

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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SOCIAL CONTRADICTIONS

When people talk of contradictions, generally, there is an unsavory meaning attached to them. For instance, they will say: "Oh, it's a contradictory situation," implying a sense of hopelessness; or, "he contradicts himself too much." Meaning, the man is untruthful. To come up against a contradiction means hitting an unexpected snag or impasse from which, seemingly, there's no way out.

In connection with the recent disturbances in the East European nations, those in Poland and Hungary, it became an effective theme for the western capitalist scribes to harp on the contradictions which embarrassed the Soviet Union, namely, its role of political repression of "revolutionary" risings. One bourgeois writer went even so far as stating that the Marxian formula itself was contradicted by happenings in the Soviet Union. On the one hand, he states, Marxian communism implies the abolition of contradictions; on the other hand, concrete situations in the Soviet Union present and give rise to all sorts of contradictions.

On the surface of things this presentation appears logical and convincing. It would appear like a violation has actually been committed. But upon closer inquiry we find matters not as simple as stated. In the first place, what is represented from the capitalist standpoint as "revolutionary" risings, was in fact and from the socialist viewpoint a "counter-revolutionary" rebellion; secondly, contradictions in a socialist or communist society are not a negation of Marxism but a complete confirmation of it.

Marxism never contended that the proletarian revolution puts an end to all social contradictions, in general. What it does hold is that it abolishes the SPECIFIC contradictions engendered by capitalist society. That in no way excludes the rise of new contradictions characteristic and germane to the new order of communism. Vulgarizing Marxism in order to discredit it is not an uncommon practice of bourgeois intellectuals. It aids confusion and that they thrive on. Confusion is itself, then, a contradiction of capitalism. On the one hand, capitalism needs science and enlightenment as a re-

quisite to technical and industrial growth; on the other hand, it requires faith and confusion, the opposite of science, to bolster its social stability.

The true role of contradiction is dynamic and all-powerful. It is the basic law of universal existence, without which there is none. Existence contains within it the elements of non-existence; motion that of rest; life that of death. The processes of nature, of society and of our ideas continue in their existence and progress as long as contradiction or opposition obtains.

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THE ISRAELI - U.S. IMPASSE

By the time "brotherhood week" came around (Feb. 18th to 25th) the relations between Israel and the United States had reached an impasse. This was over the refusal of Israel to comply with the United Nations' decision requesting the withdrawal of her troops from the Gaza Strip and the Egyptian territory around the Gulf of Aqaba. In spite of all the efforts of State Secretary Dulles, and assurances from President Eisenhower, Israel still maintained her position that there would be no withdrawals without "iron-clad guarantees" that Egypt never again will occupy the Gaza

Strip or bar the Gulf of Aqaba to Israel ships trading with Asia and Africa.

A compromise on this issue is very difficult to arrive at because Egypt is just as stubborn in demanding the withdrawal of all Israeli forces from Egyptian soil and the Gaza Strip as a condition for the reopening of the Suez Canal. One can hardly blame Egypt for taking that position in view of the fact that she was the victim of the combined British - French - Israeli invasion.

But ever since King Saud of Saudi-Arabia had payed his "respects" to President Eisenhower (his recent visit to Washington, D.C. where he was "wined and dined" as befitting "royalty"), there has been an urgency on the part of the American government to resolve the Israeli-Egyptian stalemate and to get the Suez Canal opened up as quickly as possible. A deal or "agreement" was arrived at between the Arabian King and the American government, and its oil magnates, of mutual profit to all parties concerned. King Saud would receive his approximately 300 millions of dollars annually from oil royalties, and in return the American oil corporations would get "theirs," while the government would continue its armed air base in Arabia on a five year lease. There was much rubbing of palms and smacking of lips over such a very "satisfactory" arrangement.

And now the job of getting the oil flowing as fast as possible was next in order. (Recessed for the time being were the anti-Communist provisions of the "Eisenhower doctrine" which were explained to King Saud, and the latter seemed pleased judging by his smile of "royalty.") The more urgent task, of getting the Suez Canal opened, took priority. In this respect a "division of labor" was arranged, King Saud to "work" on the job of persuading President Nasser of Egypt, while the United States would "work" on its satellite, little Israel.

However, as we had noticed, little Israel resents being worked upon by her "big brother," Uncle Sam (read, Wall Street). This

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HOME SCENE

Hair-Curling News

Secretary of the Treasury, George M. Humphrey, Wall Street's key economic man in the Eisenhower Cabinet, warned that unless the trend in government spending was curbed, we would have "a depression that will curl your hair."

Ex-President Herbert Hoover, also warned that unless the inflationary trend wasn't arrested, the economy was in for a "bump." He went on to say that his "hair had been curled once and I think I can detect the signs." And he ought to know for his name is indelibly engraved with the Big Depression of the 30's.

Since the beginning of the new year, the stock market has been way off. It has taken nose-dives on some days reminiscent of the 1930's. While it is true that there is speculation in the market despite government attempts to curb it, nevertheless, the stock market is still a barometer, measuring the health of the economy. It not only reflects the state of business but it foretells in a measure the expected future of the economy. What does the market see to make it behave as it has?

Steel scrap dropped \$8 a ton in one day recently in Pittsburgh, "for one of the steepest declines in recent years." This may indicate that the steel industry, the bellwether of the economy, may be operating well below capacity this year.

Both General Motors and General Electric, giants in the field of industry have announced cancella-

tion of plant construction. The Frigidaire Division of General Motors Corp. announced layoffs of about 1700 workers in five Dayton area plants for the "next few weeks."

The Wall Street Journal of Jan. 24th reports: "Signs of a slowdown in U.S. industrial expansion are showing up in the barometric machine tool business." It goes on to say: "there's mounting evidence that a downturn may be in the making. New orders, on the decline for the past several months, are far below the record levels of a year ago."

Inventories are building up. Car sales are off, prices are up and earnings are down. "Ford's net income last year sank 46 per cent below the 1955 figure. Chrysler fared even worse, with earnings down 80 per cent. General Motors - the biggest of the Big Three - has yet to disclose its 1956 performance, but on Friday its stock fell to the lowest level since it was split 3-for-1 in 1955." (N.Y. Times-Feb. 10, 1957)

Television sets are a drug on the market. Other home appliances are in plentiful supply - in fact, over-supply, judging by the sale ads. Home construction is off to a rocky start. School and road construction is talked about, but isn't shaping up as yet to offset the declines in home and industry. It is such negative factors as mentioned above that has brought about depression talk.

Eisenhower, it is reported, and his budget seems to support it,

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THE ISRAELI — U.S. IMPASSE

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angered the Dulles-Eisenhower team to the extent that they contemplated applying sanctions (thru the UN, of course) against Israel, in order to bring her to terms. These sanctions would include economic and financial measures, such as trade boycotts, arms embargoes, etc. Poor little Israel, its people were so infuriated that they demonstrated against "big brother, U.S.A.," with huge banners reading "Israel Blood or Arab Oil?" That's sure proof that they find it difficult to swallow this portion of the "Eisenhower doctrine." They are experiencing the painful lesson that satellites can only move in the orbit prescribed for them by the "parent body."

This move of applying sanctions to Israel goes well with the Arab States, particularly Egypt. In fact, if the Arabian bloc of nations had their way there would be no Israel at all, so great is their hatred against the latter. To have the U.S. favoring sanctions against Israel would be considered a great victory by the Arabian nations. However, they must know that such a move would be dictated more by America's oil interests than any desire for peace in the Middle East.

But the American government is not of one mind on the question of applying sanctions to Israel, especially is Congress divided on this issue. On February 19th the Chicago Daily News reported that "President Eisenhower has been sharply warned by both top Senate leaders, Democrat Johnson (Tex.) and Republican Knowland (Calif.)

that they will not support economic sanctions against Israel." The Chicago Daily News further stated that the Senate Democratic policy committee had already "voted unanimously to ask the U.S. delegation to the United Nations to oppose any attempt to apply sanctions to Israel." This "split" in the government over sanctioning Israel is an indication that the American capitalist class is itself divided over the issue, however great the influence of the oil interests over the Eisenhower administration.

A compromise was proposed in an effort to placate Israel, that of stationing a "UN police force" in the Gaza Strip, and some American naval vessels in the Gulf of Aqaba. But here too, even if this would be acceptable to Israel, there was no assurance that Egypt would agree to it, especially that of permitting American ships to act as convoys for Israel's ships in the Gulf of Aqaba.

It is very evident that the Eisenhower administration has got itself some very "hot chestnuts" in the Middle East, politically speaking. A compromise or solution completely favorable to both antagonists (Israel and Egypt) is impossible. But American imperial interests dictate that one of the two antagonists must give in, and its finger, or thumb, at present, points downward at Israel. However, the latter is not willing to submit. At this writing (Feb. 25) the impasse still remains, with the question of an "acceptable compromise" being hotly debated by the nations concerned.

Al Wysocki

HOME SCENE

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plans to fight a downturn with more spending (mostly for the military). Treasury Secretary Humphrey appears to be at odds with his chief - opposed to large-scale spending - fearing its inflationary effect and the hair-curling aftermath. Either way, supply is overtaking demand. Overproduction, depression, unemployment are the hair-curling news bandied about these days.

Farm Problem

Ever since the turn of the century, with the exception of war years and widespread droughts, the nation's farmers have overproduced and faced market difficulties. Aside from aiding the farmers with tariff walls (barring the importation of some foreign farm products because of seeming health reasons) the government has spent \$4,005,000,000 since 1933 in Federal farm aid programs. The Commodity Credit Corp., a government agency, reports that the losses incurred by the government during the four years of the Eisenhower Administration reached \$2,894,000,000 as compared to \$1,111,000,000 during the period between

1933 to 1953. "The figures do not take into account direct subsidy payment made to farmers, cost of export subsidies under which some commodities were sold abroad at cut rate prices or funds other than those of CCC used to purchase surpluses for relief and other distribution. No cumulative figures were available on those programs." (Boston Globe - Feb. 11th)

According to an Agricultural Department's survey, the 1956 farm output as a whole equalled the 1948 peak and this record harvest was accomplished with less cultivated acres. How do they do it? By using the most productive land, a greater application of fertilizer, more machine operation, weed killing and greater skill. In short, more scientific methods are applied on the farms.

Farming like industry as a whole today is big business. It is owned and controlled by Big Business. These have the capital to employ the most modern machinery and scientific methods. Result - bumper crops.

The Roosevelt regime wrestled with the farm problem during its entire tenure without any appar-

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SOCIAL CONTRADICTIONS

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As soon as that ceases the process itself ceases.

Consider life. Engels explains it in Anti-Duhring as a process of assimilation and dissimilation. These (assimilation and dissimilation) are opposite and contradictory functions of an organism. As long as this contradictory process obtains, life continues. As soon as it ceases, life itself ceases.

In social life there is constant opposition and conflict, with society versus nature, as well as opposing forces within society itself. The new is always contradicted by the old. New economic ways and methods of production find themselves in opposition and harnessed by old and established social institutions and relations. In time this gives rise to classes, class opposition and struggles. These contradictions are the motive force of history. They constitute the essence of historical movement. The progress in technology, science and ideas generally are the result of struggle and opposition. Without debate, dissension and opposition there could be no advance in ideas. Wherever there is complete unanimity and agreement sterility inevitably follows. When we recognize the law of contradiction as a basic law of objective existence and our reasoning process, it serves us as a powerful lever in finding the answers to many problems which we otherwise couldn't.

For instance, the problem of social change. The powers-that-be would have the present state of capitalism as the last word, the perfect society from which no further advance is possible or necessary. That is implying a state of perfection in which no further social contradiction can exist. That is flying in the face of reality. It is a subjective desire of the present ruling class to freeze social movement which it can't.

Secondly there is the present ideological tendency to over-emphasize the subjective. In other words, to them contradictions are purely mental. For example the contradictory behavior, recently, of the stock market is explained in terms of emotion or state of mind, rather than objective conditions. The relation between mind and matter, objective conditions and our mental reaction is here grossly distorted. It is much more reasonable and in line with concrete reality to explain the market happenings in terms of falling production and poor economic prospects. Greater understanding can be achieved by analyzing contradictions in the objective world than by cudgelling our brains subjectively, thru the introspective process. In the final analysis our state of mind is dependent upon and derived from the state of material conditions.

All human history is full of contradictions. That's what makes history. Without them there would be no history, no movement, no development. Each social stage has contradictions peculiar to itself. When these contradictions have reached their gamut, or the point where they can go no further on the basis of the existing social relations or institutions, that particular society has run its historical course, has outlived its usefulness, a new society is brought into being which abolishes the old contradictions, releases the pent-up energies, establishes new contradictions in harmony with the new set of social conditions.

Thus capitalism several centuries back abolished feudalism with all its feudal relations and contradictions. The growing economic forces under feudalism and the demands of the expanding market were shackled by the then existing contradictions of nobleman and serf, and the restrictions of the guild system upon the needs of industry and trade. These resulted in class struggles and revolutions, in which the rising capitalists were victorious. Out of the ruin and contradictions of feudalism came modern capitalism, a more advanced society, which released the economic and social energies, to expand and progress, but not without establishing new contradictions, of a capitalistic nature. In place of the old classes, nobility, peasantry and serfs, new classes arose, capital and wage-labor. Capitalist exploitation took the place of feudal exploitation.

The basic economic contradiction of capitalism is SOCIAL PRODUCTION and PRIVATE appropriation. Production is carried on in a COLLECTIVE, cooperative manner; but the resulting product is appropriated PRIVATELY by individual owners, not by the producers (workers) themselves. This situation brings about other contradictions, struggles between capital and labor over wages and working conditions; poverty amidst plenty, overproduction and crises. It brings about dislocations in the commodity market.

In the early years of capitalism, when it was young, these contradictions served as a lever for expansion and growth of industry and the market. But capitalism, no different than its predecessors, is subject to the aging and declining process. It seemingly has run its course and is unable to control and master the very productive forces it managed to contrive. It is showing definite signs of inability to cope with its contradictions. It has outlived its capacity to manage the social forces it created. Hence a new management is

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TAXES AND THEIR SOURCE

—WHO PAYS?

The social phenomenon of TAXES becomes ever more complex and, for many, confusing and exasperating. On the whole, taxes tend to increase, not only in volume but also percentage-wise. An increasing portion of the produced wealth is taken as a levy by the political controllers of the nation. Here, it is not our purpose to enlarge upon the reason for taxes nor the manner in which they are expended, altho that is important enough, but rather upon the source of taxes, and who has to pay them.

In any process of division, the part has to be taken from the whole. In that relation, taxes are but a part, or share, of a greater value, namely, the produced wealth of the nation. The national wealth, altho privately owned, is the source of all taxation. It is out of the volume of capitalist wealth that the tax bill must be met. In other words, the bulk of all taxes is levied upon the capitalists because they alone are in a position to make the payment. The volume of taxation is beyond the capacity of the workers, as a class, to pay. Therefore, the capitalists have no alternative than to pay their own taxes.

As the national wealth is in the hands of the capitalists, mainly in the form of commodities, it is out of this volume that taxes must be met. The working people produce the bulk of that wealth, altho some of it is still produced by individual producers and small farmers. Products of all sorts go upon the market as commodities. There they are turned into cash, which, in turn, is the starting point for a repetition of the process.

The machinery of production and the raw materials are owned by the capitalists. This ownership gives them the power to appropriate the products. All that the workers get is wages, which in turn—year in and year out—must be expended upon food, shelter and clothing for themselves and their dependents. It is not often that one of them is able to raise himself above his class, and that becomes ever more difficult. Most have no alternative than to remain wage-workers for life.

Because of the law of competition wages tend to remain around their value. Like any other commodity on the market, labor power exchanges around its value. It is sometimes slightly above and sometimes slightly below, but on the average, in the long run, labor power sells at its value, and that, in turn, is determined by the value of the food, shelter and clothing (the real wage) that the worker and his family must consume. Thus, it is obvious that very little can be taken from the workers.

Let us assume that national production is at a rate of four-hundred billions of dollars, and that the industrial wage-bill (payment for all socially-necessary productive labor-power) is one-hundred billions. That would leave a surplus value of three-hundred billions in the hands of the industrial capitalists. It is from this "jack-pot," the surplus value, that all non-productive incomes must be taken. The productive workers, in this assumption, have produced the equivalent of their own wages—100 billion dollars—and also the surplus value—300 billions.

We are here concerned with what becomes

of this surplus, what part is taken for taxes. If we assume that one-hundred billions must be given up for taxes (local, state and national) then that leaves \$200 billions in the hands of the capitalists as profit after taxes. How they use that \$200 billions we will not speculate upon, but it is common knowledge that some of it goes for the expansion of their industrial plants, thus an increase in their wealth. They generally live luxuriously, with butlers, chauffeurs, and other servants, and many petty parasites, legal and "spiritual" advisers and retainers, who do their "dirty work."

What we here wish to stress is that the national tax-bill steadily increases. This year's federal budget, alone, is at \$72 billions, and there also are local and state taxes. In fact, the total tax bill may be closer to \$150 billions. It should be clear that the industrial workers, who are exploited to the point where they have little more than a living, cannot be drawn upon for very much of this volume of taxation.

"But," it will be said, "the workers pay Income-tax — Social Security payments and such." Quite true. In recent times the American government has extended its taxing ramifications to the workers. As workers have no other means of subsistence than their wages, in substance it is nothing but a wage-cut. The worker's pay envelope is dipped into and a fund is built up from which those who survive beyond the age of 65 (62 for women) are enabled to live a few years longer. Of course, many who make those payments die before they reach the age for collecting the "benefits." Thus, the workers are compelled to pay for the maintenance of their own old folk, as they always have had to do, in some form or other. It would be possible for the capitalists to pay lower wages and carry the complete Social Security costs themselves, but by paying enough so that the workers can stand the deductions it creates the impression that they are participants in the government, that they are "self-governed," that it is a "government of the people" etc.

Keeping the workers in line with capitalist concepts is smart politics. And, if they are convinced that they are being exploited for their own good, they are unlikely to rebel against this social system. As the workers are powerless to refuse to pay income taxes, it simply means that some of what they are handed is promptly taken away from them again. This amounts to them not having it in the first place. Apart from the psychological effect, nibbling on the pay-envelope, in any case, can yield but little from such a barren source.

There are other workers—quite a number—who are maintained from the volume of taxes, the source of which is surplus value, such as soldiers, naval-sailors, policemen, politicians and other non-productive consumers. The state machinery must be maintained at all costs, at all times, during peace or war. It is capitalism's first line of defense. The workers produce the wealth, a share of which, in the form of taxes, is used for their own subjugation.

Public education, so called, but really capitalist education, also is maintained from taxation. An illiterate proletariat would be useless in modern industry. A certain amount of technical knowledge is necessary, but most of the worker's "education" is just so much "head-fixing." Many workers paid out of public funds are really useful and positively necessary to the community; such, for instance, are road-builders and repairers, street-cleaners, garbage-collectors, snow-removers, fire-fighters, and many others.

Therefore, TAXES, in general, are what the capitalists, as a class, contribute to the upkeep of their most important institution, **their State**. It is **their** government in every respect. It exists primarily to serve **their** interests. How-

ever, its upkeep is so high that the workers simply could not begin to maintain it.

The State, as an institution, came into being with the division of society into classes, property owners and propertyless workers. It ever has been and still remains, despite its many disguises, just what Marx called it—"The Public Power of Coercion." The propertyless class, the wage workers, are subjugated mentally and physically by its laws and their application. These laws are made by, or in the interest of, the rich exploiters, the owners of the means of production who appropriate the vast surplus values produced by the industrial workers. It is from this source, and it must continue to be from this source, that taxes are paid.

There is planning and purpose behind the shifting of a slight amount of the "tax burden" to the shoulders of the workers. Altho the nibblings from the workers' pay envelopes, from their nominal wages, yields but little of the big national tax bill, it creates the desired effect. It helps to make the workers believe that the State exists for the mutual benefit of rich and poor. Fooling the exploited workers, making them believe that they are "sovereign citizens, with a free choice" in social affairs is one of the great accomplishments of modern capitalist politics.

In the main, the "tax question" is a capitalist issue, if it is their problem, but we have known workers to get quite worked up over the rate of taxes, or the vast amounts being expended, without ever discovering the source from which the capitalists draw their means of paying the taxes, the surplus values exploited from the social labor of the working class itself.

Some property owners who are reluctant to pay contend that if taxes go much higher it will topple the social order. We don't think that is likely to happen because the volume of surplus value at the disposal of the capitalists is so great and increasing, that, unless taxes increase very much faster than before, they can pay more and get along quite well.

As for the workers "payments," if we don't forget that workers live from real wages (food, shelter, clothing, etc.) and that, altho wages tend toward that minimum, the producers must be assured a certain standard. Taxes paid by workers, as we previously stated, are but a gouge on wages.

Let us suppose that a worker is credited with money wages to the extent of \$6,000 a year, and that \$1,000 is taken in withholding and income tax. His nominal wage then, his take-home pay, will be but \$5,000. Even then that is not his real wage. It depends upon what it will buy. If, for instance, this \$5,000 a year man (after taxes) is confronted with a doubling of the cost of living, then his real wage will have fallen 50 per cent, unless his nominal wage has risen to \$10,000 after taxes. Even then, his real wage would have remained approximately the same. And that is about how things usually work out for the workers. Wages seldom rise ahead of the cost of living. It is just the reverse. Even with labor-union pressure, wages usually drag behind rising commodity prices.

In periods of capitalist boom, the worker's living standard does improve, but it is mainly because of the many extra hours he puts in on the job. One thing is certain, the worker's wages are hit, and will continue to be hit in many ways. It is time that he hit at the wages system itself. It is not a tax issue that confronts the working class, but something far more vital and fundamental. It is a question of abolishing surplus value entirely, of ending the exploitation of the working class.

By taking the means of production, the mills, mines, factories and industry in general out of

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**TAXES AND THEIR SOURCE
—WHO PAYS?**

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the hands of the capitalist class and operating them, not for profit but for the well-being of all, this is the real issue for workers to concentrate upon, not tax-reforms or other social nibblings. But, such an outcome can only be brought about by the conscious political action of the vast majority of the population, the wage-workers themselves.

When the American proletariat takes the

nation, with its machinery of production, into its own hands, the production and appropriation of surplus value will come to an end. All value will then be at the disposal of the class who produces it, and when they have intelligence enough to get possession, they will have intelligence enough to know how to use it.

At first, a "State," government, will be necessary, and it may have to be tax-supported, out of the produced wealth, but for health purposes and other social services, not for hydrogen-bombs and other weapons of destruction,

now maintained at tremendous cost in the interest of the capitalist class, and at the expense of the social-labors of the productive proletariat.

Once a full classless society is brought about, it will also be, of necessity, a stateless and warless society as well. It will be a higher social system than America has yet experienced, but it can only be achieved by the will of the workers. Everything points to such an outcome. The apparent alternative is total destruction.

John Keracher

THUMBNAILS

BECK SAYS: The new AFL-CIO policy of ousting union officials for invoking the Fifth Amendment to hide information from Congressional snoopers hit a snag late last month when it was rejected by Teamster Union chiefs.

Said Dave Beck, Teamster president, "This policy will come back to haunt them (the AFL-CIO leaders) some day." He may be right but it's hard for us to imagine the present leadership in today's unions being seriously questioned about their loyalty to capitalism. The only other thing he could have meant is that they are all racketeers, more or less, and may be trapped by their own policy one day.

As for us, we are looking for the day when their unions' rank and file will throw out the whole lot of them, and Congressional committees be darned.

CLEARLY STATED: "The Chamber of Commerce of the United States is the organization through which the businessmen of America work together to solve national problems, to maintain an atmosphere in which business can operate at a profit and to keep America strong, prosperous and free. If business took no interest in government, you know what would happen. Ideas different from yours as to how the economy should be controlled would be put into effect. Unnecessary restraints would be put on all business. Free enterprise - as we know it today -

sooner or later would be gone. The National Chamber exists to prevent that from happening. By being a member, you can make your voice heard and your views felt in important decisions and developments that affect you and your business. Write for information," etc. . . .

The above quoted advertisement appeared recently in a leading business magazine. In the same issue of the same magazine an article discussing problems of a shorter work week for American working men quoted Dr. Emerson P. Schmidt, director of economic research for the Chamber of Commerce of the U.S., as saying, "Any movement toward a shorter work-week should take place with a clear understanding that more leisure (shorter hours) may mean lower real income." The basic conflict between labor and capital (business) is clearly indicated here. The U.S. Chamber of Commerce cannot uphold its avowed pledge, as stated in the above ad without, at the same time, fighting labor at every turn.

NOTES FROM ABROAD: "Northern Neighbors," a Canadian publication reports some interesting facts about prosperity in the USSR. Sixth 5-Year Plan calls for trade unions and management to "work out measures for going over to a 7-hour day for all factory, office, and other workers, and a 6 hour day for workers employed underground," to be completed before 1960.

New mothers now get 112 days maternity leave instead of previ-

ous 77, all with pay. Work week was cut 2 hours, effective now. All education, including college, is completely free of charge. Retirement and disability pensions for millions substantially increased while some very high pensions were cut back.

Since July, 1956 — 6 hour day for all workers age 16 to 18 years - without a drop in pay.

The trend is great. You can see the importance of peace to these people in making such programs possible.

NEW MISSIONARIES: Glen L. Taggart, dean of Michigan State University's National Institute of Administration, claims great success in wooing people in backward countries away from Red influence. The NIA - sets up and runs training and teaching centers in foreign countries.

Although Taggart admits the need of diplomats and formal ties between countries, he feels the greatest influence America can have on backward countries is ideas, American ideas, that is. As a result of this feeling, one of the first jobs the University's NIA accomplished in establishing "peace and democracy" was in Viet Nam; for instance, where they organized and trained 15,000 policemen, and hundreds of civil servants to help run the country for Ngo Dinh Diem, U.S. puppet president of Viet Nam.

This is what is called "training people to govern themselves." Let's hope the University teaches them well because one of these days they are going to demand the chance to govern themselves by getting rid of their "teachers."

L.D.

HOME SCENE

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ent results. They tried plowing under, killing pigs and what not, still it was uncontrollable. The Eisenhower experts have continued previous subsidies without any satisfactory solution. Last Spring they inaugurated "soil banks," aimed at withholding land from cultivation. What happened? The least productive acres were put in the "soil bank" by many farmers and with heavier employment of fertilizer, machinery and farm techniques a greater yield was obtained with less acreage. And as the figures show, the cost of farm support has risen. Back where they started with a vengeance! What is the answer?

Some bold capitalist agrarian experts see as the solution the buying up of the lean acres from the problem farmers (the suffering small ones) by the government and relocating these to the cities for more profitable employment. While the farm population has been decreasing, the magnitude of the farm output calls for a greater exodus. Such a relocation problem to be successful, planned agricultural economy, implies the capitalist system is capable of planned production. Such is not the case. Planning by the individual in factory and field is possible and applicable. But planning for a whole industry or segment of the economy such as farming runs into the snag of private ownership and competition of the capitalist system. This precludes planning. Overall planning can become a reality only in a co-operative society such as socialism.

L.B.

Social Contradictions

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necessary, and, on a new basis, not private, but a **SOCIAL** basis.

The existing contradictions, excesses and dislocations cannot be resolved except thru a change. Capitalism must go and a new comer, socialism, has to take its place.

Again, old contradictions (capitalist) are abolished. And with the establishment of socialism new contradictions will arise.

No society can be free of all problems. Socialism has its own. Its first problem is to raise the economic productivity up to and far beyond capitalism's capacity, to the point when each will have "according to his need." The second problem is to completely win over the population to socialism and render any counter-revolution impossible. This involves a battle of ideas in which traditional ideas and prejudices must be liquidated. It is a struggle against contradictory hangovers from the old society, capitalism. That may require many decades, even a century or two. From then on, the approach to contradictions can be assumed to be a more conscious one, capable of being handled in a completely planned manner.

Far from flouting or abolishing all contradictions, communism recognizes them as the starting point of all objective and subjective analysis. For the present it is enough to say that the main objective of communism is to abolish the concrete contradictions of capitalism along with capitalism itself.

R. Daniels

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