

# 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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## DR. ZHIVAGO, SOCIALISM AND ART

The awarding of the Nobel Prize for literature to Boris Pasternak, leading Soviet poet for his critical novel, *Doctor Zhivago*, raised a huge cloud of literary dust radiating and fanning the fires of the existing cold war, intensifying the political and social schisms.

Outside the Soviet Union, where the book was not permitted to be published, it met with acclaim as a great work of art, the author honored for his genius and courage. In the United States it has been on the No. 1 best seller list for many months. Constant denouncement of the Soviet Union has been the order of the day for its so-called stifling of art, the individual spirit and creativity. At the same time, within the Soviet Union, Pasternak and his work has been shunned, castigated and denounced for its individualism, and distortion of social reality.

The Pasternak affair is not the first of its kind nor will it be the last. It is one of a series where writers, composers, scientists, in a word, intellectuals have been brought to heel, given a going-over for bourgeois tendencies or deviations from the socialist path. In such times of heated controversy and differentiating opinions it is well to get down to the basic question of the relation of art to society in general and that of art to socialism in particular.

How free is art and the artist? What is the meaning of free creativity or the stifling of it? In referring to art here we include its many forms of expression, literature, music, painting, architecture, sculpture, etc. They are the fine arts in contradistinction to the industrial arts. We might call art a language. The writer, poet, musicians or painter each expresses his thoughts thru a specific medium. To the extent that the artist is free, he is still limited and dependent upon his surrounding environment, of which he himself is a part; secondly by the materials and equipment he has to work with (since all art is subject to an evolutionary and technological development); and thirdly the subjective or intellectual development of the individual artist, his understanding of man's relation to nature and to man himself.

Man is not only an individual but a social product. He can live

and think only within society and as such his thinking is bound up and determined mainly by his social environment and his understanding of it. Ideas are a reflex of the objective material world. To the extent that they reflect them correctly they correspond to it. Where reality has not been properly understood idealistic fantasy has resulted. Many artistic creations in the past concerned mythological deities, gods, angels and spirits which devolved around the mysteries of natural forces. These misunderstood forces provided the material, the basis for the artist's concept and expression. Today nature no longer provides such mystery. Science is learning ever more about it. Science employs the materialistic approach which assumes nature's objective existence and priority.

From the materialist standpoint art is not pure. It assumes specific forms in its evolution. Nor is it an individual matter but a social matter or product, part and parcel of human existence which it reflects. The individual artist does not create in a vacuum—but out of the material at hand. It is no accident that the ancient poets sung the praises of the emperors; or that the painters in the days of feudalism stressed the religious theme; or that the heroes in the old operas were dukes and noblemen. That was the social environment in which they lived and were affected by.

Like philosophy, politics and morality, art is determined by the economic character of society or its mode of production. Wherever society has already developed class division, there art like the rest of the social superstructure takes on a class character.

Under capitalism the individual artist or writer may not even be conscious of it, yet inadvertently he finds himself, thru training and education, class contact and dependence upon the upper class for sale of his product, linked to a defense of the existing order. The alternative is failure and social unpopularity.

His product, an intellectual product, takes on the commodity form, and brings in a price like economic products. Hence a writer

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## MAY DAY 1959

The first of May, known as May Day, has been observed for many years by the class conscious workers the world over as a day in which to defiantly protest against capitalist exploitation and oppression. The capitalist class who hate and fear it do their utmost to discredit it, and denounce it as a "red holiday of foreign origin."

However, contrary to such capitalist denunciations, May Day's origin has an American background. It arose out of the early militant class struggles between capital and labor, the struggle for better working conditions, increased wages, shorter working hours, the 8-hour day movement. This culminated in the recommendation of the American delegates attending the international Socialist congress held in Paris in 1889 that the first of May be set aside as a day of working class solidarity and international demonstration against capitalist exploitation.

Hence May Day is also known as the International Labor Day. It is a day not only of celebrating labor's victories won, but also of observing results, of mistakes and gains made, of renewing inspiration for future action. It has a revolutionary objective, the complete overthrow of the capitalist system by the organized might of the working class, thereby ending the exploitation of man by man throughout the world, and ushering in the new classless society.

It is a historical fact that capitalism has long outlived its usefulness and is already in its last stages of decline. Already in one-third of the world it has been swept by the revolutionary broom into the rubbish can of history. In the remaining two-thirds of the world, because it has only brought misery and insecurity to the toiling masses, it is rotten ripe to be overthrown.

We see then, how history itself has refuted that big lie of capitalism, the contention by its pen prostitutes that it brings about "the greatest good for the greatest number." The very opposite is the case. It creates extremes of wealth and poverty, enormous fortunes for a handful of greedy idle parasites, the multimillionaires and billionaires who have monopolized the means of production, and, at the same time, poverty and insecurity

for many workers, "the greatest numbers," those who toil, sweat, and are exploited but who hardly receive enough in the form of wages to keep from starving.

Another big capitalist lie is the assertion that in America there is "free labor." And here again the very opposite is the case. The simple truth is that no one can be free who works for wages, because he is in servitude to the person who pays him. It is disguised slavery. The so-called "free laborer" sells himself by fractions, every day, 8 hours or more of his life, through the sale of his labor power to the owner of the means of production, the capitalist. In return for his labor power the worker gets a wage, which is a mere fraction, about one-fifth on the average, of the total value he produces. The capitalist appropriates the greater part, in the form of surplus value, out of which he gets his profit. This is what we mean when we say that workers under capitalism are exploited through the wages system.

But it might be contended that the modern wage-worker is "free" to quit his job and work for anyone he chooses. There is no denying that he is "free" to do that. However, he cannot quit the whole class of buyers of his labor power, the capitalists, unless he wants to renounce his own existence. As the saying goes: a worker must find a job if he wants to eat.

But as soon as a worker gets a job, that does not guarantee him real security. He can be discharged from it any time his master, the capitalist, sees fit or decides that it is no longer profitable to employ him.

In fact, that is what has recently happened in the United States. The present 4 to 5 million unemployed workers are those who had been discharged from their jobs by the capitalists. That this happened during the business recession only proves the fact that the capitalists engage in business not to provide jobs for workers but to profit through exploiting them.

Even if the recent pick up of business continues there will still be millions of workers unemployed. It so happens that the capitalists found it more profitable to replace these workers with ma-

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chines. Automation has set in, and unemployment has become a permanent feature of the American way of life.

There has not been much concern about this problem of unemployment, except for the recent, mild "demonstration" or conference staged by the AFL-CIO in Washington. The voices of the unemployed were not heard, because it was a hand-picked affair by the top labor union officials, and according to press reports, at least half, if not more, of those present, were union job-holders. The main speakers were "brothers" Meany and Reuther, the top heads of the union. They did not condemn capitalism. Rather they pleaded with Wall Street's government in Washington to extend unemployment compensation, to provide jobs through "public works" for the idle workers, and to be more generous with surplus food for them lest their misery and discontent would cause them to embrace communism. And to make the meeting even more respectable, the capitalist politicians were present, with their cheerful promises, like the U.S. Secretary of Labor, Mitchell, who said he would eat his hat if business would not improve and most of the jobless be re-employed. Really this conference was a love-feast, with every speaker trying to prove that "capital and labor are brothers."

But the contradictions of capitalism still afflict the system, such as the economic crisis of overproduction. There are surpluses of

food, of steel, and the steel workers being denied an increase in wages, for the simple reason there is a surplus of them also, the unemployed. These are used as a lever with which the capitalists keep down wage-demands.

May Day finds the American workers in a sorry plight, economically and politically. Capitalist propaganda had taken in a lot of workers, so that some of them had been mouthing such endearments as: "Our capitalists are nice to us, they are taking good care of us." Well, now, they are beginning to discover how well they are being taken care of by their exploiters. Most of them are in for a rude and bitter awakening!

Such a condition of unemployment, of poverty in the midst of plenty could only happen under capitalism, in "free" America, and worse still, like it did in the 1930s.

It could never happen under Communism, in the Soviet Union where the workers own the industries collectively, where every worker is employed, where the working hours are being reduced to 7 hours a day, and the living standards increased. Truly, the workers there will have something worthwhile celebrating on May Day!

This example set by the Soviet workers should be sufficient, especially to the American workers. So it is fitting on this May Day to again sound the inspirational and challenging call of Karl Marx: "Workers of the world unite! You have nothing to lose but your chains! You have a world to gain!"

A. W.

## A LOOK AROUND

**MORE ADVICE!!!** Inflation still looms as the big threat to the stability of U.S. economy according to a statement issued by the Manufacturers Trust Co. of New York in their annual report. What is needed is a massive and effective adult-education program to restrain the headlong rush toward a "puffed-up" economy. It is a matter of getting the majority of the citizens to understand that their interests, as well as the country, are hurt by inflationary currency, according to the executives in the company.

This line of reasoning (and it's not new) usually ends up being an appeal to the American worker telling him to stop asking for more money in the pay envelope. It also requests capitalists to stop jacking up prices in an effort to get higher profits. One may as well ask the sun to shine 24 hours a day. The request will go unheeded.

The stability Mr. Banker is looking for does not exist under capitalism. The very core of the system is a class conflict between capital and labor, each attempting to gain their own, and opposite, ends. Sometimes this conflict is hidden (as is apparently the case with the

bankers in their annual report) and sometimes open. To call for an end to this class conflict would be, in effect, to call for the stagnation and death of capitalism. This we are sure, Mr. Banker will not hear of. Especially since the annual report revealed savings deposits at Manufacturers Trust increased by \$60,545,000 during 1958, representing a 15 per cent gain for the year.

Of course, we have to sympathize with these poor fellows because \$60,545,000 of inflated savings invested in an inflated market will only bring more inflated profits wrenched from inflated paychecks.

**SCOOP OF THE YEAR:** Editors of Michigan Solidarity, a UAW newspaper, really goofed when they printed an announcement of ratification of a new contract between tool and die workers and the Detroit Automotive Tool and Die Association. It seems the newspaper, and the announcement, reached the workers on a Saturday but the ratification meeting was not until the following day, Sunday. To make matters worse, the membership present at the meeting—newspapers in hand—decided not to ratify but to study the

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constantly has his eye on the possibilities of the market. The anarchy in free-enterprise (capitalism) reflects itself, as well, in the intellectual field. Here, too, anarchy prevails. It is this free enterprise or anarchy, which lends to it the character of freedom. Just as the individual under capitalism is free to take a job or starve, free to shift from one business to another and enjoy the pleasantries of monopolistic pressure, so, too, the individual artist is free to choose his theme and express himself freely. But this freedom like all capitalist freedom is more apparent and formal than real. Reality sets his class limits and invisible economic pressures. The artist must live, sell his product.

Art under socialism is recognized officially as bearing a class character. It cannot be otherwise during the transition period to classless communism. Intellectuals, artists, writers, composers, like scientists are most respected, honored and better paid in the Soviet Union. Their mental labors are considered socially useful and necessary. Socialism being a collective planned economy, intellectual labor, like physical labor, partakes of that planfulness, with a purpose—a goal.

Like science, art must serve the interests of society, the wellbeing of the proletariat. Art must inspire, encourage the masses in the progress towards their social goal. As such it acts as an inspirational source. The goal of socialism is to constantly reduce working-time to allow more time for leisure and culture for the masses. In this, science plays a dominant role. It is technical and precise. But the role of art is important, too, to reflect reality, interpret it, educate, entertain, go beyond appearances to the substance.

What is Pasternak's guilt? Where did Dr. Zhivago fail? Pasternak adopts the standpoint of

agreement further.

Could it be the Michigan Solidarity was interested in a "scoop" and simply jumped the gun? Or is it more likely that labor leaders and their spokesmen are so used to a rubber stamp minority membership (because of apathy, coercion, trickery, intimidation, etc.) they never dreamed a spark lay smoldering deep in the breast of at least a few workers?

It was a good sign no matter what the "further study" mentioned above was intended to accomplish. We urge more of our fellow workers to break through the rubber stamp labor bureaucracy and sharpen up their pencils, as it were, when their interests are involved.

**WHAT IS NORMAL?** For those who are heaving a sigh of relief while suffering under the delusion that the United States economy is recovered and "back to normal"

bourgeois individualism, or so-called absolute freedom, absolute truth and Christianity. He points to the apparent failures of the socialist revolution, hardly ever alluding to its many achievements and what's to come. He is sick and tired of all the bloodletting and the so-called evil impulses and forces that were let loose by the revolution (without attempting to inquire into the cause) and suggests a return to that serene and more normal life before the revolution — which means capitalist Russia. In a manner he is glorifying the past—attempting to reverse the wheels of history. And what does that amount to? But a return to the old regime of ruthless exploitation and oppression of the Russian proletariat and peasantry. He cries over the present difficulties, hardships and shortcomings and sees no way out of them. Because he is not a Marxist, he opposes dialectical materialism which sees the present as an outgrowth of the difficult past, which sees in the many difficulties and struggles of today the elements of their resolution for a better tomorrow. Pasternak is a philosophical idealist who is despairingly looking backward and not ahead. As such his work merits the Soviet condemnation it received. As a work of art it is class tainted, permeated thru-and-thru with bourgeois ideology. We can understand why the capitalists, the world over, are so enthused by it. It serves their class interest.

Socialist art is that art which serves the cause of socialism, the future of the working class. It is a revolutionary art which carries a message of social transformation. It looks forward and works for a new and better life and away with the old. To say that it is "unfree" because of that, is similar as to say that science is also fettered because it does not permit of free religious speculations.

R. Daniels.

we submit this little news flash from Detroit, Michigan.

Between 600 and 700 persons lined up outside a new supermarket during the winter in zero temperatures hoping to be picked to fill one of 75 jobs available the next month.

We couldn't help but remember the words of our renowned economic advisers to President Truman during a full employment period around the time of the Korean war. They said Marx was again refuted by the fact that capitalism did not need an army of permanently unemployed workers in order to function properly. The very fact of full employment proved their contention.

Those of us who have made a serious study of Marx know full well that his analysis of capitalism was based upon average conditions of a given period. (Sometimes be-

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### THE INTERNATIONAL ARENA

The friction, known as the cold war, still persists between the two most powerful nations in the international arena, the United States and the Soviet Union, in spite of all the attempts at peaceful coexistence. Since each represent an opposing social system, this is, in effect, a struggle between capitalism and communism.

They were not always enemies. During World War Two (after "Pearl Harbor") the United States and the Soviet Union were allies, however, involuntary, fighting a common foe, Nazi-Germany.

It is over the fate of this defeated nation, and its chief city, Berlin, that the present bitter dispute rages. Much concern has been expressed lest this issue, if not resolved, lead to an open conflict involving the whole world.

Finally, to prevent such an occurrence, upon the insistence of the Soviet Union, the big powers agreed to hold two meetings, one on the "lower level," a foreign ministers meeting in May, and the other, a "summit" meeting of the heads of the nations, U.S., Britain, France, and the Soviet Union, which was to follow.

#### The German Question

It was the Soviet Union who took the initiative some months ago in an attempt to resolve the dispute over the city of Berlin. It proposed that all the occupying powers, Western and Russian, withdraw from Berlin, leaving it in the hands of its German inhabitants to decide how their city is to be administered. The Russians gave six months for the Western powers to think it over, after which they declared they would turn over their section of Berlin to the East German working class government. Berlin, like the rest of Germany, is divided into two parts, the East (Communist) and the West (Capitalist). But this city is located not in West Germany, but far inside of East Germany, over a hundred miles. Thereupon arose the question of access routes into West Berlin by the Western powers.

It was at this stage that the U.S. became furious over the Russian proposal, and threatening retaliation, indulged in war talk. However, the Soviet Union was not fear struck, but warned the U.S. against the use of force, or violation of any regulations established by the East German government over the access routes into Berlin in the event it takes control.

In the month of March, the British Prime Minister, Macmillan, made his visit to the Soviet Union and discussed the Berlin question with the Soviet Premier Khrushchev. After his visit, Macmillan was reported to have said that there were many things that he and Khrushchev differed on, but on one thing they were fully agreed, that it would be far better for their nations to attempt to resolve their differences through negotiations than to resort to force.

The British still remember the destructive effects of World War Two, and being more realistic, favor a "flexible" approach, one of compromise in dealing with the Soviet Union. Macmillan was reported favoring de facto recognition of the East German government and increased direct contacts between the two German regimes possibly leading to a confederation. He also is in favor of limiting arms in

Germany. Thus, the British "flexible" approach comes very close to the Soviet solution for the German problem.

However, this British "flexibility" has been condemned as "appeasement" by the United States and West Germany's Chancellor Adenauer. The latter take the position that capitalism must be restored to East Germany. In plain words the U.S. and West German capitalist ruling class are out for "whole hog" and nothing less will satisfy them.

We see, therefore, that the Western allies are split over this question of how Germany should be united. An attempt was made by President Eisenhower at the recent NATO anniversary meeting to heal this split by holding up his clenched fist as an example of unity against "aggressors," and condemned the Soviet Union, charging it with "communist imperialism" aimed at world domination. But, as if in after-thought, Eisenhower declared his preference for the settling of East-West differences around the conference table rather than on the battlefield.

Actually such talk serves as a convenient cloak for U.S. capitalist imperialism's designs of world domination what with its many armed bases throughout the world, and its political and military war mongers at home constantly threatening to destroy the Soviet Union; as one of them had recently said, in "two or three days" through a missile-nuclear war.

In view of all this, we can see how difficult it will be to resolve the German problem. There is still the question of the signing of the peace treaty which has been long delayed because of the partition of Germany. The Soviet Union had already declared its intentions, if the issue is not resolved, of signing a separate peace treaty with East Germany and let its government administer the whole problem of access into West Berlin. This would be a powerful move because it would give the East German government the status of a "sovereign state" that in time would receive diplomatic recognitions as such from many nations, especially from the "neutrals." This would be all to the good of the working class world, even though it would leave Germany as a whole still divided.

But Germany will not always remain divided. Already the industrial development in both zones, East and West, has reached a high point and spurred on trade relations between the two. Then there is the class struggle between capital and labor in West Germany, that, in time, is bound to cause the workers to move further to the left, to join hands with their comrades of the East, placing the whole of Germany under the rule of the working class. This would be the best kind of unity.

#### Iraq's Troubles

Whenever there is any trouble in the world, the capitalist powers invariably blame the Soviet Union for it. For example, recently a U.S. periodical headlined its article: "Khrushchev's Game: Stir Up Trouble Everywhere, Grab Iraq While World Is Looking At Berlin." Of course, this is capitalist propaganda.

Most everyone knows that long before there was such a nation like the Soviet Union, there was capitalism and plenty of "trouble," what with exploitation and class strife.

Iraq's troubles are born of the class struggle. So much so that last year in July it had a revolution which overthrew the old semi-feudal regime and eliminated its King Feisal and his reactionary Premier Nuri as-Said.

This old regime of Iraq was very oppressive and was armed and supported by the British and American imperialists. It suppressed the political ambitions of the middle class, i.e. the rising young capitalist class, banned student activity, outlawed trade unions, forbid freedom of the press, etc. It was the brutal, dic-

tatorial rule of the big and powerful landlord class allied with the Western imperial oil interests, in what has been termed the "Baghdad Pact."

Though Iraq is more favored with such natural resources as both oil and water than other Middle East countries, yet its peasants were as poverty-stricken as any in Asia, and that embraced the majority of Iraq's 6,500,000 people. There was hardly anything done to alleviate their plight. Most of the approximate \$200 million-a-year revenue that King Feisal's regime got as its share from the British-run Iraq Petroleum Company was squandered by Iraq's parasitic ruling class in a life of ease and luxury.

Thus we see that the revolution was long overdue, and it came very suddenly with pent up fury like an exploding volcano when General Kassem and his followers representing the rising young capitalist class staged their "coup de tat" in July and seized political power. The overthrow of the old regime was welcomed by the masses of Iraq, particularly when Kassem assured them that the prime task of the new government "was improving the living standards of our population and saving them from dwelling in slums," as he put it.

But before Iraq could set its economic house in order, a factional struggle broke out within the government. However, the pro-Nasser elements headed by Colonel Aref lost out, and the "neutralist" elements won headed by Kassem who is the Premier now. Kassem could see no advantage in uniting with President Nasser's United Arab Republic and sharing with it Iraq's rich oil resources, and seeing Iraq reduced to a subordinate position to Egypt as had happened to Syria.

Of course, this angered President Nasser of the UAR, but particularly was he furious when Kassem accused him of plotting the abortive Mosul revolt against the Iraq government. In rebuttal, Nasser accused Premier Kassem of attempting to "split" Arab unity, and of allowing himself to be dominated by the communists within his country (Iraq) whom he called, "agents of a foreign power," thereby meaning the Soviet Union.

It is common knowledge that President Nasser is anti-communist and has been suppressing native communists within his own empire the UAR (Egypt and Syria), while at the same time receiving much economic aid from the Soviet Union. This took the form of Egypt exchanging her surplus cotton, etc., for machinery and other material from the Soviet Union.

Nasser was criticized by the Soviet Union, both for his suppression of "progressives" (communists) within the UAR, and for his attacks against Iraq, and even denounced as an "imperialist."

The Soviet Union has been giving much economic aid to Iraq also, and helping her to establish a more balanced economy not to be so dependent on revenue from oil. A steel mill is planned and many other industrial projects. This will go a long way in raising the standard of living for the masses of Iraq. The Soviet Union has not taken over Iraq—but naturally does enjoy the good will of its people.

This Soviet "penetration" is hated by the "big two" of capitalist imperialism, U.S. and Britain, not only because they fear losing the 63 per cent of the world's oil reserves which are in the Middle East, but also it foreshadows the beginning of the end of imperial exploitation and domination altogether.

Al Wysocki

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## TAXES AND LABOR

Taxes, formerly a controversial issue bedeviling solely the property owning class, finds labor, too, now excited about that perennial problem. The federal withholding tax system of collection is rapidly being adopted by states in its collection of state income taxes. Sales taxes prevailing in over 30 states are in the process of spreading throughout the remainder of the states. City taxes of various descriptions are becoming common practices. All in all, the tax problem looms larger as a social phenomenon. Its effect seems all-embracing. It has everyone talking about it, some of it superficial, much of it absurd. At any rate tax consciousness has gripped both capital and labor.

Generally speaking, the capitalist class has a right to get hot and bothered about the tax question, for they as a class, pay the bulk of the taxes. They have it to pay. There have been many years, when the tax load equalled or was even greater than the total wage bill for the year. It had to come out of capital.

There is a constant and bitter battle amongst the various sections and layers of the capitalist class to shift the burden away from their

particular business interest. The opening and plugging of loopholes in the tax structure are manifestations of the inner fight among the capitalists. But no matter how they handle that "hot potato," they as a class, we emphasize, shoulder the burden begrudgingly. They have to, because they have no alternative.

Be it a Republican or Democratic administration down in Washington, it is a government of, for and by Big Business—a capitalist class institution. That is as plain as the nose on one's face. The cost of maintaining and defending the economic and political interests of the capitalist class at home and abroad grows by leaps and bounds. Taxes are levied to support their government in its undertakings, domestic and foreign. Since it is in their class interest, the capitalists accept the tax load as a necessary evil. However, as mentioned above, they jockey for favorable treatment.

While the tax wallop is resounding, hurts, there is plenty left where it came from. Taxes are an extraction or withholding from surplus values, popularly known as profits. Surplus values or profits are extracted or derived through

the process of exploiting labor. The working day, while not officially or technically stamped as such, is divided between necessary labor and surplus labor. Necessary labor is the expenditure of physical and mental energies to produce the essentials that make up life. That is a necessary effort in all ways of life. Under capitalism the compensation to the workers for their labors is known as wages or salaries.

But labor doesn't stop working when it has reproduced the equivalent of its wages. It keeps on working beyond that necessary period, to the agreed work day, which may be 8 hours per day. The hours BEYOND the necessary period, which presently may be only 2 hours, is surplus labor time, or 6 hours, the period where surplus values are produced, out of which profit comes. That is a hefty sum.

Surplus values belong solely to the capitalist class, by virtue of their ownership of the means of production. It is THEIR LEGAL, THEIR MORAL right, to the extraction process, known as the exploitation of labor, defended and upheld by THEIR GOVERNMENT, Republican or Democratic, supported by their social institutions, their schools, radio and television

outlets. Anyone opposed to that basic extraction is socially ostracized, to say the least. Taxes come out of surplus values and the capitalists hate to part with so much of it, that's their gripe.

But of late, the workers, too, have been plucked by taxes. This chiseling in sales taxes, hooking labor with withholding taxes, federal and state, hurts labor unquestionably, struggling to make ends meet. In substance, it amounts to a cut in pay. The workers and their unions get deeply involved in that fight. They fight hard over the pennies in the sales tax, bitter over the withholding tax bite, in a word, tax consciousness comes easy.

But how about the thousands, tens of thousands of dollars extracted from each individual worker during the year, in surplus values, unpaid labor, by their boss? Not a peep from the unions against that "ROOKING." That would be un-American. Maybe un-American in the eyes of the capitalists, but certainly it would be genuinely pro-labor, in its own interests. Class consciousness has yet to grow on labor. Until it gets wise to the system of exploitation, labor is only dealing with effects, when it gets heated up over taxes and such kindred issues.—L.B.

## ELECTRONIC UNEMPLOYMENT

There is a fallacious claim advanced by the capitalists and blind optimists that the electronics industry, being the key industry of automation, will absorb those workers displaced from other industries. An investigation of the electronics industry pokes a hole in this balloon. The electronics industry itself is being automated. Through the device of "printed circuits" not only the mechanical components of the circuits have been automated, but the circuits themselves have been brought into the realm of automation.

In the period of 1953 to 1955

when automation began to be innovated in the electronics industry employment declined approximately 10% in all branches of the industry. For example, Westinghouse Electric Corp. in the year 1954 to 1955 had a \$48,980,000 increase in products and services sold, net profits after taxes—\$10,271,000, and a net decrease of 5,586 employees.

By the foregoing we can see how automation in the electronics industry displaces workers faster than it can provide jobs for them. In our former article we had mentioned how automation has gripped all the nation's basic industry.

It is possible that most of the present 4 to 5 million unemployed workers have lost their jobs just through this development, that is, the machines had displaced them.

The competition for jobs has become more intensified. Soon there will be that summer exodus of approximately a million young people from the high schools and colleges, "entering the business world" as the saying goes, in search of that elusive thing called a job. How many of them will be fortunate in landing a job? Especially in view of the fact that they will be competing against the "old" but experienced hired heads and hands who, nevertheless, lost

their jobs through automation.

Capitalism in the United States has reached the stage when it can no longer provide jobs for its entire working force. The solution is clear-cut: capitalism must be abolished by the organized might of the vast majority, the working class. In its place, the new society based on the collective ownership of industry must be established with production for the use and needs of the whole of society instead of for the profit of the few. Only then will it be possible to reduce the working hours, and provide a high standard of living for all.

A. St. Maur.

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## A LOOK AROUND

(Continued from page 2)

low, sometimes above normal.) A glance at the U.S. unemployment figures over the years will show us the longer the unemployment line grows the closer capitalism gets to "normal." The figures will also show us that a period of full employment under capitalism is indeed abnormal.

ON CHINA: Edgar Snow, well known author of many books on the Far East (including "Red Star Over China"), gives some valuable history and information about China in his latest book "Journey to the Beginning" (Random House). The book is well spiced with interesting accounts and conversations. One in particular caught our fancy: While traveling through South China in the late 1920's with a

scientist named Dr. Joseph F. Rock the conversation turned to a discussion of missionaries in that country. Snow's friend remarked during a criticism of missionary people, "What's the use of wasting money sending soul-savers here if they only add one kind of ignorance to another. Some of them shouldn't be turned loose even at home, much less be allowed to come out to 'save' Chinese. Take that fellow, Joseph Brown; Christians haven't got enough denominations, he had to form one of his own. Had his letterheads printed in Chinese for Brown's Salvationists, and who do you suppose the officers were? President, God; Vice-president, Jesus Christ; Treasurer, Joseph Brown! What a disgrace!"

L.D.