

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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ENGELS AND SOCIALISM

An understanding of what modern socialism stands for, i.e., its essentially scientific character in contrast to the utopias that characterized it in its earlier stages, can be acquired thru no better medium than the writings of Frederick Engels, close collaborator of Karl Marx. And altho socialism or communism is more closely associated with Marx, Engel's own works and contributions are not to be minimized. He was a great thinker in his own right; and only because of Marx's greater genius was he compelled, as it were, by history, to play second fiddle, which he did not mind. His contribution, in this Marx and Engels relationship, was both mutual and independent.

In the preface to the Communist Manifesto which bears the name of both, Engels wrote: "The proposition, which in my opinion, is destined to do for history what Darwin's theory has done for biology, we, both of us, had been gradually approaching for some years before 1845. How far I had independently progressed towards it, is best shown by my 'Conditions of the Working Class in England.' But when I again met Marx at Brussels, in spring 1845, he had it already worked out, and put it before me, in terms almost as clear as those in which I have stated it here."

The proposition Engels alluded to was the Materialist Conception of History. Marx and Engels veritably opened up a new chapter in history, gave it a new meaning, established order where once confusion existed. In that sense they made history. They were its product as well. Objective, material conditions, plus the intellectual development of the time, made the new socialist critique both necessary and possible. The necessary historical conditions were present and ripe. Just as in the field of biology several minds were working in a given direction, and altho Charles Darwin is the man credited with formulating the law of biological evolution, it is known that others, notably, Wallace, were also developing in the same direction with similar results.

The greater portion of Marx's life having been consumed in his economic analysis of capitalist production and circulation it left him little time for other and also important aspects of socialism, phil-

osophy, history and such, which field Engels admirably assumed and executed.

We refer the reader to Engels' greatest work, which is Anti-Duhring. Three others belong to the great Marxian classics. They are the "Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State" and "Ludwig Feurbach or the Roots of Socialist Philosophy." The one least known is his "Dialectics and Nature."

His Anti-Duhring is a polemic against a certain Professor Duhring who, as a "convert" to social-

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HOME SCENE

State of the Union

Presidential "State of the Union" messages are an accounting of their stewardship and a blueprint for planned action. Gen. Eisenhower's "State of the Union" messages are conspicuous for their generalities and lack of imaginative planning. The turbulence in the world and the uncertainties here at home, plus the auspicious inauguration of the space age has had a numbing effect on his administration.

Perhaps it would be more correct to say that the problems besetting Eisenhower and his class, the capitalists, are too much for them, insoluble within the framework of the capitalist system. The Republicans and the Democrats, the political spokesmen for the rich ruling class, are having a hellish time trying to keep the capitalist system from sinking into oblivion.

The poignant points in Eisenhower's recent message dealing with domestic issues, were economic solvency and the proposed establishment of an agency to plan national goals for schools, living standards, health, individual liberties and opportunities.

Economic solvency, even for the rich U.S. amongst the capitalist powers, is becoming most difficult. Balancing of the national budget has become an art in jugglery — unbeknown to classical bookkeeping. Tampering with the money system has led to dreaded inflation. Continued schemings and tamperings may undermine the economy as a whole, we are warned by the President. His plea for austerity in everything but defense

AUTOMATION — ITS USE AND ABUSE

We hear that the "Second Industrial Revolution" is upon us. There is an accelerating trend of capitalists using computers, automatic machines and automatic processes to replace both physical and mental labor in order to increase the productivity of labor. Whether this is a "Second Industrial Revolution" or not, we are at least entering a new era in the exploitation of the worker.

Automation is no longer the mere automatic operation of a single machine. It is the integration of many automatic machines on an assembly line into a con-

tinuous flow process without the intervention of human labor. It is also the relegation of the work of accountants, bookkeepers, and clerical workers in general to electronic computers.

Blind optimism is a common attitude towards automation and is the product of capitalist propaganda. The capitalists are frequently carried away by their own eloquence on the subject. A typical statement, emanating from the National Association of Manufacturers, is this:

"Let the worker face what is to come with hope in his heart, not with fear in his mind. Automation is a magical key to creation, not a blunt instrument of destruction, and the worker's talent and skill will continue to merit reward in the fairyland of the world to come."

This mixture of capitalist optimism and propaganda is harmful to the cause of labor, for its intent is to keep the worker pacified.

The machine's benefit or danger to society is not from the machine itself, but from its capitalist ownership and use in extracting greater surplus values (profits) by intensifying the exploitation of labor.

Today, workers are hard to find in the automated factories and offices, they are so few in numbers. There has been no accurate accounting of the extent of labor displacement by automation as yet. Capitalist employers are reluctant to disclose such information, and increasing production tends to hide the economic effect of such changes.

We can, however, observe the increasing productivity of labor, and the failure of employment to keep pace with productivity. In the steel industry, for example, in the period of January 1954 to January 1955, newer automatic equipment allowed 42,000 fewer steel workers to turn out an 11 per cent greater quantity of ingots. In the auto industry, the Plymouth automatic continuous flow engine assembly process enabled 150 workers to assemble 150 engines an hour—with 50 workers less than were formerly used for this output. The same trend was noticeable in the oil industry, the electronics industry, in the aircraft, in

has an unpopular ring with voters, who are seeking more governmental guarantees for security and well-being.

Defense spending is 60 per cent of the national budget. The President picturesquely illustrated the high cost of defense spending. He pointed out that gold is now worth about \$500 a pound. A new Navy bomber weighs 27,000 pounds—costs about \$17.6 million, averaging slightly more than \$650 a pound. As he remarked the new bombers literally "cost their weight in gold."

We could predict with certainty that there will be no penny-pinching amongst the capitalist politicians for armament spending. But watch the tussle, for example, against school building construction. The race for human extinction thru deadlier engines of destruction has greater support than the elevation of minds, or the welfare of the children.

There is the other side to the coin of defense spending. Since the end of World War Two, it has served as a prop to the capitalist economy. It has sort of greased the run of the prosperity stretches. The hundreds of billions of dollars spent have had an important impact on business profits and jobs. While the capitalist class as a whole deplore the burden, they fully realize it is a necessary inherent evil of their system of operations. Workers, too, deplore defense spending, for another reason: their skins are hanging in the balance, yet a great many go along with it, for jobs' sake. The capitalist class have no choice in the

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railroads, chemicals, banking, and in insurance.

Wherever production lends itself to continuous flow processes, wherever figures and statistics are handled, human labor is being replaced with machines integrated with each other into fully automatic, and, in many cases, self-regulating machines. Lathes which correct themselves, and replace their own tools, are what modern factories use today. Machines which can solve intricate mathematical problems, many times faster than the best trained of human minds, have been developed.

Karl Marx brilliantly analyzed a similar development of machinery from the time of the "first industrial revolution" up to his time (1867) in his profound work, *Capital*, Vol. 1, Chap. XV, which he begins with a quotation, as follows:

"John Stuart Mill says in his *Principles of Political Economy*: 'It is questionable if all the mechanical inventions yet made have lightened the day's toil of any human being.' That is, however, by no means the aim of the capitalistic application of machinery. Like every other increase in the productiveness of labor, machinery is intended to cheapen commodities, and, by shortening that portion of the working day, in which the laborer works for himself, to lengthen the other portion that he gives, without an equivalent, to the capitalist. In short, it is a means for producing surplus-value."

In a footnote, Marx suggests a critical correction of Mill's sentence (above) in that he could have said, "of any human being not fed by other people's labor," because (as Marx further states) "without doubt, machinery has greatly increased the number of well-to-do idlers."

While capitalists have always been interested in innovation to increase the rate of profit, they have been spurred on to develop automation by the growing strength of the labor unions and its demands for limiting the working day and increasing wages. This is

an "expensive item" to the capitalists, endangering their profits.

The drive by the labor unions for a "guaranteed annual wage" (GAW), and, or, "lay-off pay," provided additional incentive to the capitalists to replace this investment in variable capital (labor) with an increasing proportion of constant capital (automation), that is, investment in more automatic machinery.

The *Wall Street Journal*, June 13, 1955, bluntly forecast a spurt in the sale of automation equipment as a result of the labor unions' victories. It said: "... The greatest beneficiaries from layoff-pay plans, which are being obtained in the automobile business and sought in others, are likely to be the people who build factories and the equipment for them." "... The most probable and most obvious consequence of all is to be found in expanded outlays on labor-saving machines." "... "There is a certain irony in the thought that layoff pay will bring on more of the very automation against which the union claims to be protecting its members."

In 1955 Walter Reuther, president of the Automobile Workers Union, appeared before the Subcommittee on Economic Stabilization. He told its members, as follows:

"When I went through this plant (the Cleveland Ford plant) the first time I was told by a top official of the Ford Motor Co.: 'Mr. Reuther you are going to have trouble collecting union dues from all these machines.'"

"And I said: '... What is bothering me is that you are going to have more trouble selling them automobiles.'"

There is a great amount of truth in both of these statements though they don't present the whole picture.

It is part of the capitalist propaganda that the outcome of automation will be shorter hours for the worker. Shorter hours, alone, are meaningless to talk about. If the worker's hourly wage remains the same, his pay decreases with shorter hours. Clearly, the capitalist is being hypocritical if he means to imply that hourly wages

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HOME SCENE

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matter. But labor has a choice, a road leading to a veritable paradise on earth; of course, only after it abolishes capitalism.

The proposed agency for planning national goals seems noteworthy at first glance. The capitalists do with a measure of success plan the operations of their own businesses. But when it comes to planning on a national scale, they are a flop. The contradictions within the system, the inner conflicting interests of the capitalists,

the inherent struggle between capital and labor and the manifesting results from those basic contradictions within the capitalist system precludes long range planning suggested by the President. It is beyond the ken of capitalism to plan the economy as a whole. That has been its failure thruout its existence. Rival material interests foredoom such a goal of success at the outset.

The "State of the Union" addresses by Eisenhower and some of his immediate predecessors in-

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ism, succeeded in impregnating and weakening the German movement with ideas that were anything but socialist or scientific. In refuting Duhring for his idealism and metaphysics Engels used the opportunity to lay down the position of dialectical materialism, without which socialism and the social process cannot be understood.

His Chapter XII which deals with the contradiction and Quantity and Quality; his chapter XIII on the Negation of the Negation; these are important aspects, in fact the essence of the dialectic, so essential to its understanding.

No one more clearly than Engels has stated the position or rather the opposition between the many schools of philosophy which he divided in the main into two camps; idealism and materialism (Feuerbach) or between metaphysics and dialectics (Socialism, Utopian and Scientific, which is part of Anti-Duhring).

"Motion," said Engels, "is the mode of existence of matter—Matter without motion is just as unthinkable as motion without matter. ... All equilibrium, all rest is only relative, has meaning only in relation to this or that particular form of motion." (p. 58—Anti-Duhring). He writes, as follows:

"Thus with him (Duhring) it is a question of principles, formal principles derived from thought and not from the external world, the principles which are applied to nature and the world of men and according to which nature and man must regulate themselves. But where does thought acquire these principles? From itself? No, for Herr Duhring himself says that the purely ideal realm is limited to logical schemata and mathematical forms (which latter is more-over false as we shall see). Logical schemata can only have reference to forms of thought; but we are engaged here only with forms of existence, the external world, and thought can never create nor derive these forms from itself but only from the external world. But herewith the entire relationship is reversed: the principles are not the starting point of investigation but its ultimate conclusion; they are not applied to nature and human history but are abstracted out of them; nature and the world of men are not regulated by the principles, instead, the principles are only correct in so far as they accord with nature and history. That

dicates the capitalists are hanging on. They will hang on to their profitable system, which is to their class and personal benefit, as long as labor is willing to subject itself to the uncertainties of life at best, and poverty and possible incineration in atomic war. Capitalism, a decaying system, is rotten ripe to be overthrown by the exploited masses.

L.B.

is the only materialistic conception possible, and the opposite conception, upside down and constructs the real world out of thought, out of schemata, plans or categories, existing somewhere from eternity, before the world, just like — a Hegel."

Continuing Engels says: "But if one inquires further as to what thought and consciousness are and from whence they spring then it is found that they are products of the human brain, and that man is himself a natural product which has developed in and with its environment; from which it is then self-evident that the productions of the human brain being themselves, in the last instance, natural products, are not in contradiction to the rest of coherent nature but correspond with it." (PP. 32-33—Anti-Duhring).

On the question of the State, Engels says: "As soon as there is no longer any social class to be held in subjection; as soon as class rule, and the individual struggle for existence based upon our present anarchy in production, with the collisions and excesses arising from these, are removed, nothing more remains to be repressed, and a special repressive force, a State, is no longer necessary. The first act by virtue of which the State really constitutes itself the representative of the whole of society—the taking possession of the means of production in the name of society—this is, at the same time, its last independent act as a State. State interference in social relations becomes, in one domain after another, superfluous, and then dies out by itself; the government of persons is replaced by the administration of things, and by the conduct of processes of production. The State is not abolished. It dies out. This gives the measure of the value of the phrase a free State, both as to its justifiable use at times by agitators, and as to its ultimate scientific insufficiency; and also of the demands of the so-called anarchists for the abolition of the State out of hand." (pp. 128-129 *Socialism, Utopian and Scientific*).

Engels' writings are as much in order and necessary to study today, as ever before. They provide the working class movement with that necessary theoretical guidance and assurance without which it would be difficult to reconcile the many contradictory concrete situations which seem so confusing. The rapid fluidity of developments which so baffle peoples' minds seems to present logic only in the light of the materialist dialectic of which Marx and Engels were the highest expression.

A true appreciation of Engels, his contribution to the philosophy of Marxism and to the revolutionary socialist movement in general can best be had thru acquaintance and close study of his works.

R. Daniels

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REVOLUTIONARY CHANGE

The history of civilization (chattel slavery, feudalism, and capitalism) reveals that revolutionary changes are inevitable. In fact, that is how the modern nations, and their social systems and governments, came into being. They are the result of that ages-old class struggle that was carried on in an "uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary re-constitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes."

In combatting and overthrowing the despotic feudal State, thereby ushering in a new mode of production, and a more representative government (the bourgeois State), early capitalism was not only progressive for its time, but as Marx and Engels wrote: "The bourgeoisie, historically, has played a most revolutionary part." (Communist Manifesto, page 15.)

They did not hesitate to deal ruthlessly with their enemy, the feudal monarchy. In the English revolution of 1642-49, the Cromwell forces had King Charles I of England executed by beheading! In the great French revolution of 1789, a similar fate befell King Louis XVI and Queen Marie-Antoinette, who were guillotined together with quite a number of the aristocrats.

Nor did these early bourgeois "rebels" hesitate to play a reactionary role either; for, no sooner victorious over feudalism, then they crushed those independent outbursts of the working class of that period: in the English revolution, the Levellers; in the French revolution, Baboeuf.

In like manner, the American "founding fathers," of 1776 revolutionary fame, crushed the Daniel Shays rebellion of 1786.

But that's past history, how about the present? In what manner are revolutionary changes going on today? Let us see.

The Cuban Revolution

When the Fidel Castro "rebels" overthrew the Batista dictatorship of Cuba, and brought to trial and executed some of the Batista "criminals," the capitalist American press denounced such retaliatory measures. However, in rebuttal, Castro replied that the U.S. press was more concerned over the fate of these "murderers" than it was over the 20,000 Cubans who were tortured and killed during the years of the Batista reign. He also pointed out that the U.S. government's own hands were none too clean for having supported the Batista dictatorship almost to the very end of its overthrow.

Fidel Castro, the "heroic rebel," is a young man of 32 years and became Prime Minister of Cuba on Feb. 16. In a burst of enthusiasm he said that in three years the Cubans will enjoy a better standard of living than the U.S. and Russia because they won't have to support war armaments.

But, meanwhile, the Castro government faces many problems, mainly economic. First of all it has a well-nigh empty treasury. It was discovered that the corrupt dictator Batista in five years had squandered \$423 million. Much of this he took with him, including practically the entire Cuban airfleet, when he flew with his top henchmen to dictator Trujillo's Dominican Republic. The Castro government is trying to recover this "illegally acquired property and money," but so far, without much

success.

Another problem is that of agrarian reform, the distribution of land to the poor farmers. This would require taking possession of some of the sugar-producing land, mainly owned by American capitalists. The \$800 million stake the U.S. investors have in Cuba includes plantations producing 40 per cent of the sugar. Any attempt to expropriate these holdings by the Cubans would be met by the typical American threat of "calling the marines." Fidel Castro was reported to have said, not so far back, that if the U.S. marines would land in Cuba, "they would die." At present, no attempt at expropriation has been made.

Instead, beset with economic problems, Castro is now telling the workers and poor farmers to be "patient," that "not now is the time to strike." He is telling them to "work hard," and the land workers to harvest the sugar cane before the rains come, as that is the main source of the government's income. How long the workers will continue to listen to his advice, and at the same time endure their low standard of living and poverty without further protests or strikes, remains to be seen.

There is much unemployment in Cuba: the N. Y. Times, Feb. 15, reported 500,000 were jobless out of a working force of 2,204,000. (If the U.S. were as hard hit, it would be equivalent to around 13,000,000 unemployed.) This was one of the reasons Castro favored keeping Havana's gambling casinos open, the tax on which his government would use for "charity."

Cuba is an island of 6,410,000 people (about the size of the state of Pennsylvania). Besides its agricultural resources, it has rich mineral beds mostly in the province of Oriente, includes iron, copper, manganese, chromium and nickel. Virtually all mineral exports go to the United States, and the iron ore reserves are 90 per cent owned by U.S. steel interests.

Ever since the end of the Spanish-American War of 1898, Cuba has been under a colonial status; its governments, like Batista's, subservient to American imperial interests. The present Castro government is trying to shake off this imperial stranglehold, and it knows that without the support of the masses it will not succeed. But to swing the masses further "to the left" might cause them to move against all their exploiters, the native as well as the foreign. This is what the bourgeois supporters of the Castro government fear and will do their utmost to prevent.

Cuba is now in a similar position to that of Argentina after it had overthrown its Peron dictatorship. Economic conditions worsened, workers' strikes occurred, until finally the present "democratic" Frondizi government used the army to break them. Today, repression, exploitation, and austerity is the lot of the Argentinian workers, and not prosperity. And the loans obtained, the result of Frondizi's visit to the U.S., will only keep Argentina tied to the American imperial interests.

No, the revolution in Cuba is far from finished (or for that matter in Argentina and the rest of the capitalist countries also). **The workers have yet to accomplish their revolutionary "historic mission," the complete overthrow of all their exploiters, and the establishment of their own political power, "the dictatorship of the proletariat."**

The Fear of Communism

One third of the world is communist controlled, i.e., in the hands of the workers of the Soviet Union, Peoples China, and East European Democracies. Their social revolution had abolished private ownership of industry, and established collective ownership, thereby ending the exploitation of labor for profit.

It is this fact, more than any other, that causes the capitalists to fear and hate communism. The added fear is that communism

might spread, causing a further shrinkage of the capitalist world, which is already down to two-thirds of the world. Nor can the "Big Three" imperial powers, U.S., Britain, and France, boast of having a complete monopoly of this portion.

That is why the "Big Three" imperial powers started a "cold war" against communism, which at times became "heated up" (Korea and Indochina, e.g.).

Recently the Berlin crisis flared up again, for like the world that city is divided into two sections: East Berlin (Communist) and West Berlin (Capitalist). The Russians proposed that the occupying powers, the "Big Three" and themselves, evacuate Berlin, and leave it in the hands of its inhabitants, the German people, to decide how their city is to be united. The Russians gave six months time for the "Big Three" to think it over; after which, they declared, their Soviet section of Berlin would be turned over to the East German working class government.

The U.S. government became furious over this proposal and threatened to go to war over it. The Russians stood fast and retorted that the American continent would not escape such war's destructive consequences what with modern missile weapons. Lately, Russia again warned the U.S. against any attempt to force entry into Berlin after the six month period lapses. How this issue will be resolved, if at all, remains to be seen.

In the meanwhile the "unity" of the capitalist nations is splitting at the seams, mainly because of intense competition among themselves for the control of the world market. In desperation some of them are increasing their trade dealings with the communist countries. For example, "dame rumor hath it" that the British Prime Minister Macmillan's recent scheduled trip to the Soviet Union was mainly for the purpose of promoting more profitable trade relations between the two nations.

Some U.S. capitalists would also like to do business with Russia, as the Soviet "Deputy Minister" Mikoyan discovered on his recent two weeks tour of the United States. This is all in the interest of "peaceful competitive co-existence," which all are agreed is much better than a destructive world war.

Thus the "cold war against communism" itself is losing recruits, and the U.S. State Dept. attempt to line up "underdeveloped" nations with the "West" is not bearing much fruit. As an example, there is Egypt, which still prefers to remain neutral like India. Both nations remember how they suffered from British imperialism. In spite of the quarrel between Russia and Nasser, over the latter's "persecution of Egyptian progressives (communists)," nevertheless Egypt still maintains friendly trade relations with the Soviet Union.

Capitalist imperialism is no longer as strong as formerly, and some day the future, inevitable, revolutionary uprisings of the masses will eradicate it completely.

Surplus Labor

How are conditions in the "land of the free"? Not so good for labor. In spite of the slight increase of business in January, there was a much bigger increase in unemployment. More than 600,000 workers lost their jobs in that one month alone, boosting the total to around 5 million jobless. Automation and exploitation under capitalism creates surplus labor. The American workers have yet to learn that the revolutionary change is long overdue in the United States.

This calls for the abolition of capitalism, and the establishment of a socialist economy under a working class government. Only then will the workers have real security and an abundance for all. Speed the day!

Al Wysocki.

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will increase with shorter hours, for his motivation in adopting automation is to displace labor with its increasing demands and thereby increase his own surplus value (profits).

It is impossible to deny this class struggle between capital and labor. It is obvious that real wages and surplus value cannot increase simultaneously. Whether real wages increase or surplus value increase thus becomes a question of the relative power between the labor unions and the capitalists. The effect of automation, however, is to reduce the power of the labor union, for its immediate effect is unemployment, and the power of the labor union is dependent on a full employment economy (witness the lessening of union's demands in the current recession).

The increase in unemployment during the month of January when the number of jobless rose 616,000 to 4,724,000 is a classical example of the effect of automation because it came simultaneously with a

pick-up in business. The unemployment particularly affected such basic industries as steel and automobiles. It hit the labor unions very hard.

The Automobile Workers Union (UAW) recently revealed that its membership dropped from nearly 1½ million dues payers to less than one million. The drop came with the 1958 recession, and increased use of automation equipment in the factories. Walter Reuther, the president of the UAW, to dramatize the plight of the nation's jobless, recommended a "march on Washington for jobs," although he did not set a date for it. (Yet, he still is a supporter of capitalism, and against communism which he fears and hates as much as any bourgeois.)

These are not the only effects of automation. The high capital investment necessary to automate points to the increasing of monopolistic interests, (that is, the huge trusts or corporations), and the consequent crushing of the petty bourgeois in the competitive

struggle. Automation is frequently not economical on a small scale. The small capitalists simply cannot afford to automate. Many of them go bankrupt, thereby adding their employees, and often themselves, to the ranks of the unemployed.

One of the first to point out the potentialities of automation under capitalism was Dr. Norbert Wiener of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, who said in his book, "The Human Use of Human Beings," as follows:

"Let us remember that the automatic machine . . . is the precise economic equivalent of slave labor. Any labor that competes with slave labor must accept the economic conditions of slave labor. It is perfectly clear that this will produce an unemployment situation in comparison with which even the depression of the thirties will seem a pleasant joke. This depression will ruin many industries—possibly even the industries which have taken advantage of the new potentialities. However, there is nothing in the industrial tradition which forbids an industrialist to

make a sure and quick profit, and to get out before the crash touches him personally."

It should be emphasized again, that automation's danger to society is not inherent in the machine. It is the use to which automation is put by the capitalist in profit making, with callous indifference to the welfare of the workers. (If we cut ourselves with a knife, it is not the knife's fault. It is the improper use of a tool potentially beneficial to man.)

The profit motive—greed—is inherent in capitalism. It is the capitalist's greed, produced by the system, which dispossessed the vast majority, creating proletarians, and today, many of them jobless, paupers.

Automation will ultimately benefit man. However, this will be possible only in a worker's society, after capitalism is abolished, and the entire means of production placed under collective ownership with production for the use and needs of the whole of society rather than for the profit of a handful of rich parasites.

A. St. Maur

A LOOK AROUND

BACKFIRE: The Soviet Union can take credit for another victory in the cold war with the successful visit of their Deputy Premier, Mikoyan. The key to the success lies in the words "personal visit."

What they accomplished by having Mikoyan come to the U.S. to see his friend in the Soviet Embassy and take a sight-seeing tour of the country was to go over the heads of the official government directly to the people of the country, without all the official restrictions and pomp that go with it.

Mikoyan's message was clear and simple—peace and more trade with the U.S.S.R. There is little doubt that these impressions got across to the country in general and the capitalists in particular.

As for the rabble who attempted to discredit the Deputy Premier, it has been our impression

from a limited interview with the "man on the street" that they themselves are the ones discredited. The one good thing they did for the visit was to contribute about twice as much publicity to the tour as it normally would have received.

One old-timer dismissed it all by telling us, "There has always been an element of the foreign-born with their heads in Europe and their feet in the United States."

THE WHOLE CLOTH: An irate citizen writes to the editors of a local newspaper that he feels it is an injustice to the American taxpayer when the U.S. has supplied \$48 million for the retirement of some 70,000 Chinese Nationalist soldiers in Formosa. He asks the reader how he likes being taxed to the tune of \$48 million to buy

rice for the retired Chiang Kai-shek's Chinese soldiers. He suggests we all write to our senators and representatives in Washington to protest the appropriation of money for such uses.

We do not disagree with our disturbed friend on the absurd expenditure of such funds, but we wonder why he stops there.

Congress is about to be tagged with a bill for \$100 million to pay for the farce in Lebanon—plus expenses of the Formosan crisis last summer.

If Mister John Q. Citizen is really upset about the appropriation of tax dollars let him question the whole "kit-and-caboodle." We should be no more frightened to attack the spending of \$47 billion for "defense" in general than we are to yell about a mere (?) 48 million.

The American worker must learn to review the whole picture of capitalism in order to understand what to do about it. To pick only on the parts is to leave the whole untouched.

IT HURTS: The average worker in the U.S. cannot afford to become sick anymore. And yet about one in ten will land in the hospital sometime through the year. This simple statement is the result of a glance at the statistics.

The cost of living has increased

about 23 per cent since 1948, according to the official consumer price index. However, the cost of medical care has gone up 44 per cent. (That's an average; in some cases it's much more). There are many reasons for this tremendous increase. Some make sense but others seem to be in the nature of "frills." At any rate, the person who is lucky enough to have hospitalization finds the payments (in some cases a "fringe benefit" which is in the real sense a withholding from his pay) almost too much to bear, and going up every day. For those who have no hospitalization we can only say you had better not come down with a sickness or you will find the pain of the hospital bill to equal or surpass the pain and discomfort of the ailment.

The Proletarian Party has the solution to many such problems in its program and principles. Why not drop a line to this paper and ask for a copy to be sent you. You will find it interesting and informative. It is the kind of "insurance" that will pay off for the whole working-class in the long run. You may wish to "invest" some of your time and money in a "policy" which will return dividends of peace, security and freedom from fear for you and yours.

L.D.

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AN APPEAL TO OUR READERS

For lack of funds the February issue of Proletarian News was not published. This was not the first time that we had to skip an issue. We regret doing this — but we had no alternative. The regular appearance of the Proletarian News depends mainly on the support received from its readers and those who see the need of such a publication.

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