

By BENJAMIN J. DAVIS

WHETHER the American monopolists like it or not, a state of peaceful competition exists between our country and the Soviet Union. This is one of the new features of the present historical period.

Certain ruling class circles—represented by the McCarthyites and Nixonites—much prefer an atomic war. But they haven't been able to devise a way of getting around Bandung and Geneva—which were victories for the peace forces—nor have they been able to crush the Geneva spirit among the American people. So they are compelled to enter into spirited competition with the Socialist system.

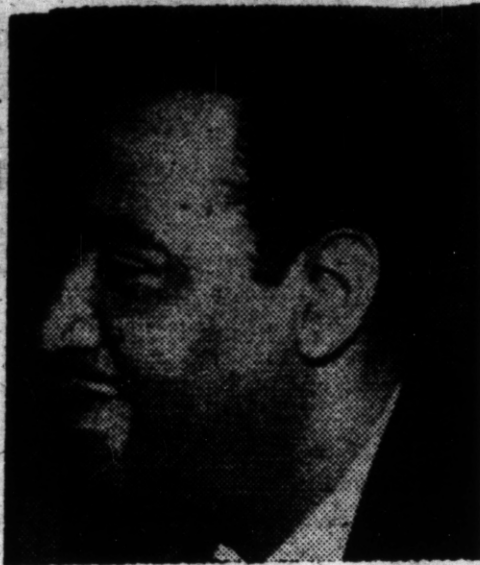
The American ruling class will not permit the Soviet Union to surge forward economically, to enhance Soviet democracy, to grow culturally, to win Olympic titles, to build friendship with neutral countries, etc., without attempting to counter and exceed these achievements. Capitalist power vey with each other, trying to overcome each other's influence. So they're certainly not going to permit such achievements of the Soviet Union—as were marked at the 20th Congress—to go unchallenged. After all, the Soviet Union is a working class state.

WITH THE CRITICISM of Stalin's leadership the struggle against the one-man cult with its ensuing mistakes and injustices, the socialist system in the Soviet Union has laid down the gauntlet—including the U. S.—will compete at their peril.

For the whole of capitalism is built upon a lie, upon a system of injustice, exploitation, racism, oppression, wars and crises. To start a little bit of self criticism regarding the injustices committed by capitalism would open a veritable Pandora's box of crimes of such magnitude as would stagger the imagination. What about the world wars resulting from capitalist rivalries? What about the lynchings of thousands of Negroes, the murder of thousands of workers, the condemnation of millions to hunger and ruin, the white supremacy system, etc.

Can anyone imagine Eisenhower and Truman admitting any of these colossal crimes of their system? Paul Butler, chairman of the Democratic Party, will not even criticize Eastland

Peaceful Competition in the Field of Self-Criticism



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and Eisenhower fondly pats the right-wing McCarthyite Nixon on the head as a good boy!

CRIMES UNDER capitalism are inherent in the system and are not mistakes or weaknesses resulting from a departure from the system. There can be no capitalism without monstrous crimes against the people, against individuals, against states and against mankind.

On the other hand, the socialist system can exist and fully flourish only if the crimes and injustices of capitalism which it replaces, are ruthlessly exposed and ended. Crimes under Socialism are departures from the system, crimes which the socialist-minded masses, under socialism, can and will correct, and prevent from recurring. The injustices in the Soviet Union show the damaging and harmful consequences that can flow from the mistakes which were made during Stalin's one-man leadership. The best guarantee against such injustices is more faithful adhesion herence to the principles of Marxism-Leninism, the prevention of a system of leadership above the Communist Party and the masses, and a strict observance of the principles of democracy and collective leadership which emanate from the masses in and out of the Communist Parties. It is to the credit of these Parties that they are engaged in a self-critical process of correcting their errors and of

establishing the guarantees which will prevent their repetition. This is the test of any Party which is serious about its prime responsibilities and obligations to the masses. Compare this performance with the major bourgeois parties in any capitalist country.

MASSES of Communists and non-Communists—who justifiably have a profound respect for the Soviet Union—have been deeply disturbed by some of the mistakes and injustices revealed by the Soviet and other Communist leaders. This is understandable healthy. The area of competition is new. Heretofore, competition has been limited to fields in which socialism pointed to its superior rate of growth in such standard field as economics, culture, athletics, etc.

Now the Soviet Union has thrown into the hopper the question of which system can seriously divulge its mistakes before the people and enlist their creative capacities in barring their re-occurrence, and do this as a precondition to the system achieving higher levels of happiness for its citizens. Thus, the new type of competition is one in which the socialist system reveals its weaknesses along with its positive accomplishments—although such weaknesses could be revealed only by a system incomparably more secure than capitalism is now or ever will be.

Furthermore, it is quite clear that virtually all Communist movements have been more or less infected by methods of work and leadership of which European Marxists are now purging their Parties. After all, the Soviet Communists remain historically the most expert practitioners of Marxist-Leninist science, which does not make them infallible, but which does inspire profound respect and admiration from workers all over the world—not excluding advanced American workers.

One can be sure that lessons of vital importance will be drawn by American as well as other Communists, lessons which will

result in the American Communist Party's strengthened ties with the workers here and people generally, as well as with workers all over the world. These lessons will be drawn as the facts and revelations are made available to the public, a process already under way in the Soviet and other Communist Parties.

ONE OF THE prime lessons for American Communists is self-criticism and criticism, more boldness in theoretical and political work, more initiative in the practical fulfillment of tasks, and more confidence, in the membership, class and in the American people. The Communist Party has taken certain modest steps in that direction.

When in 1945 it ousted the one-man bureaucratic leadership of Browder, it made important contributions toward the establishment of a collective leadership. But far more needs to be done along this line, particularly with respect to the expansion of inner party democracy. The Party has, above all, to learn the therapeutic value of self-criticism and criticism as a daily Leninist feature of its activity, and not alone as a weapon for emergency occasions or for disciplinary purposes. These features are essential to the growth of the Party, to the fulfillment of its responsibilities to the American working class and people. Such deep-going self-criticism and revelations as are now being ventilated by the Soviet leaders comes hard to Communists in direct proportion that they have an insufficient familiarity with daily Leninist self-criticism.

The criticism and reevaluation of Stalin's leadership will result not only in alerting leaders and membership of Communist Parties all over the world, it will also alert the non-Communist workers and masses, who will be even more demanding with respect to the responsibilities and performance of Communists. This, too, is healthy and the American workers will be among the most alert and demanding.

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The reactionary Soviet-haters and red-baiters are today attempting to fish in so-called troubled waters, seeking above all to spread confusion and lack of confidence in workingclass societies and leaderships. They aim to turn the suspicions of the American people solely toward the Communists and left forces. Sections of the workers will fall for this; but the American workers in general have good sense and this phenomenon will be transient. They are becoming ever wiser to the fact that the big Wall Street monopolies twist everything to their cold war aims and always against the workers of this and all other countries.

American workers will eventually affect this peaceful competition between the Soviet Union and our country on the question of criticism and self-criticism. They will not only ask questions of the Communists, but they will also demand a few answers from those rulers in our country who have a vested interest in capitalism's inherent crimes and who from day to day and epoch to epoch, prefer to send mankind to destruction than disclose and end them.