

PROLETARIAN

NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

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Soviet Union Adversaries

By Christ Jelset

Nazi Germany, the greatest of all Soviet adversaries, lies prostrate. The power that was to crush communism for a thousand years was itself crushed in four years. "Helpless victims of Stalin's brutal dictatorship" have proven themselves capable of self-defense. Workers' rule has become a power among powers, economically, politically and militarily.

The victorious march of the Soviet armies from Stalingrad to Berlin has aroused world-wide interest in the Soviet system. Since Nazi Germany was also the arch-enemy of Great Britain and the United States, the Soviet Union has become the great ally of these nations. Public interest demanded information. Educators and commenators by the hundreds started to write and talk about the Soviet people and their economic and military accomplishments. The former "dirty Bolsheviks" and their "ignorant hordes of victims" became real people, with scientific knowledge, productive ability and patriotic devotion.

Soviet cooperative methods began to be advocated for adoption. Books and periodicals began to describe and praise outstanding Soviet achievements. Cooperative methods of farming, of manufacturing and of transportation, became praiseworthy undertakings. So did the Soviet systems of health protection and education.

Only one thing "bad" remained to be rejected: the Soviet political system. Workers' rule is still bad, not only in the eyes of capitalists, it must of necessity remain "bad" also in the eyes of capitalist commentators and educators. Workers' rule cannot be investigated and described in its true light. That would be too dangerous to capitalist self-interests. But it cannot be ignored. Hence, a perverted picture must be drawn in this field. The Soviet political system thus gets its description as a dictatorship of one man, or of a political clique. It is given the appearance of the perpetuation in power of the leaders of

the revolution, and their henchmen. But even this bad feature is eased a bit by the "fact" that the men in power are not the rascals that commonly usurp political authority.

This, in the main, is the picture that is now presented of the

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Denunciation of Soviet-Japanese Neutrality Pact

On April 5 the government of the USSR denounced the Soviet-Japanese neutrality pact. This pact was signed on April 13, 1941, and was to have lasted a minimum of five years. In denouncing the pact, Commissar of Foreign Affairs Mo-

litov pointed out that, since the signing of the pact the situation had undergone a radical change. "Germany attacked the USSR, while Japan—Germany's ally—is helping the latter in her war against the USSR. Moreover, Japan is at war with the United States and Great Britain, who are the Soviet Union's Allies. . . . Under these circumstances, the Neutrality Pact between Japan and the USSR has lost its meaning, and the prolongation of this pact has become impossible."

This action of the Soviet government does not necessarily mean that the USSR will directly enter the war against Japan. The denunciation of the pact allows the Soviets to enter into open discussion over the affairs of eastern Asia. The military situation has also changed. In the past the Soviet Union has feared a Japanese attack upon her back door. The boot is now on the other foot. It is Japan's turn to fear attack from the USSR. With the war against Nazi Germany coming to an end the Soviet Union is in a position to shift powerful forces to the east. They can offer large support to China. They may put strong pressure on Chiang Kai-shek's regime to cease civil war against the Yen-an government. (See last month's notes on China.) They may also try to force Chiang to adopt a more friendly attitude toward the Soviet Union. The alternative could be full recognition and large-scale support to Yen-an. As for Japan—this powerful imperialist nation

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May Day 1945

Ever since 1889 the class-conscious workers throughout the world have celebrated the First of May as a proletarian holiday. This is not a "legal" holiday sanctioned by the ruling class but a day of militant protest against the exploiters of labor. "Down tools and march in protest through the city's streets," was the rallying cry that the masses used in proclaiming their defiance against their class enemy. Thus May Day and its observance is the direct product of the class struggle, the age-old struggle between the rich and the poor, between capitalists and wage workers. Very often the ruling class in each capitalist nation did their utmost to prevent its observance. They used coercive measures to suppress the demonstrations, or at least confine them within "legal" bounds. They did not always succeed.

On this May Day, 1945, embroiled as many workers are on the war fronts, and engaged as many others are on the "home front" producing munitions of war, there will be little time for reflection and even less desire for militant protests against the capitalist system that caused this present world conflict. Nationalism has still a strong hold on the minds of the masses. Many have yet to learn that May Day is an International Labor Day, and is significant of the fact that in all capitalist nations, "democratic" or dictatorial, the class line-up is the same, namely, that the working class is exploited by the capitalist class. But the hate engendered by the war and promoted by capitalist propaganda has blinded many to this obvious fact. And so the world today presents us with a picture of farcical proportions, that of workers fighting against workers, each defending the interests of their own set of exploiters.

May Day, in the year 1945, finds the world still floundering in the final phase of one of the bloodiest carnages in the history of the human race. Capitalist imperialism and the greed for more profits, i. e., the economic rivalry for domination of the world market, sources of raw materials and colonies, has brought about what is commonly referred to as World War No. 2. But the ruling class of each capitalist nation tries its utmost to represent it as "a war for liberation."

Let us examine, how has this war affected labor? It is timely now to take an appraisal. Up to date, millions of workers' lives have been sacrificed on the altar of Mammon, and millions more have been maimed for life. Countless millions in Europe, and in fact throughout the whole world, have seen their homes destroyed, their families either exterminated or scattered by the

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has been a mortal enemy and a constant threat to the Soviet Union. It is to the best interests of the Soviets that Japan be crushed and that she be forced to give up her conquests on the Asiatic mainland.

The San Francisco Conference

Representatives of all nations included in that body known as the United Nations are assembling at San Francisco. The work before them is to prepare the charter of an organization for the maintenance of peace and security. "The foundations were laid at Dumbarton Oaks." (Report of Crimean Conference.)

The first problems before the conference will have to do with seating of representatives to the General Assembly. Here a conflict of interests has already been shown. The Provisional Government of Poland has requested a seat. The Soviet Union is supporting this request. Great Britain and America are opposed. They still recognize the Polish "Government" in Exile. The commission, composed of Molotov, Harriman and Clark Kerr, formed at the Crimean Conference to reorganize the Polish Provisional Government so as to make it acceptable to Britain and America, has been unable to agree. The USSR may oppose the seating of certain other nations. Argentina, for instance, has recently come into the good graces of the USA by accepting the declarations of the Act of Chapultepec and by declaring war on Germany and Japan. This latter act has brought jests from various directions. A cartoonist shows Hitler and Hirohito agreeing to declare war on each other, thus making themselves eligible for seats at San Francisco. The USSR has pointed many times to Argentina as a haven for Nazi war criminals and Nazi gold.

The USSR has asked for extra seats for the Ukrainian Soviet Republic and the White Russian Soviet Republic. The USA and Britain are said to be pledged to support this request. The British Empire is to have six seats altogether. The USA is supposed to be very self-effacing by only having one. However, American interests will be well taken care of. We note that among those first invited were the Commonwealth of the Philippines and the Republic of Panama. To all practical purposes Alaska and Hawaii could just as well have been substituted. Then the purpose of the Act of Chapultepec evidently was to unify a power bloc headed by the USA. Besides this, Canada, Australia and New Zealand have not forgotten what their situation was when Japan was sweeping the Pacific. It was Uncle Sam they had to turn to for protection.

According to the proposals of Dumbarton Oaks most of the discussion over international affairs would take place in the General Assembly. However, it will be the Security Council which will make

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May Day 1945

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whirlwind of war. As for the survivors, their wretched and poverty-stricken condition beggars description.

Even America, more fortunate because of its "isolated" geographic position, has suffered casualties on the battlefields, more than three times what it suffered in World War I. The tremendous cost in lives and property damage has shocked the world. It is causing many to long for a world of peace, one rid of war. But many are not so certain whether that will be accomplished; in fact, many are apprehensive that "peace" will be but another truce to be followed by World War 3. The problem of "winning the peace" becomes all the more urgent when one realizes that "civilized" methods of warfare, by means of V-1 and V-2 rocket bombs and B-29 bombing planes, have made this a small world indeed.

Through the din of battle, on this May Day, one can hear the querulous voice of labor, faint as yet, but ever growing more insistent, demanding: "What are we fighting for? How will labor's services be rewarded?" The workers have been answered, of course, and reassured by the present administration that they will be taken care of, that 60 million jobs will be available after the war. Similar promises have been made in the past but the capitalist system, due to its competitive nature, its mode of production for profit, has periodically plunged the nation into the ditch of a crisis, with the resultant unemployment and poverty for the masses. This demand for job security on the part of the workers is spurred on by memories of the Big Depression days, when war veterans were selling apples on the street corners (a la free enterprise), trying to eke out a miserable existence.

In one nation of the world, namely the Soviet Union, May Day is a workers' legal holiday. There it is sanctioned by the ruling class, because that ruling class is the working class of the Soviet Republics. More than 27 years ago they had overthrown their exploiters and had abolished the profit system. In one sweep of their revolutionary broom, exploitation of man by man was ended.

With collective ownership of the wealth and industry by the workers, job security is assured them, and because of socialization of production and appropriation there will be no post-war depression in Soviet Russia. Truly will May Day be a day of celebration for them, rejoicing in their great social and industrial achievement and also rejoicing in how well they have defended their island of socialism. Yes, they have a right to rejoice. The Soviet workers, even though they have made huge sacrifices in this war, are, nevertheless, in this unique position: they have something worthwhile fighting for.

It is this great Russian "experiment" of socialization that is causing the rest of the European workers to move in that direction. Many of them are now beginning to realize that only by abolishing the profit system, and replacing it with a socialist system, can there be a world free of wars and poverty.

The capitalist class is fearful of this spread of "communism," and will try to do its utmost to restrain it. But one of the main props of the system of exploitation, fascism, has already been badly shattered. It will be a difficult task for the collaborationists, the exploiters of labor, to bolster up the remaining splinters in an effort to preserve the capitalist system of Europe. For the collaborationists were the exploiters of the European masses and the latter are beginning to realize that they "must first of all settle matters with their own bourgeoisie" before they can engage in a socialist reconstruction of their national economy.

So, through the smoke of battle, the thundering of guns and the flying debris in this final phase of World War 2 one can discern on this May Day, that capitalism, in a number of countries, is in its decaying stage, tottering ever closer to its inevitable resting place—oblivion. Only those who have profited by that system will mourn its passing away, that is, the capitalist class. But the toiling masses will rejoice because communism, a new social order, free of class strife, wars and poverty, will take its place, giving to future generations, a world of security, peace and real prosperity.

Al Wysocki.

Soviet Adversaries

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world's most powerful nation, the workers' own republic. But it by no means is the only picture. The more conservative section of the press still clings to the old line. Its writers let no opportunity go by to throw their venomous slurs at the Soviet Union and its policies. Sections of the church are forever complaining about Soviet materialism and about Soviet lack of support for the "spiritual" things of life.

Now that victory on the battle front seems so close, Soviet peace aims become a target for criticism. It is all right and even necessary for the U. S. A. to insist on the need for its future protection. It is not wrong for America to acquire permanent military basis in the far waters of the world. But for the Soviet Union to speak in terms of military protection or demand a return to the original Soviet boundaries is rank imperialism.

It becomes a military necessity for Great Britain and America to take a firm hand in setting up governments, friendly to their policies in occupied territories, but a similar act by the Soviet Union becomes a real sign of the dictator's under-cover ambitions.

This attitude is nothing to be wondered at. ~~The sacred right of capitalist exploitation, enjoyed everywhere outside of the Soviet Union, is in jeopardy.~~ The masses of the world are getting tired of peace, with depressions and mass unemployment. They are getting more tired of bloody wars. These are incurable ills of capitalism. Only a workers' rule similar to the Soviet system, can cure those ills. Such a cure would deprive every capitalist of his income. Surely he will use every method available to prevent such a disaster to his economic status.

From the point of view of the ruling class, the Soviet Union must be reckoned with and respected, for two reasons. It was forced to give invaluable aid in crushing a most formidable rival capitalist power; and, second, the Soviet Union is itself a power which cannot be kicked about, as was the case in the first years of its existence. This gives rise to the more friendly attitude, and the more favorable comment extended to the Soviet Union of late.

Two other causes now tend to reverse the process. The common foe, Germany, is about defeated, and capitalism's arch-enemy, communism, is beginning to rise from every starving home in continental Europe. Communism, always condemned as a foreign importation in every nation, will surely be branded as a Soviet export commodity from now on. Antagonism to the Soviet

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HOME SCENE

Franklin Delano Roosevelt

The death of President Roosevelt, on April 12, came as a surprise, and to many it was a great shock. He was popular with the bulk of the American people. They regarded him as a humanitarian, as a liberal and a friend of labor. To them he was the man who brought the country out of the great depression and he was an able war leader.

To the Republican opposition, on the other hand, he was a dictator and a bureaucrat, conspiring to liquidate the American way of life, with its "free enterprise," and, to a great extent, this considerable opposition held him responsible for America's entry into the war. These were the common distorted notions about the man who held office longer than any other American President.

To us, Roosevelt was a very clever politician, an able representative of American capitalist-imperialism. His passing will not alter the course of events, even if his successor is less experienced and less popular. Already there is considerable speculation as to what the new President, Harry Truman, will be like. "Is he equal to the task?" "What will his attitude be toward labor- etc." are the questions being asked.

It is too soon to evaluate Truman as a President, but what he will or won't do will be determined by conditions, as was the case with Roosevelt. One thing we are sure of, Truman will do little to disturb those who selected him to be Roosevelt's successor, the rich business men of the nation. He is there to carry out their political policies, and although he may throw an occasional sop to labor, he is not there to serve the interests of the working class.

If it has been said that Roosevelt was a liberal, lenient towards labor, it was only true because political and economic conditions made it necessary for him, his party, and his class to cater to the broad masses for their support. It was not necessary to give much. The workers, so far, have been satisfied with a crust from the national loaf which their labor produced. Those terrible depression days with labor restless, could not be channelized into a harmless direction, with safety for capitalism, except by throwing a crumb to the workers to alleviate their hunger.

There is no telling now how Roosevelt's liberalism might have changed into something else during the post-war period, given an altered situation. People are too prone to exaggerate the role of the individual, a leader, president or general. Individuals play a part, but not just as they please. Their actions are mainly determined by economic develop-

ment and by the interests of their party and their class. It is these economic conditions, and class relations, that set limits beyond which the individual cannot and dare not go.

Great leaders of class society are those who best express the interests of the dominant class, and reflect in their policies what is most in harmony with the maintenance of prevailing class relationships. From this viewpoint, the life and work of Franklin D. Roosevelt was indissolubly linked with the activities and needs of the capitalist class. He was an outstanding political director of their home and foreign affairs. If his leadership was an able one, it was the business class which benefited by it. President Harry Truman can be trusted to follow the same general course.

* * *

A most irritating problem for the government is that which is called the "black market." It is everywhere, in food, liquor, cigarettes, gas and rationed products generally. Priorities are being flouted or circumvented. Hosts of small-fry business men are in it up to their ears. Some of the big fellows are in the thick of it, too. The latter, doubtless, are pulling the strings. The population is not overscrupulous about how it gets what it wants, so long as it gets it. The "black market," it appears, has even followed the armed forces across seas into Italy and France. Some of the service men were involved in the business.

The government agencies are constantly appealing to the public, through the radio and press, not to patronize the "black market," upon three grounds: (1) patriotism; (2) morality; (3) economy. Yet, despite all of its efforts to influence the public against this patronage, these illegal operations seem to flourish. There are no statistics as to its extent, although one congressman in Washington charges that ninety per cent of all the meat business is done by the "black market." That may be an exaggeration, but even if it is, one thing is certain, a sizeable chunk of the nation's business has flown into that channel.

This condition is causing real alarm to some so-called legitimate business people because it is getting out of hand. Some feel that it has already gone too far to be stopped. Violators are, from time to time, tracked down and prosecuted, but the violations seem to grow. To judge by its spread, the "black market" is a crime which seems "to pay."

In its attempt to curb legitimate inflation, the government finds itself confronted with illegitimate inflation. It drove it from the front door, but has it coming through the back door. But, the "black market" is not a thing in itself. It

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all important decisions. It is proposed that this council be composed of eleven members. The so-called Big Five — Great Britain, The U. S. A., The USSR, France and China—to serve as permanent members. Then there would be six non-permanent members to be elected by the General Assembly to serve for two years.

As to the organization which is to be formulated being any more successful than the ill-fated League of Nations we have our doubts. We do not doubt that the nations of the world desire peace. The voice of the Soviet Union will be a powerful element for the maintenance of peace, but the conflicting interests within the capitalist world constantly drive in the opposite direction — toward bigger and more terrible wars.

Chaos in Germany

As the Nazi war machine goes down to destruction, *chaos* is the word which best describes the situation in Germany. One report states: "Correspondents, at last inside Germany, were flabbergasted by the kaleidoscope of contrasts: war and peace, hunger and plenty, anger and kindness, ruin and feudal pomp, a fantastic blend of the modern and medieval. Wherever the tide of war engulfed it, the German state was disintegrating into chaos. Elsewhere, it was incredibly stable." (Time, April 16.)

Another important contradiction is reported by other correspondents, viz, British and American officials of the Allied Military Government using Nazi police forces to subjugate hungry German civilians. From the Chicago Times, April 20, we quote James Wellard: "Scores of lesser Gestapo agents and civil officials are being rounded up, but numbers are evading capture by committing suicide. . . . Those who prefer to live are following the Allied military gov-

is part and parcel of the capitalist market, just a blacker shade than the rest. It is an outcome of the capitalist market, in fact, an extension of it. If there is a demand, business men will be found who will try to meet it, even in violation of rationing and price ceilings.

Business, under all circumstances, is concerned with profit-making. Therefore, goods are sold at just as high a price as the market will bring. A favorable situation for the capitalists is when the demand is greater than the supply. Prices and profits then go up. But where the government, because of alleged shortages, *legally* sets a barrier to the rise of prices, profits, and a free circulation of commodities, it thus tries to negate its own economic laws, to set aside supply and demand. However, economic laws are stubborn things. They resist legal controls and assert themselves, if not in one way then

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enors around like well-trained dogs. Among them in Magdeburg is the commissioner of police for the whole area. His police force obeys our orders with much saluting and heelsnapping. . . . The chief problem of American troops occupying the city is to keep thousands of Germans out of the huge warehouse which contains millions of dollars worth of food." We surmise that the "welltrained dogs" are very helpful.

The officials of AMG appear not to know that less than two months ago the highest officials of Great Britain and the United States pledged at the Crimean conference that: "It is our inflexible purpose to destroy German militarism and Nazism. . . ." Then again, these officials may reason that Nazis cease to be Nazis when they are employed by the AMG.

In western Germany the problem of bringing order out of chaos is looked upon as being almost insuperable. From eastern Germany where the Red Army is in occupation a different story is received. Paul Schulz, Mayor of Landsberg (Soviet appointed resident with an anti-Nazi history) reports: "Under Soviet direction the waterworks had been repaired and factories reopened to supply the 25,000 inhabitants. Fifteen bakeries are working for the benefit of the population. . . . The labor office, the housing office, and an office for the care of refugees are busy promoting reconstruction work. Streets have been cleaned up. A hospital, two maternity wards, and a children's home have been established." (The Nation, April 14.)

Why has it been possible here to bring order out of chaos so quickly? Perhaps it is because Soviet officials have no great respect for the sacredness of private property in the means of production. Evidently there were no "well-trained dogs" to keep the workers, the factories, and food, shelter and clothing from getting together.

A Difference of Opinion

Georgif Alexandrov, chief of the propaganda section of the Central Committee of the C. P. S. U. has openly criticized Ilya Ehrenburg, noted Soviet writer, regarding his position on Germany. Alexandrov stated: "Comrade Ehrenburg assures the readers that all Germans are identical and all in equal measures will answer for the crimes of the Hitlerites." Alexandrov continues: "The Soviet people have never considered as one and the same the German population and the criminal Nazi clique ruling Germany." Alexandrov stated that Ehrenburg was correct in condemning the bloody work of the Germans in the Soviet Union, "but regrettably, from unarguable facts, Ehrenburg draws erroneous conclusions." We agree with Alexandrov and consider that the criticism is long overdue. (Quotations reprinted from Chicago Sunday Times, April 15.)

Oliver Ritchie.

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How the World Goes

The full significance of what is transpiring throughout the world today is difficult to comprehend, but through the smoke and noise of war, and apparent utter confusion in some countries, there is much evidence of the working out of revolutionary changes of a far-reaching character.

The outstanding fact is the complete defeat and disintegration of German Naziism. Next in importance is the ascendancy of the Soviet Union, not only in relation to its role in eastern Europe but as a world power of such strength that the great imperialist nations, the British and Americans, must consider it in relation to all major world problems which in future arise. "What will be the stand of the Soviet Union?" will be the question which will always confront them.

Another obvious fact, which the war's ending will reveal, is the shattered state of world capitalism. Great capitalist-imperialist powers, such as Germany, Japan and Italy, cannot be thrown to the ground without weakening the whole world structure of capitalism. France, too, although one of the United Nations, will take a long time to recover its former capitalist status, if it ever does.

Only three great powers will be left when Japan is overthrown. The British and American empires will be relatively stronger than ever. They are two of a kind, and although capitalist competition is a force which makes for their divergence, their common problems may compel them to hang together for some time, for their mutual safety, and because there is plenty of plunder for both.

The Soviet Union is also one of the United Nations but it has a different objective than that of British and American imperialism. It is, in fact, anti-imperialist. No matter what efforts are made to submerge this difference it will in time manifest itself and split the "unity."

There is in every capitalist country, Britain and America included, a substantial section of the capitalist class who fear and hate the USSR. These will strive by every means in their power to wield the political machinery of their nations, and their economic strength, against the Soviet Union. On the other hand, a section of the population in all capitalist nations, the most class-conscious section of the working class, will continually strive to strengthen the Soviet Union and its influence throughout the world. This contradictory situation within the ranks of the United Nations may not come to a head while they have mutual need of each other. They may continue to disagree upon certain matters, provided, of course, that there are other issues, immediate and vital enough, to hold together this "marriage of convenience," the United Nations, whose economic and political systems are poles apart.

In the early days of the present war, officials and leaders within most Capitalist nations yelled in chorus against the Soviet Union. They accused it of showing the green light to Hitler when the ten-year non-aggression pact was signed between Nazi Germany and the USSR. Some held it directly responsible for the war. The facts, however, are that France and Britain showed Hitler the green light when they

refused to defend Czechoslovakia and let Germany annex it.

Had Nazi Germany first made war upon the Soviet Union, instead of striking at Poland, the course of World War II might have been very different. Another yell went up in 1940 when the Soviet Union made war upon and defeated "poor little Finland," which was not borrowing a "neighbor's garden hose" to put out a fire but was pouring gasoline on a pile of kindling near Leningrad, namely, the Mannerheim Line, behind which capitalist-imperialism of any variety might have been invited by Finland to do its stuff.

Within Britain and America today, little is being said about "poor little 'democratic' Finland" because that nation lined up with the wrong group of imperialists. "Democratic" Finland joined hands with the fascist Axis gang, but in spite of that, when the Soviet Union defeated Finland it did not invade and destroy its sovereignty. Neither is the Soviet Union destroying Polish sovereignty. True, it has taken back that part of the Soviet Union which "democratic" Poland took from the USSR in 1920. It also took back from Roumania the territory of Bessarabia, which it seized from the USSR about the same time. However, the sovereignty of Roumania and other Balkan nations remain intact. So much is this the case that certain lopsided organizations of the working class, that hate the Soviet leadership, are accusing "the Stalinists" with "betraying the working class of the Balkan states" because the Soviet system is not being forced upon those nations.

The so-called Polish government in exile, the rich Poles who sit in London, have the approved and support of the landlords and exploiters of labor everywhere. The terrible thing that is happening in Poland is that the peasants are taking possession of the land and there is a possibility of the workers of the cities taking over the industries. This is the stumbling block within the camp of the United Nations, and which they have, in a measure, agreed to disagree about.

It was the Red Army which drove the Nazis out of Poland, and it is Polish workers and peasants, not rich landlords, merchants or bankers, that are now fighting along with the Red Army against the remnants of Naziism. The common people of Poland are free to take over the land and the industries and run their own affairs, if they so desire. This is the fly in the bourgeois ointment. If the landlords could return to their old holdings and carry on as formerly, all would be well with them and their rich friends.

Soon, the Polish question, now a tempestuous one, will be overshadowed by greater ones. While it may not be officially upon the agenda at San Francisco, the question of how to handle German territories and industries, and the population, is bound to arise. British and American imperialism will want to restore the status quo of "free enterprise," the old profit system, or a modification thereof. They will, if they can get away with it, collect all the plums of victory, but that will not likely materialize. The Soviet Union is strong enough to prevent it from being an entirely imperialist peace, although that is what it will be in the main.

Anglo-American Imperialism

It was Lenin who pointed out the real nature of World War I, an imperialist struggle for the repartition of the world among the great powers. World War II was started for the same reason. Those who, like imperialist Germany, Italy and Japan, believed that they did not hold their rightful share of the world's surface, started out to obtain it, and those powers with the choicest sections, and possession of the greatest quantities of modern raw materials, such as oil, rubber, iron-

ore, etc., stood together to defend their holdings.

The Soviet Union was an exception in many respects. It required no raw materials outside of its own borders. Its vastness made it practically self-supporting in that relation. It required no foreign market, nor spheres for the investment of surplus capital. The latter is one of the most important requirements for capitalist imperialism.

The Soviet Union is not on a capitalist basis. It does not operate for the purpose of enriching a few people through profit, interest and rent, as do capitalist nations. Surplus values, appropriated by capitalists, are not part of the Soviet economy. There are surpluses, however, produced by the workers of industry, over and above what they consume. Most of that goes into the improvement and extension of industry, and for improved living conditions of the Soviet population. As exploitation of labor has been abolished in the U. S. S. R., it would not be in keeping with its policy to invest money in other lands for the exploitation of other workers. This simple, but all important, fact will influence the peace policies of the Soviet Union. Profit, interest and rent, the real holy trinity of capitalist society, will be the guiding spirit of the peace policies of the big capitalist imperialists, and will be approved by all their satellite nations.

When the war ends, the British and American empires will be larger and stronger than ever. Compensation for losses will be high up on the agenda. Indemnities in cash and kind will be demanded and collected, where possible. The territorial holdings of the defeated empires will be taken from them, but they will not be handed back to the natives. Italy's African colonies are practically now British possessions, although they may later be labeled "mandated" territories, for appearance.

It is more than doubtful if French imperialism, one of the United Nations, will ever get back Syria and Madagascar, which Britain pounced upon for "strategical" reasons. The many islands in the Pacific from which U. S. forces are driving Japan, will not be returned to the natives, but incorporated (if they have any value) into the Yankee empire.

Small parts of Germany may be given to Holland, Belgium and France, to compensate, in part, for their losses at the hands of the Nazis, and to help stultify German imperialism if it seeks to try a comeback. The long struggle yet to be made to drive Japan from China will have for its objective the destruction of the rival imperialism of Japan. Probably a different arrangement may be made in the east.

In the guise of helping China, and to develop its resources, that vast exploitable population may be brought under the dominion of British and American finance imperialism, especially the latter, through loans and direct commercial and industrial penetration. Britain will get back Burma, Malay and Singapore, and perhaps Hong Kong. It is doubtful if France will get back Indo-China, and what will be done about the Dutch East Indies is in the lap of the future. Imperialism will still dominate. The "good imperialists," of course. Australia and New Zealand may acquire a share of the loot, thus strengthening the empire, that is, "the Commonwealth."

Proletarians and Peasants

Practically all capitalist nations on the continent of Europe have been weakened, some of them almost shattered. It is not merely the Soviet Union which has been blowing capitalist property to bits, the imperialist nations themselves, in their "irre-

Wages and the Working Day

(Continued from last issue)

Social production was not invented. It evolved spontaneously. It is the outcome of industrial evolution, but the effects of this change have great significance. It has brought large numbers of workers together, under the same roof. It has reduced the vast majority to the position of mere machine tenders, doing but a small part in the industrial process, however necessary and efficient that part may be. Their congregation around the machines, and their common needs, taught them to organize into unions, although some have not yet learned that lesson.

Some have learned the relationship of politics to industry, that the main purpose of political power is to insure and protect private ownership of the machines, the means of social production. Social production has also had its effects upon the owners. It has rendered them un-

necessary. They don't even have to manage, or keep books or do anything whatever in connection with the process of social production. All posts from the floor sweeper to the general manager can be carried on by hired "hands" and hired "heads." The only function left for the modern capitalist is to collect his profit. In fact, it is collected for him.

Thus, social production has rendered the capitalist entirely parasitic. He can be miles away from his nearest factory or mill, doing nothing whatever in connection with the process, and yet may have an income greater than all his employees put together. Private ownership of the machinery of social production is now a travesty. It is the root of all social problems, poverty, slums, depression, crime and war. The logical sequence to social production is social ownership of the means of production. That is the answer to most of the social prob-

lems of today.

In the handicraft period, the artisan owned the tools with which he worked and also the workshop. He owned what he produced. There was no question about that. He took the products to the market. But the modern worker does not own the machinery with which he works, nor the industrial plant. The owners of these, although not usually taking part in the production, appropriate the products. They send those products of social labor to the market and collect the prices which they bring. Out of this amount a portion goes for the purchase of more raw materials and more labor power so as to procure more surplus values (profits) from the social labor of the workers.

Wages also imply exploitation, as we have previously shown. Some people contend that as the producers of the Soviet Union, where industry is already socialized, receive so much payment weekly for their maintenance that they are wage workers, proletarians. But where there are

no *surplus values*, there are no proletarians, wage workers. For there to be *surplus values* there must be capitalists appropriating them.

In the Soviet Union, however, there are no surplus values, that historic form of exploitation characteristic of the social relationship, Capitalism. As the workers of U. S. S. R. produce all values, and only consume a portion thereof, there are consequently surpluses. For many years a great part of this surplus went into the expansion of industry, and, unfortunately, into military expenditures. This was the consequence of the rest of the world being capitalistic. The Soviet people knew that soon or late some capitalist power, or powers, would strike at and invade the Soviet Union, as Nazi Germany finally did.

(To be continued)

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pressible conflict," have been blasting their own system.

The sufferings which the European peoples have endured, especially the poor, has, without a doubt, cut deep into the consciousness of the proletarians of the cities and the peasants of the country. "Desperate diseases need desperate remedies" is an old saying and large sections of the European populations are plenty desperate. Respect for the ruling classes, which brought Europe to its present plight, has left the minds of many workers, never to return.

Following World War II, the proletarians and peasants of Russia carried through their successful revolution. They received no assistance from outside, but much interference and direct injury. The nations of eastern Europe, those closest to the Soviet Union, are now moving in the direction of socialization of land and industry. There, the situation is much different from that which confronted the Russian workers in 1917. The ruling classes had not fled from Russia. They took up arms and fought bitter counter-revolutionary wars against the Soviets, with the approval and open assistance of the "democratic" capitalist powers. There was not a friendly army anywhere. It is different now in Europe. The Red Army is not there to suppress workers and peasants. It may not interfere with the internal economic and political alignments, but it would not allow capitalist armies to march in and overthrow any workers' government, which might be established, as was the case in 1919, when Roumanian and Czechoslovakian armies marched in and overthrew the Hungarian Soviet government.

The workers and peasants of the Balkans do not have to fear an Italian fascist army, or a German Nazi army. These counter-revolutionary forces have been shattered during the inter-imperialist conflict. The "democratic" armies of occupation, especially the British and American, may be called upon to suppress working class revolt against the native exploiters, but they will not have the heart for it, as the Nazis and Fascists would have, and where the Red Army is on their soil the situation is most favorable for the workers and peasants. It seems practically certain that several eastern European

nations will come under the control of the working class.

The German Proletarians

It was tragic that the German workers were under the yoke of a political system that played the role of would-be destroyer of the first working class republic, the Soviet Union. That many German workers consciously aligned themselves with that attempt, that many of them became enthusiastic Nazis and butchers for German imperialism, is undeniable. However, that was not the German working class as such, and not probably even a majority. Many will have remained loyal to the socialist and communist objective, but unable in the face of organized terror to assert themselves.

With the collapse of the Nazi military machine, and the extermination of large numbers of Nazi "supermen," a different situation will prevail. The underground proletarian revolution will emerge to rally the workers for a new fight. It will take time for them to assert themselves, time to organize and act, but it certainly will take place.

It was from a defeated and chaotic Russia that the Soviet system arose in 1917. There were many months of internal struggle after the fall of the Czar before the workers were able to take power.

The workers of central Europe, the Germans, Austrians, Hungarians and Czechoslavs, will be heard from. This devastating war, as far as Europe is concerned, is drawing toward a close. The Axis is broken beyond repair. Capitalism is badly shattered. There will be a struggle on the part of Britain and America to restore it sufficiently for their imperialist purposes. They will support the capitalists of the defeated nations and try to restore their economy in the name of peace and rehabilitation. But it will be a capitalist restoration that they will be striving for.

The workers, on the other hand, even for a time if they seem to be in the grip of despair and demoralization, will snap out of it and begin to rebuild their political and economic organizations.

The long and vigorous application of Nazi methods within Germany since 1933 broke down the organized resistance to capitalist

exploitation. The unions and political parties of the workers were destroyed, along with much of their leadership and most militant elements. However, the working class as such is not, and cannot be, destroyed. Many revolutionary workers were obliged to take cover and lie low until more favorable times. Many new workers, awakened to class consciousness through the suffering of the war years, will be drawn into the struggle.

The vanguard of the German proletariat made a good fight against the rise of Nazism. They were overpowered and suffered tremendous losses, but not exterminated. The Nazi partisans had the support of German capitalists, and the British and American "free enterprisers." Capitalism had its international quarrel. It has been fought out, and in the process the capitalist structure in central Europe has been badly crippled. If Britain and America can feed, clothe and shelter the population of Europe and restore its capitalism to a working basis, there will be no revolution in Europe, but if they can't, which is most likely to be the case, the proletarian struggle for power will make headway. Out of the suffering of war, out of the disaster to capitalist militarism in central Europe a new wave of the inevitable proletarian revolution may sweep forward.

The capitalist world is in a mess. It was not the workers who brought it on, but the capitalists themselves. The mess will continue, no matter what is decided at San Francisco. The problems which confront the representatives of world capitalism there are insoluble within the framework of capitalist economy.

The world development has reached a stage where only a complete revolutionary change in its economic basis can solve the chronic problems confronting it. The capitalist as a class don't want such a change. Their economic position, and their class viewpoint, blinds them to its necessity. Only the world's workers, the modern proletariat, can solve the problems of poverty in the midst of plenty, end wars and depressions and lay the basis for a great new advance in human relationships, the classless society of peace and plenty, the communist society of the future.

John Keracher.

HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 3)
in another. It is this contradiction between economic law and the political law which gives rise to the "black market."

The "black merchants" may be loyal patriots, honorable and moral men, but economic self-interest is greater than their sense of patriotism or morality. To expect all capitalists to forego the opportunity of doing business, and making extra profits, is expecting too much. The government of a capitalist nation, the guardians of the "free enterprise" system, find themselves in the contradictory position of resisting the natural trend of capitalism.

No appeals, preachings, warnings or threats will avail as the growth of the "black market" definitely shows. Not even the alleged lofty war aims can influence the profit-hungry operators who see an opportunity of cashing in on the demands. No government on earth can successfully combat such a condition. In the last analysis the government itself is the agent and defender of business for profit and the freedom to collect all that the market can stand. Curbing profit, and restricting business, to save the profit system is a paradoxical task. The "black market" being the outgrowth of the regular capitalist market, and with the same incentive, profit, it cannot be abolished without abolishing the root from which it has sprouted.

* * *

Byrnes Report

James F. Byrnes, Director of War Mobilization and Reconversion, after making his second quarterly report public, in which he proposes to "freeze" labor not only for the duration of the war but during reconversion as well, quit his own wartime job. However, in his report, certain points were made indicating what is in store for labor in the near future and how capital proposes to deal with it.

On the manpower question he says: "The need for manpower legislation continues. Controls are necessary not only for war production but also for the production of essential civilian goods; and later, to facilitate reconversion."

On V-E Day, in relation to capital, he proposes: "That production controls must be released as promptly as possible to encourage private enterprise to reconvert with maximum dispatch."

Looking forward to the defeat of Germany and unemployment with its problems, he said in part: "Unemployment problems following the defeat of Germany will be temporary in nature. The tremendous backlog of civilian demand, with savings, including war bond holdings, at a total of 140 billion dollars, should quickly provide employment.

"Local unemployment will develop pressure for large public works programs. These should be

resisted until Japan is defeated.

"The section of the Selective Training and Service Act which provides re-employment rights for veterans requires clarification.

"The war-time facilities of the USES will be retained to find employment for displaced war workers. Provisions have been made for unemployment compensation to care for these war workers while temporarily unemployed. However, these provisions are inadequate. Previous recommendations for their broadening by the Congress are renewed with a note of urgency."

Tax relief for the "poor" rich is advocated. "For the acceleration of depreciation allowances; to make available to corporations immediately after V-E Day a part of the postwar refund of their excess profits tax and the corresponding reduction in the compulsory savings provisions in the excess profits tax; and an increase in the specific exemption in this tax from the present \$10,000 to \$25,000."

The above report and its proposals should come as no surprise to those who have studiously followed the machinations of capital and their hirelings to manacle labor to the chariot of the profit system.

Patriotic arguments are advanced to regiment labor. "Its adoption will be heartening news to the armed forces," said Mr. Roosevelt. Is that what the boys across are fighting for, to enslave their brothers, fathers, relatives, for the profit of the factory barons and lords of finance? After fighting the Nazis will they come home to find fascist conditions in America? The various bills to "handle" manpower could be the wedge for permanent control of labor. After fulfilling the needs during the darkest hours without the now called for controls, the patriotic appeal sure sounds flimsy. The give-away can be seen in the report dealing with reconversion. Fear of the scramble after V-E Day for post-war profits and jobs. Fear after V-J Day of unemployment and vanishing business.

Sixty million jobs was an election promise. But that election has passed and so too the promise. Mr. Byrnes reminds us of the "fat" savings and bonds, which labor is supposed to have for the lean years. First, the Hoover policy—let the workers shift for themselves. When their "resources" are "dried up," then the Roosevelt humanitarianism, WPA — digging holes to bury unemployment.

Business will be helped by tax refunds and reductions, but not saved. The war lifted business out of the slough of the depression. Not long after the war's end, it will fall right back in the hole again.

* * *

So Soon

We read that the chairman of the House Military Affairs Committee, Andrew May, has intro-

duced a bill calling for the establishment of a permanent five-man stockpile board, whose function will be to build up, during peacetime, stockpiles of all materials necessary in wartime. Congressman May can't be charged with lack of foresight if nothing else!

* * *

Get Ready the WPA Shovels

George Meany, secretary-treasurer of the American Federation of Labor, broadcasting over the NBC, said:

"When industry and agriculture lose their present big customer—Government—and then have to depend upon customers with empty pockets, a dangerous depression is bound to result."

Of the present wave of prosperity he remarked that 14,000,000 workers exist on less than 70 cents an hour, who for the past 20 months have been refused wage increases. "No American family can live decently on that kind of income at present prices," he said.

Yes, it looks like the ditch is waiting for the shovel, alright.

* * *

Rationalizing the Race Problem

It is most interesting to watch some of our Boston "libertarians" at work in their opposition to the F. E. P. C. anti-discrimination bill introduced into its state legislature. As true freedom-loving people they are not all opposed to race tolerance "in principle." However, they argue such should not be imposed by law and at one stroke.

It is a matter of evolution, a gradual process. In philosophy this might be termed rationalizing, in politics, just plain opportunism. Under the guise of science it is attempted to argue down the anti-bias bill.

Let Mr. Jackson, president of the Boston Chamber of Commerce speak for himself. He said: "People of goodwill everywhere, actively favor and work for the elimination of these measures. Progress in this direction is undeniable. It has been shown in testimony before your committee that there is far less discrimination and intolerance in employment than at any time in 100 years or more.

"To hope for a hastening of this corrective process by coercion, as recommended in these bills is, we believe, futile. Not coercion, but education, understanding and the development of interracial respect and tolerance are the instruments which will accomplish this purpose. This is the task of our educational, religious and social agencies, and perhaps above all, our homes.

"We believe, therefore, that it is particularly unfair to penalize business and employers for what are essentially the common faults of the people at large. Employers are certainly not less tolerant or fair-minded than other persons. The so-called unlawful employment practices, for which correction is sought, are not the fault of employers but are practices based on

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Suggestions for the Study of Marxism

To those who are becoming conscious of the growing importance of Marxism as a science, its theoretical value for the analysis of social and historical processes, as well as a guide to political action, we wish to make the following suggestions on how to acquire a fairly good grasp or understanding of it. Not that we have a monopoly on Marxism or the only method of approach; nor that we can encompass all angles on the subject. Nevertheless, since logical approach is a prerequisite for a successful mastery of any subject matter, we suggest the following as an outline, or an aid, to its study.

(1) Study Marx and Engel's works first-hand. While some useful and explanatory material has been written in an attempt to interpret and simplify, much, too, has come out which does not fully grasp the essential meaning, thus often leading to nonclarity and distortion. Marx and Engels are still the best and most fundamental authorities on social science. To be sure, they develop the problem technically. But, then, every science has its own technical language and expressions, so that popularization of it sometimes tends to obscure, in the effort to enlighten. Don't look for short-cuts. There are none to scientific knowledge. The long, hard road is, in the long run, the shortest.

(2) Popular material can become very valuable if properly used, not as a substitute for Marx's writings, but as supplementary material, in the sense that the same thoughts are brought up to date through the usage of timely modern illustrations. It sometimes helps in clearing up a knotty passage or problem. It serves best as a propaganda medium.

(3) Reading of Marx and Engels is fine, but not enough. After a first reading, which in fact is advisable in order to get a sort of general over-all picture, the student should come back to it and study it more in detail and slowly. Don't be in a hurry to get through, to cover many pages, or many phases. Cover ideas and not territory. If you are stuck at one point and are unable to master it, go on. Leave it for another time. What is not clear in a first study becomes more clear in a return study. Remember that Marx's works are a life study, the product of the life's work of a genius. Every time you read and reread you see something more.

(4) Approach Marx and Engel's works with an inquiring but not a skeptical attitude. Confidence, faith in a teacher's capacity, is necessary for full results. That is not to approve faith as such, that Marx should be ac-

cepted mechanically, blindly, but faith in the knowledge that the man has scientific mastery over his subject. A "doubting Thomas" attitude will be unproductive. Don't quibble over detail, over the letter, but try to get the spirit, the essence of it. That can be acquired only by viewing it as a whole, in its interrelationship.

(5) Study these works from the simple to the complex, first beginning with the more elementary and lighter works, gradually progressing to the more advanced or heavy artillery. Just as in mathematics you learn simple addition, subtraction, etc., before proceeding to algebra, geometry and higher mathematics.

(6) The study of Marxism is work, hard work. But nothing worth while has ever been accomplished without effort. Once you have attained any degree of mastery of Marxism, you've got something no one can take away from you. It will stand you good in all your historical analyses, in solving working class problems. You have a scientific guide to your actions.

(7) Marxism is not mechanical or a religious dogma, but a dialectical, historical science. Therefore, in studying it, you must approach it in the historical, dialectical spirit.

(8) Being a historical, dialectical science it cannot be presumed that Marxism was concluded with the works of Marx and Engels. That would be contrary to the essence of Marxism. That would constitute an end to its own growth and process and, therefore, a contradiction of itself. Marxism is a product of historical development and is itself subject to it. New data, new conditions require new additions. The works of Lenin, for instance, are such an addition and are regarded as constituting a part of the science of Marxism. Marx and Engels have laid down the fundamentals of this social science. Whatever additions or revisions have been made should be carefully discerned in this light. Not all additions or revisions are Marxian. Some are a vulgarization of it. Others are not. Only those are worthy of acceptance that stick to its essence and fundamentals. In this sense Leninism is not a negation of Marxism but a confirmation and a further continuation or development of Marxism.

(9) Don't try to learn Marxism through lectures, and direct conversation. These have their place, as an introduction to interest one in the further study of it. They are helpful but not enough. They can serve as an appetizer and no more. Individual study and application should follow.

Soviet Union Adversaries

(Continued from page 2)

Union will take on new life. The Old Bolsheviks will be re-equipped with their whisks and daggers. They will again become "free-lovers" and "god-killers" in an increasing number of capitalist publications. But, most of all, every communist tendency will be branded as tentacles reaching out from the dictator's center in Moscow.

This is all natural, and in line with capitalist class interests. But we have, besides, a formidable array of other Soviet adversaries which are not so easily explained, at first approach.

Labor unions, which are workers' organizations, and built for the specific purpose of improving the lot of the workers, often take an anti-Soviet stand. Officials of the A. F. of L. have refused to send delegates to a world labor conference, on the ground that "unfree" Soviet trade unions were represented. Matthew Woll, vice-president of the A. F. of L., accepted an invitation to speak before the capitalist Rotary Club of New York City. This "labor leader" was giving stern warning to the exploiters that communism was taking hold in many American organized bodies. Said Mr. Woll,

(10) Group, or class, study is another way of studying Marxism. And in many respects even superior to individual study. The totality of ideas and discussion within a group usually results in improved understanding. Often it prevents lopsidedness. It also helps in overcoming tough spots. What one man doesn't see, another grasps. It thus can become the property of the whole group and that of each participant. A happy combination is that of group study, supplemented by individual application.

(11) Once having gone through the classes, don't shelve them in the belief that no more is necessary, that your task is done. In the first place there's the tendency to get rusty and get off the beam. Secondly, the time now is to commence applying it daily to events and interpret them in the light of what you have learned. Go back constantly for verification, for reference. A student never stops studying. Science, social as well as natural, is always new and interesting. There's always something new under the sun.

(12) Do not involve yourself in tactical working class problems before you have learned something about Marxian economics and the fundamental theoretical principles of Marxism in general. Many make the error of attempting to read and master Lenin without first knowing Marx and Engels. That is a mistake. It cannot be done. Lenin him-

"Church organizations and cultural bodies have adopted the ever-changing Communist Party line." "But most disquieting is the communist penetration of conservative business groups." "Interests close to some of our largest banking institutions have become fellow-travelers, strange as it may sound."

And how is it possible for the "labor leader" to see Red in the organizations of the rich? Mr. Woll himself gives the answer. "Every move to concentrate greater power in the hands of government meets with the chorus of American communist approval, and since it is generally agreed that big government is the enemy of economic voluntarism, or free enterprise, and since communism in America today is completely behind the growing tendency toward control over the nation's industrial enterprises, those in business who soft-pedal communism are in effect digging their own graves."

The real danger, contends Mr. Woll, is not from a mass turning to communism, but this communist penetration into leading economic organizations. This "labor leader" sees a real trend in business, the trend toward cen-

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self arrived at his conclusions only after first studying carefully and exhaustively Marx and Engels. The road to Lenin lies through Marx and Engels.

A well correlated grasp of Marxism can only be attained by a combined study of Marxian economics, philosophy of dialectical materialism, history and politics in the light of historical materialism.

The following is a suggested line of study:

Wage-Labor and Capital (Marx).

Value, Price and Profit (Marx).

Communist Manifesto (Marx and Engels).

Socialism, Utopian and Scientific (Engels).

Capital (Marx).

Anti-Duhring (Engels).

Origin of the Family (Engels).

Positive Outcome of Philosophy (Dietzgen).

Poverty of Philosophy (Marx).

Critique of Political Economy (Marx).

Critique of Gotha Program (Marx).

Civil War in France (Marx).

18th Brumaire (Marx).

Ancient Society (Morgan).

Left - Wing Communism (Lenin).

State and Revolution (Lenin).

Imperialism (Lenin).

Materialism and Empirio-Criticism (Lenin).

Chapter on Dialectical Materialism (History of the C.P.S.U).

R. Daniels.

Soviet Union Adversaries

(Continued from page 7)

centralization and government control, but he does not know that this is capitalism's last move for its own preservation. He does not know that there is a complete absence of communism in such a set-up. Until labor sees fit to take over the reigns of government, and thereby make possible the operation of such centralized economic functions for its own benefit, rather than for the benefit of shareholders and bondholders.

Mr. Woll is not alone, in the camp of labor, who is afraid of what he thinks is communism. Mr. Green, the A. F. of L. number one leader, and in fact most of the topnotchers in the labor unions, will go out of their way to condemn communism and to warn against too much cooperation with the Soviet Union. There are few truths, either about communism or about the Soviet Union, which they would admit. There are fewer lies and slanders, which they would not try to spread, if by doing so they thought they could prevent the spread of communist ideas among the workers.

Here is a case where leaders of powerful working class organizations are clearly working against the best economic interests of their members. This seems to run against the theory that material and, in fact, economic forces are the most powerful in formulating social trends. This goes to show how powerful are the ideas of the ruling class. As Marx said: "The ruling ideas of any society are the ideas of its ruling class." But labor, having an economic interest, directly opposed to that of the capitalist, and one that continuously grows more antagonistic, will be bound to start reflecting its own interest in clearer terms, until it finally breaks away from the ideas of its master.

Next we come to that group of smaller organizations of the workers, those who claim to know that the economic interests of workers and capitalists are at odds. Many of these are also Soviet Union adversaries.

The Socialist Labor Party insists that labor cannot escape exploitation as long as capitalism remains. That political party favors workers taking power. It favors industries run by and for the workers; but it is more hostile to the Soviet Union than some capitalists. The workers of Russia seem to have taken power too soon, according to the S. L. P. edict. They were not highly developed at the time they took power. They run their country through Soviets instead of by the Industrial Union, as is the S.L.P. chosen method. Since it has not been done, according to Daniel DeLeon, it just hasn't been done. It is, therefore, not the workers but a gang of politicians, with-

out any economic class connection, who run the Soviet Union, according to the S. L. P. The Soviet system, to that group, is more repugnant than capitalism and must be fought vigorously.

Then we have the I. W. W., an economic union, which has been fighting capitalism harder, in comparison to number, than any other organization in America. But the I. W. W. wants the Industrial Union to take over and run the economic machinery of the world. The Soviets are not the right kind of organization, hence they have done the wrong thing and must be fought.

The I. W. W., like the S. L. P., will insist that capitalist news is falsified news, but they will swallow, hook, line and sinker, anything the capitalists have to say about the Soviet Union. If it is bad they pass it on for what it is. If it is good, they give it in proof that it must be rotten since it receives capitalist endorsement. Here we see how groups who have come a long way in understanding the nature of capitalist exploitation can get confused just because a suggested plan of procedure was not followed by those who took the step.

Finally we come to the groups who follow Leon Trotsky. These people recognize the class struggle. They endorse the Dictatorship of the Proletariat, and they approve of the Soviet system. But just because there were a few in Russia who could not swallow defeat on certain proposed plans, and who, therefore, rebelled against their own class government, that government ceased to be the right kind and had to be fought. Of all the elements who are Soviet adversaries, the followers of Trotsky seem to have the poorest excuse for their antagonism.

There is one other angle to this whole matter. Just as capitalist nations, in dire need, were glad to see the Soviet Union take up arms against their strong foe, so the Soviet Union, in equally dire need, was glad to see capitalist nations take up arms against its immediate opponent. Great Britain and America had to tone down their antagonism toward their strongest military ally. The Soviet Union was forced to do likewise. The nations who helped to defeat the invaders of the Soviet Union became "good" nations in comparison to the invader. This differentiation between "good" and "bad" capitalist nations again reflected itself here among those who were the friends of the Soviet Union.

The so-called Communist Party began to support American capitalism as against German Nazism. They went so far as to abandon party organization and proclaimed, in deed, if not in words, that this is a permanent situa-

HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 6)

the preferences of customers and the intolerances of fellow workers. In other words, this legislation is really an attempt to require employers to force customers and other workers to alter their feelings toward fellow citizens." (Italic mine.)

What truth is there to this evolutionary contention? It is only a half truth. It is certainly true that things must take their natural course. But that is only part of the truth, for it is also true that nature can and is being modified and accelerated, that the social process is being speeded up. What else do inventions, discoveries and changes in technology do but revolutionize, or hasten, the otherwise slow social process? The American Revolution, Civil War, French Revolution and Russian Revolution have all done just that. The whole truth is that society develops along contradictory lines, in an evolutionary development, only to be negated, contradicted or climaxed by a revolutionary upheaval. Naturally, heads of Chambers of Commerce look with veneration only towards past revolutions but not towards the coming revolutions. That is not where

tion. To the former "communists" American capitalism is now capable of being reformed into a "genuine democracy." Full employment, with improving conditions for the workers, is all in the cards. Economic reality will soon show how far they have drifted from an understanding of economic fact. We do not profess to know if they will be able to make any more turns in their intellectual behavior. But for the time being, when they are attempting to hold workers back from resisting the ever encroaching conditions of intensified exploitation, they add to the general confusion. If they do so, claiming to help, and carry out, the policies of the Soviet Union, they are, in spite of their intentions, also helping to build Soviet Union adversaries among the workers.

Surely the true class line should not be so hard to see in a highly industrialized nation like America. Surely the Soviet Union, without a single capitalist, to claim tribute from the workers, should not be so hard to understand. But capitalist ideology has to pass through many twists and turns before it gives way to working class ideology.

Class-conscious workers need to be on the alert. Capitalist economic development will help make the issue clear. Working class theoretical understanding can help to avoid the pitfalls. Workers in all capitalist nations have one true ally, the Soviet Union. Let us beware of its adversaries, both capitalist and working class.

their economic interests lie.

Rationalization number 2. You can't legislate out a condition through law. This too is a half truth. For while it is true that laws in themselves are inadequate in eradicating a given condition, such as race-bias, it is even more true that this condition itself is inherent in business economy, with its private interests and antagonisms, in a word, it is the natural offspring of slave society. To make the law effective it would necessitate first of all the abolition of social conditions that give rise to the problem. Laws do not supercede economic and social conditions, they merely reflect them. Again the law makers and enforcers are the ruling element in such a society expressing its class needs. That the Chamber of Commerce does well. And even where legal attempts (F.E.P.C.) are made, under the pressure of war needs, they are but half-hearted attempts thus destined ultimately to failure. The recommended path of education is but a respectable way of dodging the issue and tabling it indefinitely.

Rationalization number 3: The Chamber of Commerce head resents that the entire responsibility of race bias is placed upon the employers. That, too, is half truth. For while it is true that the business class is not alone in this racial prerogative; that the workers too have been contaminated with this venomous bug, much to their own disadvantage, since it splits the unity of labor, it is even more true (1) that the condition of race-bias fundamentally flows from private property, business competition and class rule (2) that it is the business class which controls the ideology of the public, keeps such prejudices alive as it sees fit, and (3) who else does the direct employing and discriminating except the business class which does the hiring?

Rationalization is the art of presenting half-truth for truth, pseudo-science for science itself. "Lawyers tricks" are employed, and passed off for fact. As one man very wisely put it, "A half-truth is equal to a lie and a half."

The Proletarian Party does not hold that the F.E.P.C. even if nationally adopted is a solution to the problem. Capitalism breeds more racial and other antagonisms than its laws or educational institutions can correct. Wherever this law is adopted it will soon enough find itself in conflict with the existing conditions and traditions. Methods of circumvention will not be wanting. The starting point for a real solution is not from the top, the law, education or religion, but from the bottom, the economics of society.

The race problem is a phase of the class problem and will be resolved along with it. No legal reforms will do. A radical reconstruction of society is the answer.

L. B.