

# 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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## AMERICA FACES MANY-SIDED CHALLENGE

It may be contended, and with truth, that as with an individual, society needs a challenge. It stimulates, exerts and oft times brings out powers that are latent and make for strength and development; that life itself is a challenge or rather a multiplicity of challenges in the course of which a phenomenon grows and matures and later declines and dies. On the other hand, whether we are able to face up to a given challenge, overcome it, or succumb and fail depends upon the nature of the problem and the condition we are in, to tackle it.

No society is free from challenge. It couldn't exist without any. Problems and their resolution constitute its process. That which cannot be solved in the present is carried over to the future which in its turn contains the seeds of later ones to follow.

Let us apply this to our subject matter—America. This nation after War II emerged as leader and defender of world capitalism, its source of strength. She has met and coped with many challenging situations in Europe (Greece, Italy) and elsewhere with considerable success. Thru economic and political pressures, including war (Korea) a temporary check and limitation has been set to the tide of social transformation which was then in process. Her efforts, tho costly, have not been unrewarding. The Marshall and Truman plans have aided in the restoring of European capitalism and Japan from a state of bankruptcy to its present state of prosperity to a point of even challenging their very benefactor, the U.S.

Unity among the capitalist powers is never absolute or complete. It is relative and limited. Against labor they are united regardless of national differences. But alongside of this unity there is a simultaneous disunity and opposition. Conflict, antagonism stems from separate business or economic interest. Within the camp of capital, competition, business rivalry obtains, for the sale of goods, for sources of raw materials and capital investment. This rivalry led to periodical wars and is their basic cause.

The relation between this unity and disunity stems from the capitalist nature of things; its unity results from their common exploitation of labor; the disunity

from the individual ownership of property which breeds competition and opposition.

The chicks are now coming home to roost. Those capitalist nations which the "rich uncle" has a few years back helped to get on their feet are now returning their gratefulness (those cads!) by a stiff competition in all sorts of goods, including steel, automobiles, radios, televisions plant and equipment. The elements of disunity are in full force creating a challenging situation on the world market. This is evidenced by the weakened position of the dollar.

Another challenge comes from the colonial, backward countries. In Asia, Africa and in the American continent, specifically Cuba, far-reaching social transformations are in progress which threaten the imperialist structure.

Modern capitalism is monopolistic and imperialistic. The two go together, coexist. Its production apparatus is vast and highly mechanized; its financial structure is huge, and so centralized that without this access to the backward countries to exploit and dominate, it would literally choke to death, economically. Exploitation of the colonial peoples is the safety-valve for imperialism. This explains the desperation of France and Belgium. Even the loss of so small a country as Cuba, observe what commotion it stirred up in U.S. business and government circles. The reason is two-fold. First, and most important, is the immediate loss of a billion or so to American investors. Second, Cuba may well have set a pattern of action for other South American nations. The force of example is strong. There is grave concern over this, enough to force new approaches to our South American neighbors.

The challenge of these colonial movements is all the more poignant because of their leftist tinge. In the very nature of the struggle for national independence under conditions of imperialism these national movements cannot completely achieve their objective without at the same time defeating their own native bourgeois elements.

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## MAY DAY 1961

Each passing year finds May Day, the International Labor Day, more significant than ever. Its observance arises directly from the class struggle between capital and labor. It has an American background, the early labor struggles against exploitation in the 1880s, for a shorter working day, the 8 hour day; it has its Haymarket Martyrs of 1887.

May Day portends the ultimate control of the world by the working class, and implies the collective ownership of the entire means of production, thus ending the exploitation of man by man. That is why it is feared and hated by the capitalist class. But to the class-conscious workers it is a day of inspiration and hope of the better times to come after the final conflict against the exploiters is fought and won.

May Day also serves as an annual gauge of the maturity of the working class. It might be asked: what condition does American labor find itself in today? The answer is as plain as the nose on one's face. In spite of the labor unions numbering some 16 million members, the workers are on the very bottom, still being exploited, while their capitalist masters are sitting on top of them, profiting through that exploitation.

Years of post-war prosperity with steady jobs and full bellies, plus big doses of capitalist propaganda, had deluded the majority of American workers into believing that they are "free" and that they "never had it so good," that prosperity would last forever.

Forgotten were the bitter struggles of the past, of the Great Depression days of the 1930s with its 17 million unemployed workers, their hunger in the midst of plenty, the eviction of workers' families from their homes for non-payment of rent, and the police brutality against demonstrating and striking workers, e.g., the "Memorial Day Massacre" of 1937 in Chicago.

However, this May Day the American workers are due for a very painful awakening. Today capitalism is again hit by the economic crisis, with the result that

factories curtailed production, some closed down completely. Workers were laid off, up to 6 million unemployed, "freed" from their jobs.

Today the capitalist spokesmen are not telling the workers that they have it "so good." Instead, they are trying to reconcile the workers to acceptance of unemployment by telling them that even if business would pick up there will always be jobless workers, approximately what prevails at present. Thus, unemployment has become part of the American way of life.

It so happens "automation" has set in, machines have taken the place of many workers. For example, the basic industry, steel, now operating at a low of around 50 per cent capacity, is still able to turn out a profit to its capitalist owners because it is so highly "automated." The same is true of the automobile industry, where it is reported that 160,000 laid-off workers will never get back their jobs.

The further centralization of industry, the "urge to merge," into huge monopolies owned by a handful of parasitic billionaires, has also thrown out of work not only factory workers but "white-collar" workers, i.e., office workers including quite a number of "petty-executives."

But even those workers still holding jobs are beginning to complain that their "take-home pay" is getting smaller due to a shorter work week. Still others were forced to take actual wage-cuts, in order to help their bosses "save their business."

Of course, the Kennedy administration is trying to cope with the economic crisis, with a rehash of "New Deal" measures: food hand-outs to the needy, extension of unemployment compensation, "public works" to create jobs, etc. Similar palliatives were used by F.D.R. in the Great Depression days of the 1930s, under the slogan of "no one shall starve." But we will note that it took the great slaughter, World War Two (1939-45) to restore prosperity, with its production for destruction.

Another world war just as profitable would please the U.S. capitalists very much. It would en-

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### NOTICE TO OUR READERS

We regret suspending publication since July 1960 for lack of funds. However, we are thankful to those readers who helped with their contributions toward getting out this May issue of the Proletarian News.

## MAY DAY 1961

(Continued from page 1)

able them to dispose of their surplus products, and also re-employ the millions of jobless workers whose discontent might otherwise cause them to turn against capitalism. As a matter of fact the American government has been preparing for such an eventuality right along. This year more than half the budget, \$44 billion, has been allotted to the armed forces.

But there is danger that another world war would not be so profitable to the American capitalists, for the obvious reason that the U.S. no longer has a monopoly of the nuclear weapons. If such a war occurred, what with the atomic and hydrogen bombs freely hurled or orbited against each other by the combatants, it is problematical if there would be any survivors left within the nation to record its destructive consequences, let alone profit by it.

Nevertheless, America's imperial Wall Street capitalists are not averse to starting "little wars" in lieu of profitable big ones that could prove too risky. Hence their recent attempt to regain possession of Cuba by covert support of an armed intervention aimed at the overthrow of the Castro government. It is to the discredit of the U.S. president (the son of a multi-

millionaire) to acquiesce in this counter-revolutionary intervention and to recklessly hurl defiance against the Soviet Union's warning that such intervention could lead to a third world war. Already some citizens are beginning to wonder whether there is a mad man heading the U.S. government.

Actually, however, it is capitalist frustrated fury at seeing the workers section of the world, now one-third, getting stronger in many ways, as, e.g., the Soviet achievement of sending the first man (Yuri Gagarin) into outer space, orbiting the planet earth. Its influence has also grown among the toiling masses of Asia and Africa, and even of Latin-America, as Cuba, to cite the outstanding example. This May Day there will be great rejoicing in the working class world, and by class-conscious workers everywhere.

But within the U.S. the "historical mission" still confronts the toiling exploited majority, that of the revolutionary overthrow of capitalism. Only after that task is completed will it be possible to have world peace with real security. Such is the revolutionary appeal of the Proletarian Party of America to the working class on this May Day 1961.

A.W.

## LET'S FACE REALITY

Despite the downturn in business in 1960, with its sharp rise in bankruptcies and unemployment, the tired, old previous Eisenhower administration refused to concede the reality of a recession. Therefore, his understudy, heir-apparent, "experienced," Vice-President Nixon lost the election. Young, "inexperienced," John F. Kennedy, won and broke a tradition of over 150 years, to be the first Catholic elected to the presidency. Economics took precedence over "spiritual" values with the hard-pressed city voters. In that sense, the latter were realists.

America's productive capacity, transportation facilities, supply of raw materials and foodstuffs, its skill and technical know-how, in short, all the necessary ingredients for a full and prosperous economy are here; yet 17 million Americans go to bed hungry every night in the richest nation on earth, according to President Kennedy.

Unemployment in February was officially announced as over 5½ million, and it kept mounting. For example, steel, the bellwether of business was operating at about 50 per cent capacity with over 50,000 steel workers unemployed and from 100,000 to 150,000 workers on part-time work. Autos, housing, appliances, practically every line of business has been hit. Secretary of Labor Arthur Goldberg, on Feb. 10, in South Bend, Indiana, said: "We are in a full-fledged recession. I think it's time to say this and say it in no uncertain terms."

It's real—what will the new officeholders do about it? What can they do?

The Kennedy Administration is proposing to supply surplus food commodities to some 4 million unemployed workers, extend expired unemployed insurance benefits, raise minimum wages, speed up payment of dividends due veterans, speed up government construction projects, armament expansion, and so on, to get things rolling again. Some of the above proposals may help to relieve the immediate pangs of hunger and are immediate needs to its recipients. In toto, the above proposals have a familiar ring—the sound of the New Deal palliatives. The late President Roosevelt, with his gifted brain-trusters could not usher in prosperity with full employment. The good times, economically, arrived with the World War Two slaughter.

In the hey-day of American capitalism, hard times were experienced about every 20 years, 1837, 1957, 1873, 1893, 1913 permeated with frequent "panics." Since then, we've gone thru the wringer more frequently and since the war ended in 1945, we've experienced recessions in 1949, 1953, 1957 and this current one started in late 1959. Obviously, capitalism, free enterprise or whatever you choose to call it, has lost its punch, and is in a general state of decline.

Just as old age catches up with an individual, so too, with an economic system. The basic inherent

## A LOOK AROUND

**AN EYE OPENER:** We have come to the conclusion that President Kennedy's proposed "Peace Corps" will turn out to be a very good idea. There is only one thing its backers must be prepared to face, and that is the fact that most of the young people who go abroad will end up learning a lot more than they teach. They might even discover that the poverty of the masses is caused by such rich exploiters like Kennedy's "old man."

**SIDE VIEWS:** An old retired and "worn-out" socialist told us last week he used to read the capitalist newspapers to keep informed and find food for argument and debate; but now he just scans the capitalist press to gloat!

**"DROP DEAD":** Two workers were having a discussion about the world in general, trying to solve the problems as people are inclined to do. In the course of talk it became clear that one of the workers was sympathetic to the Soviet Union and said some very complimentary things about its way of life, its leaders and its people. This made the first worker mad and caused him to blurt out (as people are inclined to do) "If you like it in Russia so well, why don't you go there!"

Well, the second worker looked him in the eye and said, "Are you a Christian?" "Yes," said the first fellow. "Do you believe in heaven?" he was asked. "Why yes," was the reply. "Do you think it's a good place, a nice place to be?" "Of course," said the Christian. "Well then, why don't you go there?" said his ex-friend as he walked away.

**IN THE CONGO:** In a front page editorial appearing in the Catholic trade union paper, "Courier D'Afrique," Msgr. Malula, Auxiliary Roman Catholic archbishop of Leopoldville warned the Congolese people to be on the lookout for, "A wave of well orchestrated propaganda which is trying to dope and strangle the Congolese people." He also said, "When free information disappears, dictatorship shows up, leading to enslavement and subjugation."

Now, far be it from us to deny the good father his right to express an idea or two on the subject of freedom but when he tries to make his words come out in such a way as to say the Congo people have had freedom but may not if they aren't careful—well, we just have to sing out.

Surely the Auxiliary Roman

Catholic Archbishop of Leopoldville knows that the African people have been enslaved and subjugated by their colonial white masters for over a hundred years. He knows, too, that the violent reaction being felt by the white intruder is the releasing of built up tension and hate smoldering on the whole African continent for many a year. We contend the Congolese people couldn't possibly be less free than they are.

Only when the white man gives up his "burden" will the African people begin to plan for a future of freedom and self expression. And if the Auxiliary Roman Catholic Archbishop of Leopoldville doesn't do a better job of phrasing his thoughts he may not be included in those plans.

**LONG RANGE PLANNING:** Good news for families wanting to buy a new home is in the offing. President Kennedy's housing legislation promises those in moderate income brackets to get into a new home with no down payment and 40 years to pay. That means you could purchase a home for, say, \$13,500 and take on an FHA 5½ per cent mortgage for 40 years with no money down and move right in. The only trouble is (if one stops to look for it) the house will have cost its owner \$33,437. (U.S. News figures)

Now the question is this: is this a happy housing bill or is it a "How to Cheer Up the Money Lenders" bill. We will leave the choice up to you because it all depends on how you feel about usury.

**BREAD CAST ON THE WATER?** There has been a great deal of fuss and talk about all the money which is leaving this country and upsetting the gold balance, etc.

We have been wondering lately what happens to the nice little piles of profits stacked up as a result of all this wayward money going abroad to be spent and invested. Much to our happy surprise we now have the answer. In a copy-righted article U.S. News (March 20 issue) tells us that roughly twice the amount invested abroad in the past 10 years has come back across the waters in the form of profits (to the U.S. capitalists) of one form or another. It is an enlightening report about a much overlooked subject. We couldn't resist reference to the parable suggested by our headline.

L.D.

contradictions of capitalism have become more chronic. (1) Social, or mass production vs. individual appropriation. Here the workers produce collectively, in mass, and in return receive wages, a portion, small one at that, one-fourth and less. The difference between what labor produces and what it receives, is profit, which is pocketed by capital by virtue of its ownership of the means of wealth production. The constant piling up of

surpluses of merchandise, eventually leads to overproduction, crisis and unemployment. In its youthful period, capitalism expanded to the four corners of the globe and worked off such surpluses. (2) The other basic inherent—contradiction of capitalism—anarchy in production, planlessness. Each manufacturer trying to outdo its rival in production and cornering the market for their wares. Such rivalry

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**CAPITALISM'S QUANDARY**

The problems that beset capitalism are so numerous that it finds its ruling class spokesmen in a quandary on how to deal with them. One of the worst problems is the current economic recession. It is a source of much aggravation not only to America but also to her "allies," particularly Great Britain. This was recently pointed up by the visit to the U.S. of the British Prime Minister, Macmillan, in his talks with President Kennedy. One of the first subjects brought up was that of international trade, by Macmillan proposing "greater liquidity," i.e., the establishment of international reserves (money) that could be borrowed by such big trading nations as Britain to avoid periodic crises of the pound. He also said this would enable the Atlantic community to increase trade and to ride out slack periods. However, both Macmillan and Kennedy avoided detailed discussion on the touchy subject of the Common Market of Europe.

And yet it was this very touchy subject that was Macmillan's greatest concern. This he revealed later, on April 7, in a talk at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge, Mass. He began his talk by saying, "... let us look—realistically and objectively—at the state of the free world today. Now how have we been getting on since 1958? To be frank, we have been doing fairly well but not well enough. The Communist bloc is stronger than it was. The uncommitted countries are more alarmed. The vital center of the free world's resistance, our Western alliance, is no better organized, whether in the field of defense, economics or political relations. If we have broadly held our own, we have gained no ground. This is the challenge to our people today." (N.Y. Times. Apr. 8th)

Macmillan gave some prescriptions for dealing with these problems. To counter the Communist bloc, which he admits got stronger, he recommends maintaining a "nuclear deterrent" (atomic and hydrogen bombs) sufficient but not wasteful; that the Atlantic Western alliance (NATO) must not neglect its "conventional forces," and that the question of giving it some "nuclear capacity" must be faced. Though Macmillan did pay a bit of lip service to the question of disarmament in the midst of his talk, nevertheless, he wound up by recommending a build up of the armed forces on the question of "defense."

But, it was the economic part of the problem, trade relations, that worried Macmillan the most, as we note by his further remark, to wit:

"There are now three main problems to be resolved. The first is how to maximize world trade. This is essential to the prosperity of developed and undeveloped countries alike.

"Secondly, how best to organize the systems and capital to build up the less developed countries. Our common humanity cries out to us to help here, our economic interest in new markets encourages us and political necessity compels us.

"Finally, how to finance an ever-increasing volume of trade and aid. If our monetary arrangements are bad, or outmoded, we shall not succeed. We shall stagnate instead of expanding. And capitalism must expand or perish. Even Marx knew that."

So spoke the British Prime Minister, Mac-

millan, and we note, he was not averse in proving his point to the use of a Marxian fact that "Capitalism must expand or perish." But the question is: how much room or space has capitalism left to expand in? It has only two-thirds of the world left, in view of the fact that one-third is in the hands of the "communists," that is, under working class collective ownership.

And this shrinkage of capitalism's so-called "free world," to the fraction of two-thirds, was caused by two major social revolutions, the Soviet Russian of November 1917, and the Chinese Workers and Peasants of October 1949, both of which were the direct consequences of the imperial capitalists' exploitation of the masses, and the imperial slaughter fests known as World War One and Two. It was the very expansion of capitalism, the monopoly of the world's resources and industries by the finance-capitalists, particularly the Anglo-American and French, incurring the envy, hatred and antagonism of the "less favored" capitalist nations such as Germany and her allies, that caused the two world wars.

Lenin, the Russian Marxist, during World War One (1914-18) wrote his pamphlet "Imperialism, The Highest Stage of Capitalism," and proved that the war was imperialistic, that is, an annexionist, predatory, plunderous war. Lenin showed that it was a violent, bloody struggle precipitated by the economic rivalry of the financial capitalists of both sides, a struggle for markets and fields for the export of capital, for partition and repartition of colonies, for sources of raw materials, for "re-division of the world."

The Second World War (1939-45), even more bloodier and violent, was also imperialistic, caused by the same big capitalist powers as the previous one, with Germany and her allies making a second attempt to get its "place in the sun," (its "share") against the expansion and monopoly of the "big three" powers, Britain, United State and France. The only part of that war which was not imperialistic, was the struggle of the Russian workers in defense of the "workers fatherland," the Soviet Union, against Hitler's invaders, against capitalist Nazi-Germany.

Of course, the British Prime Minister, Macmillan, must know all this, but as one of the foremost imperialists himself, he certainly would not reveal a truth so unsavory to the system he defends (capitalism). However, in his talk, he had to admit that the capitalist nations are not so united as they pretend to be, and he stated the reasons (economic) for it. He pleaded for economic unity, and "free trade for the free world," stating that the most urgent problem was to bring together the six member European Common Market (French-German controlled) and the seven member European Free-Trade Association (British controlled). These two groups are now in cut-throat competition with each other over the European market. Macmillan stated that "If this economic division persists, the political rift will inevitably widen and deepen." He calls for a "comprehensive arrangement in Europe; not highly protective," that is, with the two groups getting together and lowering their tariff walls. He further recommends that such an arrangement would not harm United States industry, which, he said, "has in the past always obtained its full share of expanding trade."

But the American capitalists are not likely to welcome this bill of goods proposed by Macmillan. They fear such an economic arrangement of European nations would result in more tariff walls being erected to exclude American products. They have trouble enough trying to find a market for the \$91 billions inventory of goods glutting the stores and warehouses at the present time. They too want their "share" of the market. And the ironical part of it, they

are already getting fierce competition from the very nations, Britain, France, West Germany, etc., whose industries the U.S. government helped to build up during the post-war years with "foreign aid" handouts and loans, all at the expense of the American tax-payers!

Of course, it wasn't total loss, not for some tax-payers anyhow. For one thing, as the chief "crusader against communism," the United States with its "foreign aid" helped to preserve West Europe for its capitalist class. It prevented it from going "to the left" like East Europe.

For another thing, some American business men, especially the richer ones, the finance capitalists, invested many millions of dollars in the industries of West Europe, and even in Britain. They are now profiting very handsomely, taking advantage of the fact that European industries employ much cheaper labor than the American. And one more thing, that recent "flight of gold" that had some U.S. citizens worried, did not trouble one bit these American capitalists who possessed foreign holdings. In fact some of them were delighted, for much of that gold flew right into their hands.

However, in the main, the capitalists of each nation are plenty worried about finding a market for their commodities, and places to profitably invest their capital. One notes that Macmillan suggests the undeveloped countries (to recall his words): "Our common humanity cries out to us, our economic interest in new markets encourages us and political necessity compels us."

Macmillan sums up the aims of capitalism concisely, exposing its naked self-interest which protrudes in spite of his hypocritical mouthing of "our common humanity cries out to us." One might ask him: where was Great Britain's concern for "humanity" when she ruthlessly attacked Egypt during the Suez Canal incident of 1956?

The U.S. ruling class is no less ruthless, judging by its recent arrogant demand that the Castro government of Cuba break its ties with the communist countries. It's Wall Street's fury for "losing" Cuba.

The conniving, unscrupulous methods used by the imperial capitalists to retain control of the new nations of Africa, like the Congo, is another example of brutal callousness toward human welfare. The murder of the Congo's courageous leader, Patrice Lumumba, can be laid at their doorstep.

The undeveloped new nations are trying to break away from the imperial big powers' tentacles. Therefore, it is natural for small nations, like Laos in southeast Asia, to turn for aid to the Soviet Union, Peoples China and North Vietnam. They know they will get aid, for these working class nations also had to struggle against capitalist-imperialism, and won.

But "political necessity" is compelling the imperial-capitalist powers to continue its "cold war against communism," to save what they can of the capitalist system in the world, no less so than their need for new markets. However, with more new nations going to the "left," there is ever less space for capitalist expansion. And what there is left to the imperial-capitalists, they quarrel over it, like wolves over their prey.

Thus, we see, while the fear of the workers world tends to unite the imperialists, their relentless competitive struggle, their economic warfare, drives them apart. That is what causes capitalism's quandary.

Nor do they dare start another world war. Soviet Union's might deters them, especially its recent (April 12th) achievement of orbiting the first man into outer space. Its scientific and military significance is now causing the imperial-capitalist powers to undergo an "agonizing re-appraisal" of their foreign policies.

Al Wysocki

## AMERICA FACES MANY-SIDED CHALLENGE

(Continued from page 1)

The Congo offers us a good example of an internal struggle within the national movement, one group (Kasavuba) seeking to stop with bourgeois nationalism, the second (Gizenga) would go beyond that stage and on to a form of socialism.

The capitalist powers, including the U.S. are deeply concerned over the crises in the Congo, Laos, Algeria. Thru the U.N. and other approaches every effort is exerted to blunt and contain the struggle. Meanwhile the challenge is on. All capitalist nations, including the U.S., are involved.

A third challenge, certainly the most worrisome is the growing strength of the Soviet Union. The race for world leadership is being hotly contested. The pressure is on in every field, including art, sports, military, science and education. The Soviet Union is considered by man as strong if not ahead of the U.S. Even on the economic front, which has been America's forte for ever so long, there is a gradual approaching. It is noteworthy that America's rate of production growth is much slower than that of the Soviet Union, which lends ever more credence to Khrushchev's warning that by 1970 Soviet production output will overtake that of the U.S. When and as soon as that goal is realized the scale can be said to have conclusively tipped in favor of communism and against capitalism, specifically, the U.S.

But the most damaging challenge of all stems from the internal situation, the economic recession. It is to the credit of the Kennedy Administration, that, unlike some of its predecessors, it is at least realistic, in the recognition of the problem. They are not denying the widespread existence of unemployment and chronically depressed areas. They are calling attention to the serious production decline in steel, autos and such; and to the role that automation plays. But what can they do about it

that's radically different? Very little. It's just more of the same government handouts and hair-splitting over whether we have or have not hit bottom. Effects are being treated without any effort or dare to trace the basic cause. All the rationalizing whether automation is beneficial or harmful is pure wasted energy. The fact is that it is here as no accident but a necessary social product of our times. It is part of the technological and scientific development in connection, specifically, with the last war, and that of capitalist industrial evolution in general. It is performing what capital intended it to do—cut down labor-time, hence labor-costs, increase output with less of the human element involved. All of which ultimately spells—more profits. That it leads to labor-displacement and joblessness, well, how else can it save labor without displacing it?

What should our attitude be towards machinery in general and automation in particular? Point 1 is that it is here as part of technological progress. To turn against it is reactionary thinking and un-availing. Point 2 its effects stem not from its use but from its ownership. A working-machine at home lightens the burden of the housewife. This same machine or its larger equivalent, in the factory, creates a burden for those who lose their jobs. The difference is not in the machine but in the social relationship, that is, who owns the machine and the nature of the production.

The object of capitalist production is not use—but profits. Ownership is private. Machines are capital, they are private property. Labor does not own any property, in the sense of means of production; hence it sells, for a wage, its labor-force or capacity to the property owning class, the capitalists, who use it to produce surpluses or profits. Basically this is the essence and objective of business. They are not in it for their health or anyone else's. The accu-

mulation of wealth is what counts with business. Automation is a new means to that goal.

Now let us consider another type of society or social relationship—Socialism. Here automated machines are also in use—but with entirely opposite-effects. No one is displaced by their employment, because like the case of our housewife it lightens their burden. It's all a question of ownership and objective. Under socialism the means of production are owned COLLECTIVELY by the workers as a whole, as a unit. The objective of production is use not profit. Its aim is no longer to enrich individual owners of capital, but to enrich the lives of the useful producers in society. The Soviet Union is living proof of how automation can function without resulting in unemployment. Automation under socialism is serving as a lever to lighten the workers' burden, increase their standard of living, shorten the working day and

week. The same machine brings diverse results under capitalism and socialism.

To sum up this discussion we do not regard automation as the basic cause of unemployment tho it may appear that way. The ultimate cause of capitalist crises is due to overproduction and the capitalist mode of production. This capitalist relations of things the ruling class wishes to preserve. Well, then the rest of the headaches go with it.

Getting hit by the many challenges, external and internal, at this late stage of capitalism may be more than what they bargained for. It will bear close watching whether American capitalism has the inner strength to meet them and for how long. One sure thing, the capitalists have yet to face the internal revolutionary challenge, long overdue, from the class whom they exploit, the wage-workers of America, who, at present, are so reluctant to move in that leftward direction.

R. Daniels

## LET'S FACE REALITY

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on an international scale has led to world wars.

These built-in contradictions, are natural to capitalism. They cannot be resolved without dissolving the system of capitalism. The capitalist class, the benefactors of such a system, together with their henchment, executive, legislative and judicial, are all for it, even if it means suffering for the rest of us.

In one third of the world where socialism prevails the workers have broken with capitalism and established a new order where social, collective production is matched with social ownership of wealth and planned production, thereby resolving the contradictions of capitalism with its crises, unemployment and internal warfare. But here, in America, the workers, by and large, haven't reached that stage of disillusionment with capitalism.

However, the economic forces are relentless, compelling, asserting themselves in one way or another. Take automation, for example. With the cry and need for more jobs, as over 5½ million walk the streets, there is a concerted drive amongst big industrialists to automate, to beat falling prices with falling costs. Rep. Elmer J. Holland of the House Education and Labor Committee said that machines will eliminate four million office and clerical jobs in the next 5 years. The report went on to say that an estimated 160,000 unemployed auto workers "will never return to automobile factories due to automation." In New York City alone, some 40,000 elevator operators

have been displaced by automatic elevators in the last 15 years. The spread of automation in practically every field of endeavor and its effect is becoming increasingly obvious.

The balance of payment problem plaguing this nation has the new President calling upon American businessmen to modernize their plants for better meeting foreign competition with more American exports. Modernization of plants means accelerated automation to cut costs to meet foreign competition—thereby less jobs for American workers.

Unemployment rate amongst Negroes is twice that of whites. In its Feb. 17 issue, Time magazine says: "Hardest hit are the Negroes, the very young, the unskilled. Last hired and first fired, Negroes comprise 10 per cent of the population, account for more than 20 per cent of the unemployed." One in three of the unemployed is aged 24 or less, a group that hasn't experienced depressions. "One of the greatest problems with automation," said Congressman Holland, "is not the worker who is fired, but the worker who is not hired."

Facing reality, for the workers, means the awareness that capitalism has outlived its usefulness. Its positive contribution to mankind, has been its development of the productive forces. But capitalism's exploitation of labor, and its outmoded private appropriation, stand in the way of mankind. In the atomic age, the issue is clear—humanity or capitalism—human values vs. property interest. This issue can only be resolved with the abolition of capitalism by the vast majority.

L.B.

### The Price of Real Security

A worker wants real security: full employment with a shorter working day, decent wages, free medical and hospital insurance, free college education with living allowance for students, adequate pensions for the aged, etc. The price? The overthrow of capitalism by a majority thru working class revolutionary political action.

Sheetmetal Worker

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