-called "honest leaders," Meany, Reuther and Co. who have been cooperating with capitalism in expelling left-wing union members.

Nevertheless, slow as the workers' revolu­tionary movement is in the United States changing conditions will favor its growth. To the left is the direction; to the day when the workers will wake up and get rid of all their misleaders and exploiters. —Al Wysocki.
In science, the idea is often firmly held that knowledge takes the place of and surpasses all the knowledge of the past. While future discoveries may make present knowledge obsolete, for the moment it may be the best available. All that was useful in the earlier knowledge has been incorporated in the present knowledge, and what is omitted was the mistakes of ignorance.

Yet the history of science has shown that concrete relations exist between the advancement of science and society. The understanding of these relations will ultimately benefit society itself by making possible the maximum use of science and thereby increasing the material welfare of society as rapidly and as completely as possible.

What are the historical relationships which exist between science and society? The historical and Historical Materialism, which Marx founded, discovered that science had its humble beginnings in certain skills developed by early men in their attempts to control forces of nature, and to order their social life. These also were the general forms of the many attempts of man to solve specific social needs such as shelter, food, and transportation.

The step by step development of man's practical activity from the lower stages to higher stages, from the elementary to the advanced, from the one side to the many side was accompanied by an increasing role of science, which was itself science. Science began when man attempted to test his theories of nature with practical activity. Thus, magic became transformed into science.

The aggregation of these productive forces forms the economic superstructure of a society on which the juridical and political superstructures are raised. The definite forms of social consciousness are dependent on the economic basis on to the basis of earlier historical periods.

The method of production of material productive forces participates in the social, political and intellectual process of the life of society.

It is not the consciousness of human beings which determines their being, but, on the contrary, their social being determines their consciousness. At a certain stage of its development the material productive forces of society come into antagonism with the existing production relations or with the property relations within which they have hitherto developed.

From being forms of productive forces the productive relationships are transformed into fetters of those forces. Then follows the period of social revolutions. With the change of bases there occurs a transformation throughout the enormous super-structure.

Science differs from other productive forces in that it may not pay off immediately. A lawyer can plead or give a judgment, a doctor can cure, a minister can conduct a religious service, an engineer can design a bridge or a washing machine—all are commodities and services which people are willing to pay for on the spot. Scientists, however, have had to find other means of support.

Very early in history, as early as in the Alexandria of Alexander the Great, science became a subsidized affair. Patrons, whether wealthy individuals, universities, corporations, or a department of state, perform the function of providing the money on which the scientists must live and which will enable him to carry on his research. Because the patrons in return want to have a say in what is actually done, especially if the patron's ultimate object is commercial advancement. Even the patron is only operating from pure benevolence or in pursuit of prestige or advertisement, he will want spectacular results, but results which are not too disturbing to his ideology or way of life.

Under capitalism the scientist must generally convince his patron that what he is doing will pay off. For capitalism the rejection of all but immediately useful science leads to useless gadgetry if not bombastic missiles and military production as the most advanced and utilized form of the science. Free medicine and education which ought to be the triumph of political science are regarded as impossible. Automation appears as the golden egg which threatens to rupture the capitalist goose which is the economy.

In Socialist societies today the function of the patrons is taken over by the organs of popular government at all levels, from the factories to farm laboratories, academy institute, and the relation is drastically changed in the process.

In our days the Soviet Union, its peaceful policy, its great successes in the development of science and technology, and especially the Soviet rocket scientists and artificial satellite, which, in the face of Earth and the Sun are attracting general attention throughout the world. All progressive-minded people on our planet admire the unprecedented achievements of Soviet scientists.

The great wish is due to the fact that a socialist government can and does take a long-term view; the work of scientists is recognized as intrinsically valuable. Their support and the furthering of their work is of prime importance on national and local budgets. If return the scientists are expected to assume their social responsibility, which is to co-operate in the plans for a better society and to order their work as to get the best results on both a long-term and short term basis. The success of this plan is the triumph of mankind through socialism.

A. St. Maur

A LOOK AROUND

(Continued from page 2)

The success this has been achieved thanks to the socialist system. Under socialism there are no barriers to science, not even in the productive relations.

Twenty-four years ago Konstantin Tsiolkovsky, the founder of Soviet space rocketry, wrote to the Central Committee of the Communist Party:

"All my life I have dreamed of using space rockets to help mankind make some little advance at least. Before the Revolution my dream could not come true. It was the October Revolution that brought recognition to my labors, which is that of a self-taught man. "I give all my work in aviation, rocketry and interplanetary travel to the Bolshevik Party and the Soviet power, the genuine leaders of human cultural progress. I am confident that they will bring this work to a successful conclusion.""

This wish of the scientist has come true. Soviet science is enriching mankind with more and more contributions. The great dream of interplanetary communication is increasingly close to realization.

This greater development is due to the fact that a socialist government can and does take a long-term view; the work of scientists is recognized as intrinsically valuable. Their support and the furthering of their work is of prime importance on national and local budgets. If return the scientists are expected to assume their social responsibility, which is to co-operate in the plans for a better society and to order their work as to get the best results on both a long-term and short term basis. The success of this plan is the triumph of mankind through socialism.

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