

May Day 1959— Socialism Draws Nearer

An Editorial

May Day is an international labor holiday that began in the struggle of the American workers for an eight-hour day. Adopted by the socialist movement throughout the world, it became the day on which militant workers renew their pledge of international solidarity in the struggle for the socialist society of the free and equal. Millions of workers stop work on May Day and march with their banners in token of the coming victory.

In America, too, hundreds of thousands of workers used to celebrate May Day. They occupied a proud place in the parades of the world's capitals, for they had started this holiday.

Today this is not so. Millions of workers elsewhere will raise the scarlet banner of socialism on May Day 1959. But in America the official organizations of the labor movement will not observe this day of hope; or, worse yet, they will scorn or slander it.

In America the official heads of the unions still preach the virtues of capitalism, still support the imperialist war drive of the ruling class, still repeat their witch-hunt lies, still shun the thought of friendship and fraternity with our class brothers and sisters in other lands.

Bureaucrats Appear Strong

This is the reality in the United States. The capitalist-minded labor bureaucracy appears strong and entrenched; the socialist movement appears weak and divided. The cold war abroad, with its witch-hunt at home, has stifled free thought since 1947. The masses of working people, although dissatisfied, uneasy, at times angry enough to engage in battle over wages and working conditions are far from accepting socialist ideas.

If we could not see beyond this transitory aspect of things, and became disheartened and pessimistic about the prospects of the socialist movement in the U.S., the American capitalist rulers could congratulate themselves on a major victory—a victory without objective justification. For the truth is that in all the time since Marx and Engels published the *Communist Manifesto* 111 years ago never has the correctness of the program of scientific socialism been so easy to demonstrate; never has it been so easy to show how faithfully it corresponds to the hopes and aspirations of the great bulk of humanity.

The Long-Range View

Marxism teaches us to see the struggle for socialism from the long-range view of history and the wide setting of the whole globe. This gives us proper perspective in dealing with the peculiar and even unique features of the class struggle in our own country.

Marxist socialists look forward to participating directly in the great upsurge for socialism when America finally joins the twentieth century. We look ahead to the time when the American working class takes its rightful place as the country's leading class, the one that can establish a world of enduring peace. Marxism also teaches us to see in the most difficult phases of the struggle other processes that are working to undermine the outmoded system of capitalism and to replace it with something better.

Twenty-three years ago, during the world-wide capitalist depression, Leon Trotsky wrote of "the vast scope of industrialization in the Soviet Union, as against the background of stagnation and decline in almost the whole capitalist world."

He saw an even more significant fact. "Gigantic achievements in industry, enormously promising beginnings in agriculture, an extraordinary growth of the old industrial cities and a building of new ones, a rapid increase of the numbers of workers, a rise in cultural level and cultural demands—such are the indubitable results of the October revolution, in which the prophets of the old world tried to see the grave of human civilization. With the bourgeois economists we have no longer anything to quarrel over. Socialism has demonstrated its right to victory, not on the pages of *Das Kapital*, but in an industrial arena comprising a sixth part of the earth's surface—not in the language of dialectics, but in the language of steel, cement and electricity."

Great Victories

During the last two decades this evaluation has found ever deeper confirmation. Despite continued capitalist pressure, despite the slaughter and devastation resulting from imperialist Germany's invasion, despite the huge overhead cost of the parasitic bureaucracy and the cult of Stalin, the Soviet Union has survived, advanced and finally emerged ahead of all the other European powers. It now offers an economic challenge to America itself.

Even more. As a result of World War II, the capitalist structure crashed in Eastern Europe and the capacities of planned economy to demonstrate its superiority, even under bureaucratic deformation, has received still further—and, it would seem, definitive—verification.

In the revolutionary struggle of the colonial peoples against imperialist rule and exploitation, 650 million Chinese, some 10 million North Koreans and 13 million North Vietnamese joined the 200 million people of the Soviet Union and the tens of millions of Eastern Europe in turning toward planned economy and socialism.

The people of China, with their titanic energy, are now offering the oppressed peoples of the world a new lesson in uprooting the archaic structure of oriental feudalism which had held them in poverty, famine, pestilence and misery for centuries. With the power of imperialism and capitalism shattered, the China of the warlords, landlords, moneylenders and tax collectors—the China of the coolie, the semi-serf, the enslaved woman, and children bought and sold like animals, is giving way to the revolutionary China of industrialization, collectivized agriculture, and the growth of a modern working class.

China has shaken the world. The social and economic earthquake there has spelled the doom of imperialism everywhere. It has ignited hundreds of millions of workers and peasants throughout Asia, Africa and Latin America. Sixty million in the Mideast are now breaking out

(Continued on Page 3)

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Two Washington Rallies Show Labor Party Need

SWP Fund Campaign Nears One-Third Mark

By Reba Aubrey

When a socialist politician sets out to organize a campaign, he doesn't start with what is possible—he tries to judge what is politically necessary and then throws all his energy into meeting that necessity. That's why people unacquainted with the socialist movement are astounded at what even a few socialists can accomplish.

Of course, they don't know another secret ingredient of socialist success—that is the knowledge that sacrificing a bit of that fetish known as money comes a lot easier when you understand what it can help accomplish. Nothing less than finally winning a world of enduring peace, of cooperative endeavor, of friendship and equality.

It was with thoughts like these that friends and supporters of the Socialist Workers Party got together to organize a \$16,000 Party Building Fund. They knew, naturally, that it was impossible. But they also knew that it was politically necessary. They realized what it could mean in sustaining the struggle for a socialist America. And so, of course, they set out to do the impossible "in full and on time." That's the way socialists do things.

Last week their collections of dimes, quarters, dollars and the folding stuff amounted to \$1,050. That brought the total to date at \$4,973, a respectable 31%.

(When you turn to the scoreboard on page four, note the five branches in bold-face type. They're ahead of schedule!)

Now to our mail bag. We like to get letters from the Twin Cities. The comrades there have always enjoyed a national reputation for their energy and high spirits. You can get some of the feel from what Fannie C. writes. In her first letter she said, "And now for the best. Two comrades paid their pledge

CAMPAIGN FUND GOAL

\$16,000



COLLECTED TO DATE

\$4,973

STOCK MARKET SHOOTS UP

Other economists are less optimistic and predict only \$51 or \$52 billions for 1959. Some forecast that the second half of the year will not be as good as the first half. Right now, however, big business is not fretting about the future—not even about a future that's only six months away. The stockmarket shot up 13 points in the last seven days in anticipation of

juicy dividends for the first quarter of the year. And first reports of actual profits indicate that investors won't leave the banquet table hungry.

Says the April 20 *Barron's*, a leading business and financial weekly, "... there was an abundance of favorable corporate earnings reports. Du Pont management forecasted for the annual meeting on Monday a first-quarter sales gain of 22%, but a 70% jump in earnings, which would spell a first-quarter per share balance of \$2.57, against \$1.51 for the 1958 period. . . . Some companies, like U.S. Rubber, have already posted record earnings for the quarter.

Everything looks good — except for the jobless. The prospect that unemployment will soon be liquidated is not bright.

First, the durable-goods production index has not returned to the pre-recession mark. It stands at 160% of the 1947-49 level, whereas in December 1956 it had reached 167%. The big gains in production—which

Iraqi Fighters for Freedom



A contingent of women in the Popular Resistance Force in Iraq marches through the streets of Baghdad. The armed militia fighters are the backbone of the Iraqi revolution. They put down an attempted counter-revolution a few weeks ago. By breaking the monopoly of the army on troops and weapons, they have made it possible for the rapidly organizing workers and peasants to come close to government power.

End School Jim Crow, 26,000 Youth Demand

By Leo Adler

WASHINGTON, April 18 — In the biggest mass demonstration ever held in this capital city, 26,000 young Americans, Negro and white, marched with placards and banners demanding an immediate end to Jim Crow in the nation's schools.

Many of them locked arms in a gesture of brotherhood as they marched from the Mall past the Washington Monument to the open-air Sylvan theater where a mass meeting was held.

Most of the participants were students, many of them from colleges in the east and mid-west. Oberlin, University of Michigan, Penn State, City College of New York were just a few. There were also several contingents of young trade unionists, representatives of NAACP youth councils and church groups.

From North Carolina and Virginia came mixed delegations of Negro and white youth. The largest contingent, about 8,000, was from New York. But there were marchers from as far as California.

HEAR MBOYA

At the Sylvan theater they heard A. Phillip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; Rev.

Require Political Action To End Unemployment, Win Integrated Schools

By Tom Kerry

The month of April witnessed two highly significant demonstrations in Washington. On April 8, the AFL-CIO held a mass unemployment conference in the nation's capital to demand legislative action on behalf of over five million unemployed workers.

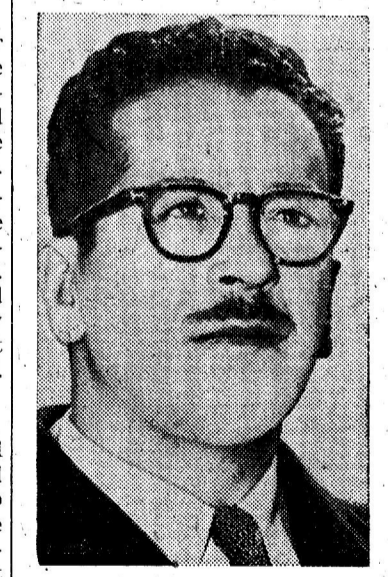
Fascist Coup Stamped Out In Bolivia

Another counter-revolutionary attack against the Bolivian government was crushed April 19 by the workers militia. Led by the Socialist Falange party, the uprising centered in La Paz where an attempt was made to seize the military barracks and City Hall. The recent increase of American pressure on Bolivia evidently led the fascists to hope for Yankee support.

Pres. Hernan Siles Zuazo, who has been conceding to this pressure, called out the militia after the Falange seized a radio station. In the fighting that followed 54 people were killed and 129 injured.

Oscar Unzuaga de la Vega who headed the fascist Falange party committed suicide after the defeat. Another leader is Carlos Victor Aramayo, owner of large tin interests — nationalized by the National Revolutionary Movement in 1952.

The swift action against the rightist revolt is eloquent evidence that the Bolivian people will brook no attempt to liquidate the gains of the 1952 revolution.



HERNAN SILES ZUAZO

Ten days later, on April 18, some 26,000 youth demonstrated to demand that the President and Congress proceed to implement the United States Supreme Court school desegregation decision. Five years have elapsed since the decision was handed down on May 17, 1954. Limping integration has virtually come to a halt.

Both demonstrations were political in character. Both directed their demands at the federal government. Each sought to elicit from the Republican administration and Democratic Congress some encouraging word or sign that action would be forthcoming to meet their just demands. Unfortunately, neither could record any success. Coming to Washington, hat in hand, to plead their cause with political jackals who respond only to the language of power, is bound to be a frustrating business.

The real power in Washington today is Big Business. Under our present two-party system it is their material interests that are of paramount concern to the politicians of both major parties. Big Business is vitally concerned in maintaining a bulwark of reaction in the South. Its interests are equally well served in the North and West by a division of labor between Democrats and Republicans. So long as political power remains concentrated in the hands of the two major parties the government in Washington will serve, not the people, but the banking, boondoggling, money-grabbing plutocracy.

POTENTIAL POWER

The experience of the Washington demonstration is a case in point. Let there be no mistake about it — the two demonstrations represented a potential power of considerable magnitude. Properly organized, the Negro people together with the labor movement and its allies, constitute the decisive power in this country — numerically and politically. Lacking only is a leadership with enough imagination and guts to harness this power for effective political action through an independent labor party based on the trade unions.

Score: Automation In, Profits Up, Workers Out

By Daniel Roberts

Prosperity is back; happy days are here again — especially for big business. Meanwhile, at least 4 1/2 million people remain unemployed.

According to the April 4 *Business Week*, "Business is going to break all records in piling up profits in 1959. . . . The most optimistic see profits for the year at close to \$55 billion, with the fourth-quarter profits, reaching an annual rate of \$60 billion." The previous record was \$45.5 billion before taxes in 1955.

Other economists are less optimistic and predict only \$51 or \$52 billions for 1959. Some forecast that the second half of the year will not be as good as the first half. Right now, however, big business is not fretting about the future—not even about a future that's only six months away. The stockmarket shot up 13 points in the last seven days in anticipation of

accounted for the overall index of industrial production reaching the record mark of 150% — took place in the so-called "soft goods" (apparel, food-processing, etc.). But most unemployment has been concentrated in steel, autos, washing machines and TV sets as well as production goods such as machinery.

At present the shining light in the durable-goods category is steel, which is producing at close to capacity. But every economist knows that steel is going full blast now because customers are building up inventories in anticipation of a steel strike in June. Strike or no strike, steel production is expected to decline drastically in the third quarter of 1959. It may drop to 55% of capacity by July or August if there is no strike, according to *Steel Magazine*.

In the auto industry, the outlook is favorable for profits, but not for full employment. During a March 25 debate in the U.S. Senate, Phillip A. Hart

(D-Mich.) stated: "If the automotive market should absorb 5 1/2 million cars during the present year, which would be a million more than in the past year, we in the State of Michigan would average about 335,000 unemployed for this year."

FAR FROM RECORD OUTPUT

But the auto makers and their economists do not expect the industry to produce or sell 5 1/2 million cars this year. According to the Wall Street Journal's April 14 survey, 5.5 million autos is the expected top figure and some make it less. "The industry still has plenty of unused capacity, considering that 1955 output soared above 8.3 million cars," says the *Journal*.

Electrical goods — another industry with substantial unemployment — is not expected to reach 1957 output figures despite big government outlays for electronics. The National Electrical Manufacturers Association predicts the sale of \$21 billion worth of goods this

year. That's higher than the \$19.4-billion mark of 1958, but lower than the \$21.6-billion mark of 1957, says the *Journal*.

However, the electrical industry's consumer-goods branch (TV sets, refrigerators, etc.), like the auto industry, looks back to 1955 not 1957 for its best production year. The gap between output and capacity is thus wider than the *Journal's* figures suggest. Substantial unemployment will persist as important sections of the electrical industry continue to operate well below capacity.

Similarly, under-capacity production is expected to prevail this year in the tools and machinery industry — which was especially hard hit by the recession — and even in the aircraft, missiles and "space-gear" industry despite the government's huge armaments budget.

When residence building dropped in 1956-57, after booming in 1955, commercial and industrial construction more than took up the slack. Then both

kinds of construction nose-dived in 1958. This year, builders anticipate that private-housing output will come close to the 1955 mark. Highway spending by state and federal government is expected to jump to about \$6 billion this year, 12% above 1958. But building for industrial and commercial purposes will remain well below the 1957 level.

Next Week

An interview with Vincent R. Dunne on his seventieth birthday. The famed Minneapolis labor leader describes his youth as a lumberjack and itinerant worker and tells how socialism brought meaning to his life.

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Thus under-capacity production (Continued on Page 2)

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