

# The subjective condition

Has anyone noticed that America seemed to be falling apart with greater speed than usual during July?

Recognizing the durability of the world's biggest capitalist and militarist society, we wonder how long the U.S. can continue to absorb the poison of its own decay.

Riots took place in scores of cities; uprisings in others. Inflation took greater chunks from the workers' paycheck. Health and welfare services continued to decompose. Pollution is making our cities unlivable. City services are collapsing.

New York City leads the way in many aspects because it is the biggest. There were days last month when 9 million people found it difficult to breathe, the pollution was so intense. It is a rare family which has not stocked up on flashlights and candles in anticipation of power failures. Riding the subways is a greater risk than usual, for in addition to the dirt, overcrowding and late trains, collisions and fires have rendered them a positive danger. The streets are filthy and clogged with vehicles and garbage. Housing is a scandal and rents will be going up. Hard drugs are claiming ever more victims, especially among the young. The schools, hospitals and other services decreasingly meet the needs of the people, even as the technical capacity to do so grows. It's the same story in most large cities.

We do not repeat this litany in order to gloat over the contradictions of capitalism. Far too many people suffer because of them. At issue is the fact that a storm is brewing within America that might be more intense than many people, including radicals, suspect.

Granted that objective conditions do not obtain for a revolution in America at this time or even in the immediate future. But those conditions are ripening. Unfortunately, it cannot be said that the 'subjective conditions for revolution are ripening as fast—and if one is without the other, the revolutionary spark will not ignite. It is clear, certainly, that there has been an upsurge of left and antiwar activity during the last decade. But it is equally clear no unified, disciplined force with roots among the working class and with a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist ideology suited to the requirements of American society can be said to exist. Much of what is described as revolutionary in this country does not even vaguely relate to or comprehend the social forces, the mass movements, the quality of organization and politics required for revolutionary struggle.

The development of a revolutionary party based on Marxism—a necessary subjective condition for revolution, complementing and contributing toward the sharpening of the objective conditions—must be viewed as one of the highest priorities for American revolutionaries during this decade.