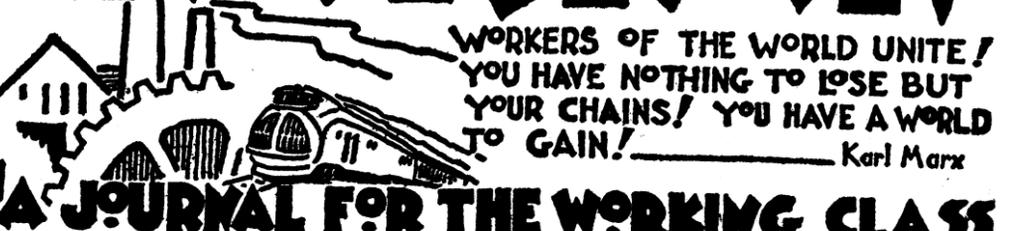


PROLETARIAN

NEWS



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

A JOURNAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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618

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THE ECONOMICS OF UNION GROWTH

Recently, anti-union propaganda in the form of congressional investigations of allegedly corrupt union practices has received many headlines in the newspapers. Ever since the McClellan committee was set up, the objective in congress has been to pass a "labor reform" bill whose purpose is being increasingly recognized on the part of labor organizers as a labor-smashing bill. This move seems entirely consistent with the trend of last November to attempt to foist the anti-union "right to work" bills on the working class.

However, those workers who have listened over the past decade to promises to reform the Taft-Hartley act may be somewhat bewildered by this trend of the last few years. Certainly, an analysis of the factors which affect union strength and the strength of the working class is in order.

In *Value, Price and Profit*, Marx wrote, "On the basis of the present system labor is only a commodity like others. It must, therefore, pass through the same fluctuations to fetch an average price corresponding to its value. It would be absurd to treat it on the one hand as a commodity, and to want on the other hand to exempt it from laws which regulate the prices of commodities." Marx did not deny the law of supply and demand for commodities, but emphasized: "Supply and demand regulate nothing but the temporary fluctuations of market prices." Any attempt on the part of a union to raise wages or gain fringe benefits is obviously an attempt to raise the market price of labor. The ease with which a union may accomplish this depends on the supply of labor and the demand for labor.

Total demand for labor is really indicated by the general level of business activity or national output, and the current efficiency of labor. Thus, increasing production is indicative of an increasing demand for labor, while increasing automation and efficiency of labor tend to counteract the effect of increasing production as a factor in labor demand.

The labor supply of course depends on the population; the percentage of the population in the labor force; the normal hours of work; the physical condition of the

workers; the pace of work; and the training, experience and skill necessary for the job. Historically, trade unions have been successful in affecting the labor supply through opposition to immigration, through attempting to raise the legal school-leaving age, limiting the occupations which young people and women may engage in, encouraging earlier retirement through private and public pension systems, reducing weekly and annual hours of work, and reducing work speeds. Lloyd Reynolds in "Labor Economics and Labor Relations" estimated in 1954, "It would not be surprising to find that the present labor supply of the United States is 20 to 30 per cent lower than it would have been in the absence of union activity."

While unionists may attempt to control the labor supply they cannot substantially alter the recurring slumps of business activity, or the introduction of automation, because the cyclic nature of the capitalist economy is inherent in capitalism.

In time of prosperity the demand for labor increases. Generally, demand for labor approaches the supply of labor, and in certain specialized fields (such as engineering and science today) demand for labor may exceed the supply of labor. It becomes relatively easier for unions to obtain their demands, and union membership increases. During a depression, however, unions have more difficulty obtaining their demands as the supply of labor far exceeds labor demand. Fewer workers join the union and some lose interest and drop out due to this weakness. Furthermore, laid off workers drop out of the union, and others fear losing their jobs because of union membership, when jobs are hard to get.

Inversely to union membership, pro-labor political activity increases during depression. The worker, engaged in the class struggle, becomes more conscious of it when it affects his stomach. Gradually there develops a realization that some of labor's most vital interests either cannot be served at all through bargaining with employers, or can be served more rapidly and effectively through

(Continued on page 4)

WAGE, PRICE and MYTH

In olden times, back in "grandpappy's" days, most people went thru life enslaved by all sorts of natural superstitions. Mythology was in its heyday. Scientists, not without personal sacrifices, penetrated the "mysteries" of nature and explained them in their true light. Today, we look back and wonder, how those old people were hooked.

Now-a-days we are enslaved by all sorts of social superstitions. One of these is the myth that wages determines prices. A large number of workers have swallowed that poisonous pill. They go around saying — "what good does it do to get a wage hike, it will only jack up prices." That is just what the ruling capitalist class wants the workers to believe.

Under feudalism, the poor were ignorant of natural forces, but social markings were clearer to them, as they worked about 3 days of the week for their masters, the landlords, and the remainder of the week on their own patch. There was no question in their minds that the 3 days they worked for their masters, for no compensation, was exploitation. It was an unpalatable fact but crystal clear.

Now-a-days, under capitalism, the modern wage workers, smart to nature's workings are hooked on the wages question. They, the workers, think they get a day's pay for a day's work. But more on that later.

First, on the myth, about the relation of wages to prices. Wages are the price that the worker gets for his services, for his expenditure of time and effort on the job. In the science of economics it is expressed as the price of his labor power. The amount of his wages is determined essentially, by the cost of maintaining himself and his family in living condition. The higher the skill, the more training necessary, the greater is the amount of the wage, generally. A doctor or technician takes longer to develop, hence the larger salary. The labor market, the supply and demand thereof, explains the fluctuations in wages or salaries, but basically the cost of development and maintaining of the particular branch of work engaged, is the basic ingredient determining the price of labor power.

Wages have two other aspects. Briefly, real wages is the relation of the monied wage, 50, 75, or 100 dollars in comparison to what it buys. If the cost of living goes up and wages are not equally advanced, real wages have sunk in proportion to the higher cost of living. Relative wages is a quantitative difference between the classes. If in the past, for example, wages were \$8 a day, and profits on that worker were also \$8 a day, and wages advanced to \$10 a day and profits correspondingly advanced to \$25 then relative wages have sunk. And that is exactly what is taking place.

As with wages, prices on commodities, are equally determined by economic laws, easily understood, contrary to capitalist propaganda, who distort and weave all sorts of myths around economic laws. Commodity prices, generally, are determined by supply and demand. That explains their fluctuations. But in and thru their movement they fluctuate around something. That important something is value. And the value of commodities, briefly, is determined by the amount of socially necessary labor time incorporated in the particular commodity.

However, these economic laws do not operate in a vacuum. Take prices—monopoly practices, now more popularly known as administered prices, they interfere with the "pure" operation of the economic law of supply and demand. Goods may be in overabundance, yet prices may advance over a period due to the manipulation of monopolies, which are more common today than ever. Further, government monetary policies, resulting from heavy deficit spending, for warfare and welfare, creating a huge debt, its manipulations, cheapening of the dollar, all have an inflationary effect, which affects prices of goods upwards. All this, even though the technique of mining of gold has advanced to a point offsetting its exploratory costs, changing the relationship of the value of gold to other commodities, also affecting prices. The above mentioned factors have a bearing on prices. But the basic ingredient of prices, that is, value, is the all important law to understand for a grasp of the

(Continued on page 2)

WAGE, PRICE AND MYTH

(Continued from Page 1)

situation, not only to prices but also the exploitation of wage-labor by capital itself.

Value is labor time. Within the value of a commodity there is surplus value. Surplus value is unpaid labor time. The worker spends 40 or more hours a week producing values for his employer, but reproduces the equivalent of his wages, perhaps in about 10 hours, the other 30 hours, the boss gets his take as surplus value, unpaid labor time or profits. The more the worker gets in wages, the less the take for the capitalists in profits. That is the reason for the bitterness over hours and wages, and the main cause of all strikes including the steel workers' strike of this year. It has nothing to do with prices.

Prices may advance, as we have noted, to causes unrelated at all to

wages. In fact, prices may advance and wages may go down, and vice versa, wages may go up, with strong union backing and prices may drop. The myth that wages determines prices is used to conceal the real issue, to befuddle the worker and to discourage him from fighting for a higher wage and a better standard of living.

While it is necessary for labor to battle for higher wages continually, they get "nowhere fast." They are battling not the cause but the effects of their enslavement. The workers produce all the values and are entitled to it, to the full product of their labors. Wages is but a way station to their final destiny, that is, full control and collective ownership of the means of production for the good of all. This will only be possible after capitalism is abolished through organized revolutionary political action of the working class. L.B.

A LOOK AROUND

JUST DOING HIS BIT: Still flushed from the excitement of the 4th of July "Freedom Festival" celebration sponsored jointly by Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario, Detroit's Mayor Miriani rejected a plea by the State Dept. requesting an official welcome for Frol Kozlov, First Deputy Premier of the U.S.S.R., when he visited Detroit last July 6th.

Although Michigan's Governor and the mayor of Dearborn (Detroit's largest suburban neighbor) did what they could to make up for the bad manners of Miriani he did not yield. Apparently the honor of having bowed and scraped before the Queen of England (present for the Freedom Festival three days earlier) coupled with the sight of all those war ships tied up in the Detroit river for the occasion gave the mayor of Detroit a sense of pride and security he might not otherwise have enjoyed. It seems the military character of the Festival with its display of the latest advancement in the weapons of war was so fresh in the minds of the city fathers they decided to do their little part to advance the cause of the cold war. Their effort, however, did not bear much fruit, even though it created a lot of ill will.

A TRICK OF NUMBERS: After a week of fuss and confusion mixed with contradictory and conflicting testimony, the Congressional committee investigating results of an all out atomic war closed the book on a grim note, even though it was decided the human race could survive an atomic war. Most of the predictions and speculation of amounts and degree of damage cannot be considered too accurate if we take into account one startling piece of information gleaned from the hearings.

It seems previous estimates of the amount of strontium 90 (the

deadly radio-active material remaining aloft after an atomic explosion) have been seriously under-estimated. We are now told that instead of 80 per cent of the strontium 90 falling to earth in the immediate area of a water surface explosion, only 50 or 60 per cent comes down. In the case of a land surface explosion only 45 to 70 per cent remains in the vicinity of the explosion.

This means that the remaining strontium 90 goes into the atmosphere in the form of a gas which eventually falls to earth when transformed back into particles heavy enough to float down. It is a deadly radio-active substance which lingers for years in soil and plants and sooner or later finds its way into the bone marrow of animals and man.

We can see from this "revised" outlook that our experts on the subject can hardly be counted on to give accurate testimony about atomic war and its aftermath when they themselves continue to "guess wrong."

One critic of the hearings called it a whitewash to gloss over popular fear of continuing cold war tactics. He said the hearings were a waste of time and money because the whole testimony was based on a prediction of 4,000 megatons of explosives being dropped. (A megaton is equivalent to the power of a million tons of TNT.) Said he, what if 20,000 megatons were exploded? What would your speculations be then?

TAKE YOUR PICK: Two articles in the same newspaper on the same day add a new note of confusion to an already confused American reading public. One article tells us Govs. William G. Stratton of Illinois and Cecil H. Underwood of West Virginia stopped off in New York on their

(Continued on page 4)

Key To The Understanding of History

Man's place in the world, his relation to nature and to his human kind constitutes his history. Why people acted and thought as they did, their diverse, conflicting actions and ideologies in the past and now need explaining. They do have a cause. It is not enough to brush it off lightly with a "man is a mystery" or that "it is a conflict between good and evil." Mystery exists only where a knowledge of the facts are lacking. This accounts for early man's fantastic notions about nature. The forces he didn't understand he endowed with strange, supernatural powers, which were mystified and worshipped. They were his gods, the gods of nature. Little by little, as investigation proceeded, mystery was replaced by knowledge. Natural science, the study and knowledge of nature took root in one field after another.

In the realm of human relations matters proceeded more slowly, meeting with greater resistance. Human passion, the tendency to cling to old traditions and habits, property interest and class greed are the stumbling blocks to the universal recognition of a social science which is already here for the taking. Capitalist society means to reject it, whatever the facts are to substantiate it.

Science in general has had to face up to resistance and unpopularity. Old ideas and traditions die hard. Persecution, torture, derision and suffering was heaped upon some of the biggest names in science, Galileo, Copernicus, Bruno, Darwin, to mention only a few.

The history of mankind is a very long and arduous one, longer than is popularly recognized. The greater part of it belongs to the unwritten sector. Written history is comparatively recent, a few thousand years, marked by the beginning of what is known as civilization. The far greater portion of man's existence was in the form of barbarism and earlier savagery. The terms "savage" and "barbarian" bear a popular meaning which is entirely contrary to their historical significance. The terms are usually associated in our minds with brutality, violence. For instance, Hitler's acts of violence were called barbaric atrocities. However, this adjective "barbarian" suffered incorrect usage. Historically, Hitler, was not a barbarian, but a "civilized" product of German capitalism, which surpassed barbarian peoples by far in the number and kind of atrocities. This, then, is not what distinguishes civilization from barbarism or savagery. There is another, more important factor, which we shall look into soon.

The savages and barbarians, such as the white man found on the American continent and named "Indians," were people leading a tribal existence. They were not yet nations, some of them having advanced to a confederation of tribes. Their life was primitive, a

simple social arrangement, differing from ours. In their family relations they had not yet advanced to our present monogamic bliss; their highest being, according to the famous anthropologist, Lewis Henry Morgan, was the pairing form. They knew not the "blessings" of private property. All property, except personal, like the bow and arrow, etc., belonged to the tribe in common. Collectivism prevailed, including the common burial ground. They had no economic inequalities, of rich and poor, hence no class distinctions; therefore no government or state, in the modern sense of the term to maintain "law and order" which means rule of the rich over the poor.

If we accept the evolutionary standpoint, which is in harmony with science, mankind, like all things, had a humble beginning. Rather than starting from the top down, from a state of perfection—in a garden of Eden—and falling into a state of imperfection, the process is an opposite one. It is one of climbing a ladder, from lower to intermediate, to higher rung. Just as an individual normally starts from infancy, through childhood, adolescence and maturity, so too, with society, which comprises the totality of individuals over the years.

To put it another way, savagery is man's infant state. He lives close to nature, is completely dependent upon and at her mercy. He has barely begun to fashion the most primitive of tools out of wood, stone, such as he finds ready to hand. Barbarism is the next higher stage of childhood and adolescence. Here he is already learning more things, improving and adding implements. The beginnings of nature's transformation are already present. Horticulture and some domestication of animals make him substantially more independent of nature than his savage predecessor. Following barbarism is civilization with its gradually and constantly more improved and complex production technique and knowledge of nature's forces. Each new tool and machine, every additional technical and scientific knowledge increased production possibilities to the extent that today man's technical know-how and understanding of nature's forces has reached the point of virtual lordship over nature. We are now at this stage, when nature is at our mercy and its further conquest—to which there is no limit or end—is proceeding so rapidly that it staggers the imagination.

Society, social forces, is THE problem yet to solve. It is next on the agenda. But first we must understand it before we can advance a solution. What sparked the social process, the transition or the advancement from one social stage to another? Why did certain tribes

(Continued on Page 4)

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THE COLD WAR "THAW"

It was the atomic bomb, with its threat of mass destruction through a nuclear world war, that has caused the United States government to favor the proposal of settling differences with the Soviet Union through negotiations rather than on the battlefield. This "thaw" in the cold war has been developing for some time, first through "cultural exchanges," and more of late through the "social interchange," the visits of top government officials of the two nations.

How long this effort at "togetherness," or of getting to know each other, will last is anybody's guess. However, the general opinion appears to be that so long as the top statesmen and diplomats continue talking to each other the nations are not fighting, and that long will peace prevail.

It was Great Britain's Prime Minister Macmillan who earlier this year had set the pace for the capitalist nations on the road toward "peaceful coexistence" by visiting the Soviet Union and talking with the Soviet Premier Khrushchev. This British friendly approach was denounced at that time by some of the more reactionary U.S. capitalist elements as a "second Munich" and "appeasement of the reds."

But suddenly, as if almost overnight, the U.S. government also took the same road to Moscow. Of all its officials, it was the "red-hating" Vice-President Richard Nixon who was sent on a supposedly informal cultural mission to deliver the opening address at the U.S. exhibit in Moscow. As it transpired, judging by his impromptu heated debate with Khrushchev, and their subsequent private talks, Nixon's visit took on more of an official aspect than otherwise. Even though neither made any commitments that were binding, nevertheless both agreed to the peaceful approach of resolving differences.

While in Russia, Nixon suggested publicly that it would be a good idea for Khrushchev to visit the U.S. A more formal invitation was made later by the American government and Khrushchev agreed for a visit around the middle of September.

About the time of Nixon's visit in Moscow, Khrushchev was much incensed over the U.S. Congressional resolution on the "captive nations week" and President Eisenhower's proclamation endorsing it (July 17th), in which it declared in effect that such nations as Poland, Hungary, East Germany, etc., are enslaved by the Soviet Union and extended to them "hope of liberation." This "captive nations" proclamation was considered even by some of the U.S. press commentators as "ill-timed" and a bad diplomatic blunder. They did not wonder that it angered Khrushchev.

One can imagine (to cite an analogy) how furious President Eisenhower would have been if at the time of the U.S. visit of Soviet Deputy Mikoyan the Soviet government charged the U.S. government of keeping enslaved such countries as Guatemala, Puerto Rico and Panama, and extended Soviet sympathy to them with eventual hope of liberation from American imperial domination. It is possible that Eisenhower would have another "stroke." In fact, the whole capitalist class would have become so enraged that it would not have been

safe for Mikoyan to visit the U.S.

Khrushchev publicly expressed in a speech in Poland his indignation of Eisenhower's "captive nations" proclamation, and condemned it as an insult to the Soviet Union and her allies.

The Soviet Premier also, in the impromptu debate with Nixon in Moscow, posed the question: if the United States wants peace why does it maintain a ring of armed bases around the Soviet Union? Khrushchev further declared, "The one that is for putting an end to bases on foreign land is for peace. The one who is against this is for war."

However, when accepting the invitation to visit the United States, he later emphasized the Soviet Union's peaceful intentions by saying that, "In the old times people used to leave their weapons in the hall when they went in to talk peace. We should do that now and there should be no saber rattling."

The Geneva conference of foreign ministers which recently adjourned left much unfinished business, such as the Berlin question, disarmament, etc. These big questions are to be taken up by a "summit meeting," pending the outcome of Khrushchev's visit to the U.S., and possibly the visit of Eisenhower to the Soviet Union, later in fall. Judging by the determination of both sides not to budge from the present status quo on these questions, the decisions arrived at will not change the picture to any great extent.

However, there is the possibility of a compromise in regard to Berlin. Already it is rumored that the U.S. would not likely go to war over the status of that city, and neither would the British, or the French who have enough trouble of their own with the Algerian rebels. As for the German people, it is questionable also, for they had enough of fighting during World War Two. To this day many of them bitterly reflect that it was a mistake in the first place for the Hitler government to have attacked the Soviet Union. In view of the fact that the whole of Berlin is far inside of East Germany, not even the West Berliners would have much stomach for fighting.

Nevertheless, the United States will do its utmost to preserve what it can of capitalism in West Berlin, as evidenced by President Eisenhower's intentions of visiting Chancellor Adenauer in Bonn, after his talks with Macmillan in London, and Charles De Gaulle in Paris. The NATO "alliance" is already like the "old gray mare," and it is rumored that Eisenhower will not attempt to revive it. What kind of capitalist "stew" will be cooked up to take its place remains to be seen. The capitalist powers are really in a quandary.

Nixon's Defense of Capitalism

Within the U.S. the Republican Party, even more than the Democratic, is badly shaken up by this "new" approach toward peaceful relations with the "hated enemy" Soviet Russia. They are in the painful process of swallowing their hatred, at least enough to put on a smiling face when extending their hand in "friendship" to the Soviet people. Vice-President Nixon conducted himself very ably in this respect on his visit to the Soviet Union, even to the extent of plunging into the crowd and pumping reluctant hands. And he was paid back with smiles by the good natured hospitality of the Russian people. Even the little heckling he got was restrained and orderly. Nixon was so pleased with this friendly reception that immediately on his return to the U.S. he made the request that the America people reciprocate and give Soviet Premier Khrushchev as friendly a greeting when he visits this country.

But whatever friends Nixon made by his visit to Russia, latest reports indicate he is losing much of his old following at home, i.e., the most reactionary element of the Republican "red-haters." They are swinging their support politically to the multi-millionaire Governor of

New York, Nelson Rockefeller. They are criticizing Nixon for visiting with Khrushchev in Moscow and "blaming" him for extending the Soviet Premier the invitation to visit the U.S.

Nixon's presidential aspirations as well as his Soviet trip, was discussed in the Conference of U.S. Governors that recently took place in Puerto Rico. The Chicago Sun-Times of August 16th reported that Governor Nelson Rockefeller (who also is a Republican presidential aspirant) said sarcastically, "that it would be a fine thing if Khrushchev could select the next president of the United States."

It concluded with this statement: "The way politicians look at the matter is this: If the President's talk with Khrushchev should lead to some new international settlement, all associated with the enterprise, including Nixon, would reap great gains on the peace issue. But if somehow the talks should lead to failure then those connected with them would suffer. So the jockeying goes on."

However, Nixon's past record (as well as his present attitude) is positive proof that he is a staunch defender of the system that exploits labor, i.e., capitalism, and that he is no lover of the "reds." He revealed this very openly at the U.S. exhibit in Moscow where he praised capitalism to the skies, cleverly distorting the truth particularly when he extolled the so-called high American standard of living for workers. For example, he mentioned that 16 million factory workers in America receive an average wage of \$90 a week. But he deliberately omitted to mention how many billions of dollars the capitalists received by exploiting their labor. Nor did he mention that the rest of the 50 million workers receive far under that average wage, and that during the 1958 business recession there were up to 7 million unemployed workers who received no wages at all.

Nixon praised that \$14,000 home on exhibit, which he said was available to any American worker with a down payment and 25 to 30 years to complete the payments. Even the steel workers (now on strike), he pointed out, could own homes like that. But he failed to mention that the striking steel workers are faced with the loss of their homes now, because the steel corporations want to continue making huge profits, and hence deny the workers an increase in wages. Nixon also failed to tell how many workers lost their homes in the 1958 business recession, let alone the Great Depression of the 1930s. When it comes to defending capitalism, Richard Nixon can do it very ably and possibly much more effectively than his "political rival," the multi-millionaire capitalist, Nelson Rockefeller. But as we see, in so doing, "tricky-Dicky" has to make use of the art of prevarication.

The End of Capitalism

Capitalism cannot risk another world war, because it would mean its finish. It lost one-third of the world through the last two world wars which were caused by cutthroat competition between the monopoly and finance-capitalists of each nation for control of the world market, the sources of raw material, and peoples to exploit for profit. It caused conditions of insecurity and misery for the exploited masses, which in turn caused them to revolt, so today one-third of the world (Soviet Union, Peoples China, and East European Democracies) has taken to the communist way of life.

Thus we see how history itself exposes that big lie of capitalism that it's "Soviet intrigues and aims of world domination" that causes revolts. Actually it's the class struggle in capitalist society between the rich and poor, that is, between the exploiters and the exploited. Therefore, what capitalism produces, "above all, are its own grave-diggers," and as Marx and Engels further declared: "Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable."

Al Wysocki

KEY TO THE UNDERSTANDING OF HISTORY

(Continued from page 2)

and others remain stationary, vegetating, some even today found in Africa, leading a more or less primitive existence?

Karl Marx in the middle of the 19th century advanced an historical interpretation, which he called the materialist conception of history. It was a fresh scientific approach, materialist objective and revolutionary. In it he laid stress on the material objective factors and their changes. The key to the changes in society and its basis lie in the production instruments and their development. In the process of fashioning and acquiring new production tools man alters his relation towards nature as well as the relations between himself. Each time new important production forces are acquired they revolutionize the whole economic structure, in turn leading to eventual changes in the whole social superstructure, family relations, government, law, tradition, habits and ideology. For instance, the introduction of modern mass production has not only tremendously increased output of goods, it has reduced individual skill, forced women into factories, made it possible for them to handle the job. Women became more independent in their outlook and relation to men, dress more freely, smoke and drink alike as men, have earned their rights to equal suffrage, etc.

The introduction of television has had a tremendous impact upon people's habits. They stay more at home, converse less, whistle the same commercials, are more standardized in their buying habits. The automobile exerts an even greater influence upon our manner of living. In a word the key to our social being and its changes is found less in religious or psychological factors and more in the economic structure. Advanced nations are characterized by their high economic structure. We ask: what is a nation's steel output in millions of tons? Its electric ener-

gy, oil, chemicals, agricultural products?

America's greatness is measured by its industrial strength. For even military power is basically determined and rests upon production. The growth and progress of the Soviet Union as the only nation that can approach the U.S. is its industrial and production achievements.

But "time marches on," or rather social forces. History does not stand still. Nothing lasts forever, whether they are things of nature or social organisms. They are subject to change, come into being, live their span of life and die. Birth and death are accompanied by natural violence. The mother giving birth struggles, sustains pain; an old person dying, struggles, sustains pain. These are the inevitables and concomitant of nature's changes. They are revolutionary changes. Society, too, has its births and deaths. They are called revolutions, accompanied by pain and struggle. The old established order, or society, seeks to prolong its existence beyond its livable time or span of life; the elements of the new order seek to set aside the old in favor of the new. Who is there to determine when a society has run its course? Where do the elements of the new come from?

When a society has developed new production or economic powers which are in contradiction to its entire setup or social relations, in other words when its production has reached a point of growth when no further advance is possible except by incurring all sorts of hardships, wars and insoluble headaches then we know that society is disintegrating, doomed. Its system is clogged, the circulation bad, a stroke is imminent. What we experience today in U.S. capitalism is an illustration. Let's take agriculture. There is an overproduction in many commodities. It is only the artificial respiration or

governmental price supports that prevent a near calamity among the farmers.

As for the workers—take away the government unemployment supports and the effects of overproduction and unemployment would certainly create an untenable situation.

Capitalism has reached a stage of no return, a condition that is a complete negation of its very basic philosophy—profit thru enterprise. The above cases of the farmer and worker are certainly profitless. Indeed they are eating into the already amassed profits in order to forestall bankruptcy and social discontent. But how long can this situation continue without reaching a breaking point?

The elements of the new order are not imported or generated from without. It germinates from within the old itself. Just as the seeds of modern capitalism were born within the womb of feudalism, so the seeds of socialism are born and sprout from within capitalism. The capitalists were the seeds of yesterday; their nourishment and impetus they obtained from the economic forces of trade and industry

that flourished from the 14th century on. The workers are the seeds of today getting their nourishment from the tremendous, giant size industries of today, where whole armies of workers labor together, collectively. They have but one step to make to complete the new social arrangement—take over the ownership on a collectivized basis. Whatever social disparities we suffer from today can be thus reconciled. It is a painful process (especially to the capitalists), but no less necessary than the preceding ones. It is inevitably so. The workers in doing that will only be acting in harmony with the social call, releasing the existing production forces to operate freely and unobstructively for the common good instead of profit considerations.

An understanding of history, then, means studying its economic structure and development, class content and property relations. These give us the clue to many-phased lineups and antagonisms which in their ideological opposition often blur the material interests that are deeply concealed.

R. Daniels

A LOOK AROUND

(Continued from page 2)

way back from a trip to the Soviet Union. They told reporters they were impressed with the friendly, cordial and co-operative manner with which they were received by the Russian people. They were convinced the Russian people want peace.

One day earlier, Thomas E. Murray, consultant to the joint Congressional Committee on atomic energy told a television audience the US should be ready to fight a limited nuclear war. Murray feels such a war is coming and the U.S. will need many, many thousands of small nuclear weapons with which to fight "small wars." The U.S. does not at present have this capability, according to Murray, but should make haste in preparing for such a situation.

The day's prospects for war or peace are often determined by which article one happens to read in the informative(?) daily press.

FOR A LACK OF A SOLUTION: A rather strange but not surprising request reached the United Nation's Trusteeship Council last month from Burma.

It seems a U.N. mission visiting Rougelap Atoll in the Pacific found the inhabitants suffering from psychological problems resulting from their fear of exposure to radio-active fall-out produced by the 1954 atomic tests.

Burma has suggested the U.N. should send a team of psychologists to the atoll to see what they can do about helping these mentally disturbed people.

We can see from the report that nobody is safe from the fear of radiation no matter how remote they may be from civilization.

The above mentioned islanders are only a small segment of the people of the world who are being literally driven out of their minds by the effects of the cold war.

L.D.

THE ECONOMICS OF UNION GROWTH

(Continued from page 1)

legislative enactment. Such interests include protection of the legal status of unionism itself; establishment of minimum standards of wages, hours, compensation for industrial accidents, regulation of women and child labor, protection against unemployment, illness and old age; control of the level of employment, and redistribution of the income through the governmental tax structure.

Some capitalists themselves and their lackies may sponsor such reform, having realized that reform is necessary to preserve capitalism. Indeed, the reforms are usually carried out by the political and military lackies of the capitalists—the "power elite." Conversely, in time of prosperity, it is the same power elite which attempts to curb union activity.

A. ST. MAUR

(To be continued)

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

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