

# PROLETARIAN

# NEWS



WORKERS OF THE WORLD UNITE!  
YOU HAVE NOTHING TO LOSE BUT  
YOUR CHAINS! YOU HAVE A WORLD  
TO GAIN! — Karl Marx

A JOURNAL FOR THE WORKING CLASS

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614

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## Class Consciousness: Key to Socialist Revolution

Young people upon their first contact with socialist teachings are apt to make remarks such as: "American culture blurs class consciousness, and should this trend continue, twenty years from now we will have then attained an appalling class-less society where human consciousness and sensibility are so thoroughly blunted that history will have come to an end."

While such statements may contain a germ of truth, their essential error is based on a confusion of the concepts of class consciousness, class culture, class struggle and class interest.

While it is evident that conformity to bourgeois culture is the essence of American society today, it is not so evident that "twenty years from now" we will have then attained "an appalling class-less society." What is clearly lacking here is the sharp differentiation between class interest and class culture. Consciousness of a situation does not come suddenly but takes time to develop. Unconsciousness of the situation does not negate the fact of its existence.

Workers today, subject to capitalist propaganda, are like men living in a cave chained so that they can only look at the shadows projected on a wall in front of them by capitalists behind them who the workers do not see. The shadows on the wall in front of the chained men represent the propaganda of the capitalists' "head fixing industry." The men do not realize that the shadows are nothing but propaganda, as they see nothing else. To them, the shadows—propaganda—are reality. What is needed is a glimpse of the head fixing machinery—the reality behind them. Analogically, these alienated men have nothing to lose but their complacent sense of reality—their chains.

While the head fixing business is not a new one, today it is propaganda which not only keeps the worker chained but it is the same propaganda which can keep the not-too-well-grounded socialist student in paralytic doubt. Karl Marx wrote that: "The ruling ideas of each age have ever been the ideas of the ruling class," and so it is today. "His Master's Voice" is disseminated today by more than one type of incorporated mass

media. Where formerly, under feudalism, it was the priest who was the chief head fixer, today newspapers, radio, TV, movies, schools and colleges are all attempting to mold conformist mass opinion by the frequent repetition of acceptable ideas.

The propaganda has at least two functions: (1) to confuse the worker, and (2) to generate false ideas and false hopes. But why do people swallow the propaganda? In *The Myth of Sisyphus*, Albert Camus tells us. "The gods had condemned Sisyphus to ceaselessly rolling a rock to the top of the mountain, whence the stone would fall back of its own weight. They had thought with some reason that there is no more dreadful punishment than futile and hopeless labor." Sisyphus for our purposes can be the American worker who each morning wakes up to roll his stone of work. "One sees merely the whole effort of a body straining to raise the huge stone, to roll it and push it up the slope a hundred times over; one sees the face screwed up, the cheek tight against the stone, the shoulder bracing the clay covered mass, the foot wedging it, the fresh start with arms outstretched, the wholly human

(Continued on page 2)

## INFLATION AND DEPRESSION

President Eisenhower, his financial advisors and the big-wigs in the banking field, incessantly warn the nation of the dangers of inflation; while labor leaders and liberal Congressmen from depressed areas are voicing concern over the hard-core of unemployment and other depression signals. The twin fears of inflation and depression, the heads and tails of the capitalist coin, are real, doggedly pursuing the economic course of the dog-eat-dog system of capitalism.

The ominous signs of inflation can be noted from the following:

1. The virtual uninterrupted climb of commodity prices—even in the face of the declining demand and accumulating surpluses which marked last year's economic recession. From 1945 to the end of 1958, a period of about 13 years, the dollar has lost approximately 40 per cent of its purchasing power.

2. The booming stock market is unwarranted from the relationship of earnings to stock prices, dividend prospects, or the instability of business generally. But the widespread fear and expectation of inflation does add impetus to stock purchasing. Ownership of stock shares as a hedge against

inflation is a popular conception.

3. The outward movement of gold during the past year from the U. S. is indicative, historically, with a condition of actual or latent inflation. A drop of over \$2 billions in this nation's monetary gold stocks has taken place during the past year.

4. The debt-funding difficulties experienced by the U.S. Treasury recently is additional evidence of the monetary problems of the Government, its deficit spending and its effect on the nation's financial posture.

Yet, despite the inflationary trends and forces extant, usually associated with booming periods, and despite the recovery of business over last year's recession, a hard-core of approximately four million unemployed exists. It is practically admitted by the capitalist apologists, in their honest moments, that millions of workers are bound to be unemployed, no matter the recovery, due to automation. That isn't all, the stagnation of petty business, numerically in the millions, is a retarding force on business generally, a pull-towards depression. The business recovery of Europe, the rise of nationalism in Asia and Africa with its impetus towards industrialization adds competition and rivalry for American exports and for the American market as well. Already the cries of American manufacturers are heard for restricting this and that import from foreign countries. The production forces are forever tending to overtake the market demand on a capitalist basis, laying the groundwork for a depression.

The popular belief that the one cause of inflation, an excessive demand for goods and services over the capacity of the economy to supply them, has been negated by the recent recession, where commodity prices rose generally, despite the slackening demand. The anomaly of the opposite, excessive supply of goods and labor forces over the demand for both, and higher prices, knocked that classical theory in the ash can of capitalist economics.

The capitalist spokesmen are trying to fasten the blame of inflation upon the trade unions. Their contention is that wage increases

(Continued on page 2)

## NOTICE TO OUR READERS

Due to lack of funds we were not able to publish the Proletarian News regularly each month. Hence, some issues were skipped and did not appear during the months of February, April, and June. We regret doing this—but we had no alternative.

The regular appearance of the Proletarian News depends on the support received from its readers and those who realize the need of a working class periodical. It is only to that extent that it can survive.

Capitalist reaction is still doing its utmost to intimidate the advanced section of the working class. It would make the profit-greedy exploiters happy to see a working class newspaper go under. But that, as you know, would be a very severe setback to the cause of labor.

That is why, in spite of all obstacles, we are determined to continue publishing the Proletarian

News. However, this will only be possible through the continued support given to it by its friends and readers.

This is an appeal for contributions. If you feel that you have already given enough, then let us thank you for your past support. However, if you are in a position to again help, we can assure you that your contribution will be used to advantage. If you are a new reader who approves of the Proletarian News, this is your invitation to assist.

Through your help you will be striking back at the forces of reaction that are now trying to crush all working class advancement in the interest of keeping the rich parasites in power. To those who have not quit cold, who have not run away from the fight, we are making this direct appeal.

Please send your contribution to Proletarian News, 333 W. North Ave., Chicago 10, Illinois.

## INFLATION AND DEPRESSION

(Continued from Page 1)

beyond productivity increases tend to push costs and prices up. In rebuttal the trade union leaders, and their liberal supporters amongst the politicians, argue that the fault lies with the big corporations and their monopolistic power to control the markets—price fixing or administrated prices. The union leaders charge that these monopolistic corporations in seeking maximum profits, fail to lower prices in spite of rising productivity, nay more, raise their prices in most instances, thereby widening the profit margin. The upshot is the rising prices compel labor to seek wage hikes. The giant corporations in the past reluctantly granted the wage hikes, provided it didn't wipe out the entire gain that accrued to capital from the improved techniques. The capitalists have used the wage hikes as an excuse for further price increases. Eisenhower and his banker friends have preached restraint to capital and labor without any success. The vicious circle is beyond voluntary controls.

However, some leading capitalist economists still feel that restricting demand, by economy in government, tight money policies and higher interest rates, will lick

the inflation problem. While excessive demand may not be the only source of the inflation problem, a sizeable reduction in demand may crimp or stop the inflation threat. Curbing demand on a large scale will make these monopolists hesitant in raising prices, weaken the unions with heavy unemployment, thereby checking inflation by depression. How much depression is necessary is unknown. That method of restricting demand to fight inflation is being practiced by the Eisenhower Administration.

Capitalism finds itself caught in the dilemma of inflation and depression. It may be hooked with both at the same time. Voluntary controls have proved ineffective. Tinkering with the currency is fraught with danger. Direct economic controls, unpopular during the war periods, may be tried in peacetime only under desperation. Even that is not the answer to their prayers. Nazi Germany proved that. Capitalism, war-ridden, racket-ridden, economically in the throes of inflation and depression, is ready for the scrap heap, where it now belongs. The capitalists are satisfied to keep it vegetating, are you?

L.B.

## HOME SCENE

### The Class Struggle

President Eisenhower, in his news conference, on June 3rd, said that "he was disturbed 'by what seems to be becoming a habit in this country to adopt certain theories' advanced by the founder of Communism, Karl Marx."

"One is," he said, "that there is inevitable a bitter and implacable warfare against the man that works — between the man that hires him. To my mind that is absolutely and completely un-American." (Boston Globe, June 4).

It comes as no surprise that President Eisenhower, or for that matter, any other capitalist politician, denies the existence of a class struggle in America and vents his spleen on Karl Marx. Some really "big shots," academic "big wheels" have tried to slander Marx and destroy his teachings. Nevertheless, Marx and the teachings of Marx grow in stature and influence thruout the world. So, too, does the class struggle spread and influence the world. What else is the commotion and disturbance in the world about?

Long before Marx and Engels wrote their famous "Communist Manifesto" in 1848, the class struggle existed and was so noted by intelligent statesmen. The famous French statesman Talleyrand (1754-1838) stated it bluntly: "Society is divided into two classes; the shearers and the shorn. We (politicians) should always be with the former against the latter." So have they been.

The diabolic class struggle is not an invention of Marx or anyone else, nor un-American. It exists here and everywhere else where classes obtain. The American capitalist class recognize it, conscious of their class interest and welfare, act in accordance with what is best for their class. The American working class, blinded by glittering generalities, such as freedom, democracy, etc., are unaware of it collectively (individually they are, feel suppressed). They are unconscious of their class interest, behave in a manner opposite to their best interest, generally in a pattern favorable to their opponents, the capitalist class.

The class struggle in America, or in any other capitalist country, is between the capitalists, who own the means of social production, the factories, mills, mines, transportation, distributing outlets and such—and the workers, unskilled, mechanics, professional, who must sell their labor power to the capitalist class in order to live.

Strikes and lockouts are manifestations of the class struggle in an elementary form — fierce as they come. It is a struggle over the divisions of labor's product. If the workers demand and get an increase in wages, it automatically means a decline in profits. And the opposite, if the capitalists succeed in reducing wages in one way or another, then profits rise. That the class struggle may be sordid, unholy, even un-American, according

## Class Consciousness: Key to Socialist Revolution

(Continued from page 1)

security of two earth-clotted hands. At the very end of his long effort measured by skyless space and time without depth, the purpose is achieved. Then Sisyphus watches the stone rush down in a few moments toward that lower world whence he will have to push it up again toward the summit. He goes back down to the plain." Thus, one day passes into the next for the worker.

What is it that makes him say, like Oedipus when blinded and broken, "I conclude that all is well?" Why does he not revolt? (For Camus, the revolt is the revolt of consciousness.) Camus concludes that Sisyphus has hope: The intermission during which the stone rolls back "teaches that all is not, has not been, exhausted." Capitalist propaganda teaches a similar hope—a false hope of better things to come within capitalism.

In this struggle the labor press becomes one of the important means of enlarging the number of class conscious workers, the vanguard of the American working class. But counter-propaganda is insufficient by itself. Nothing replaces actual experience—actual participation in the class struggle. For the worker, each strike, each "right to work" bill, each speed-up, each layoff, each segregated union — each capitalistic tactic—represents a moment of actuality in which the worker seems himself in relation to his fellow workers, the capitalist class, and the capitalist system. Yet, these flashes of truth are brief; the American worker is frequently the first one to suggest that capital may have a "right" to a "just" compensation for its "risk." Yet, a quantitative series of flashes of truth may en-

to Eisenhower and other platitudinous gentlemen, yet it does take place and will take place as long as classes obtain in society.

Class status is determined by economics and not by what one thinks. A professional or technician, teacher or engineer, may think they belong in a different economic category from a factory hand or miner, yet they all must sell their skills, knowledge to a master class, who owns the wherewith to employ the skills and education. The workers sell their brain and brawn labor power for the highest price they can fetch. The capitalists buy labor power for as cheap as they can get it. The struggle over divisions of the proceeds of labor power manifests itself in strikes and lockouts and that's the class struggle in the raw.

While the American workers are wage conscious, are beginning to recognize solidarity along those lines, they are far from class conscious. They are content to engage the capitalist class in "guerrilla war" over wages, hours and such. That the wages system, capitalism,

gender a qualitative change in the understanding of the worker. As the struggle intensifies (as in a depression) the worker is more frequently and more vitally brought face to face with his relation to the capitalistic system.

In such a situation more and more workers become class conscious. The 1930's demonstrate the validity of this statement. Clearly, two nodal lines of transition are in question here: (1) the leap from unconsciousness to consciousness brought about in the individual worker by the increasingly frequent moments of actuality in the experience of the individual worker and (2) the leap from a minority of class conscious workers to a majority of class conscious workers which brings on a qualitative change in the power of the proletariat. Thus, the intensity of the struggle determines also the number of class conscious workers present. Therefore, while the former type of transition (in the individual) may become increasingly frequent (as in the 1930's) the latter transformation of quantity into quality (a social revolution) may not have taken place (as in the 1930's).

Thus we must answer these young socialists that the class struggle is not dead today, though class consciousness may be negligible. Such bills as the Kennedy-Ives bill give concrete signs of the contradictions imminent in the capitalist society today. The economic consequences of automation give a vision of an even further intensified struggle on the horizon. We therefore see how growing class consciousness develops simultaneously with the class struggle which, in the course of time, inevitably results in social revolution.

A. ST. MAUR.

means mass poverty amidst abundance, war and domination of the capitalists over the working class, hasn't dawned to many of the workers, professional down to the unskilled. That higher, more fully, class consciousness must take place for labor to advance. Indeed it is imperative for the survival of humanity.

### Proletarian Growth

The labor force grows both absolutely and relatively. The Census Bureau happily announces the population growth to have attained 176 million and visualizes 200 million in the near future. With the general growth of the population, there is a concomitant growth of the labor force. In June, it was reported that 66 million workers were employed, the highest on record, plus over 3 million unemployed, which is a growth of the labor force, absolutely.

However, not so glowingly are the governmental pronouncements of the decline of the "independent" business people in relation to the total population. The Department

(Continued on page 4)

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### INDEPENDENCE — FOR WHOM?

Each year the United States celebrates the 4th of July as "independence day," with much ceremony, military parades, fire-works display and patriotic speeches. The people are told how thankful they should be to the "founding fathers of 1776 fame" for having won independence for the nation, and for their "freedom." It all sounds so nice, so romantic-like, amidst flag-waving accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. It is no wonder that the gullible multitudes swallow it all with gusto!

But the thinking, courageous person (especially, if class conscious) is skeptical, and dares to pose the question: Independence for whom? Which class got the freedom, capital or labor?

The answer to this question can easily be found if one is not duped by capitalist propaganda. The workers have very little freedom, next to nothing. They are not independent of their bosses. It is the capitalist class who has freedom; that is, freedom to exploit labor for profit.

Some of the capitalist apologists contend that the American worker is much better off, more highly paid than any other worker in the world. However, they are reluctant to admit that there are millions of American workers whose wages are so low that they are reduced to the bare necessities of life, i.e., they lead a "hand to mouth" existence.

But even the more "fortunate" workers receiving wages above the average are not sure how long they will continue to enjoy their so-called high standard of living. They are also obsessed by the same fear, that of losing their jobs, either through outright discharge, or lay-off due to a slack season or business recession.

It is ironical how the economic crisis of over-production points up the pitiful plight of the workers, who because they have produced a surplus of goods, instead of enjoying themselves by consuming it at leisure, find themselves thrown out of their jobs, and misery is their lot. That happened on a mass scale in the 1930s of the Big Depression during which millions of unemployed workers suffered from hunger in the midst of plenty.

Of course, during the recent business recession, whose effects still linger on, unemployment did not reach such mass proportions. However, the approximately 4 million workers who are still unemployed are not enjoying their enforced "freedom" from their jobs, even though they are kept from starving by unemployment compensation and relief.

These grim facts of life are not revealed by capitalism's patriotic 4th of July orators. Instead they spout about, "life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness." These are meaningless terms, and moreover a mockery, to the workers, who often retort in anger: "try and get it."

To put an end to this exploitation of labor would require a social revolution that would have for its objective the abolition of capitalism and its private ownership of industry. In its place the workers would have to establish collective ownership of industry, and production for the use and needs of the whole people, instead of as at present for the profit of a handful of rich, idle parasites.

By doing this the workers would be ushering in a new, classless society, that of socialism,

wherein for the first time they would enjoy real freedom. This, the American Revolutionary War of 1776 did not accomplish. Then what did it do? Let us see.

#### Results of American Revolution

The Revolutionary War of 1776 against imperial Britain waged by the 13 American colonies was a capitalist revolution. It was financed and led by a wealthy minority, the property owning class of the colonies. These were the commercial, financial, manufacturing, and plantation-owning sections of the colonial population. (Of course, some of the property-owners were opposed to the revolution, the Tories, so-called).

But below this wealthy, creditor class was its opposite number, the debtor class, the working people of that period. The most numerous were the poor farmers, and close to them, the trappers and frontiersmen. Then there were also the craftsmen and day laborers in the towns and villages. It was from their ranks that George Washington recruited his ragged, ill-paid army. It was they who did the fighting and dying, and after seven years of it when peace came these poor exploited masses found themselves worse off than before.

Behind the cloak of such abstract slogans as "freedom and equality," the revolutionary leaders, George Washington, Franklin, Madison, Hamilton, Jefferson, Hancock, etc., were aiming at obtaining the exclusive privileges for their class of exploiting the resources, the slaves, and the working people of the colonies without interference from Great Britain. But the British ruling class, just as capitalistic minded, refused to relinquish their hold on the American colonies, which was a lucrative source of their wealth thru taxation and the extraction of raw materials for their developing factory system in England. In fact, they did their utmost to restrict manufacturing in the colonies by forbidding the importing of machinery from Great Britain.

We note the slogan raised by the American revolutionists, that of "no taxation without representation." But that was only one of the grievances. The British imposed high tariffs on imports to the colonies. However, the colonial merchants got around that, for nine-tenths of them engaged in smuggling. To stop them, the British government remitted the tax on tea, thereby underselling the smugglers. This abolished the profit for them. In retaliation the smugglers arose and staged their "Boston Tea Party." John Hancock, one of the most notorious of smugglers, only avoided prosecution because the "Concord massacre" took place on the day set for his trial.

In spite of all this, it was difficult to arouse the masses. Simons, in his "Class Struggles in America" declares, in effect, that the poor people had no particular reason for rebelling, realizing that their condition would be about the same whether King or President ruled the country.

Something had to be done by the revolutionary leaders, and it was. The Declaration of Independence was drawn up and signed on July 4th, 1776. The historian, Beard, in his "The Economic Basis of Politics," points out that the leaders of the American revolution needed some effective and compelling justification for their extraordinary conduct. They could have coldly said: "We are fighting for the plantation owners of the South, the merchants and landed gentry of the North, and the free farmers in both sections, in order that they may govern themselves."

But, obviously (Beard comments) such a chilly declaration of fact would not have thrilled the masses, especially the mechanics of the towns who enjoyed no political rights under either system, the old or the new. Hence the grand words of the Declaration of Independence: "All men are created equal" and "gov-

ernments derive their just powers from the consent of the governed." Of course, there were critics ready to point out that these high principles did not square with slavery, indentured servitude, and political disfranchisement, but they were not heeded.

George Washington was one of the richest of men in his time, and owned upwards of 45,000 acres of land. Much of his land was obtained before the revolution by illegal surveying, using (or abusing) his position as official surveyor for the British government. This shatters the myth of him being such a paragon of virtue, the man who "never told a lie."

Furthermore, Washington was a slave-holder, and continued to exploit the 300 slaves on the 15,000 acres estate he received as dowry from the woman he married, Mrs. Martha Curtis.

It was this early capitalist class (whom Washington represented) who reaped the fruits of the revolution when peace came after Cornwallis was forced to surrender his British troops in Yorktown in 1781.

But the toiling majority, including the discharged revolutionary soldiers, were in a worse poverty-stricken condition than before. This caused the Daniel Shays Rebellion of 1786, one of the many uprisings of the poor debt-burdened farmers against the courts' and sheriffs' attempts to foreclose and evict them from their farms. These uprisings frightened the rich property owners, who raised a militia and crushed the Shays Rebellion, and thereupon hastened to establish a strong national government through the Constitutional Convention held in Philadelphia in 1787. Though their divergent class interests were difficult to compromise, nevertheless they framed the Constitution, a set of rules with its "checks and balances" (indicating that they did not trust each other) but which was actually aimed at keeping down the exploited masses. However, fearing that some of the states might reject the Constitution, the "framers" added the Bill of Rights to it, the so-called "freedoms."

Our own Marxian historian, the late John Keracher, in his article "The State and Its Real Role" in Feb. 1954 issue of the Proletarian News, gives this keen analysis of the Constitution, to wit:

*"The much lauded charter of 'America's freedoms' helped to make the Constitution more popular and helped to conceal its real character, namely, a set of rules governing the property interests of the rich. That is what all capitalist constitutions are, whether they are written, or like the British, unwritten. Constitutions are shields and defenders of property rights, and clubs with which to hit the workers over the heads when they don't conform."*

To this day the Constitution has been wielded against the workers. Particularly is this most obvious during the industrial strikes wherein capital's police state has shown that it does not hesitate in the name of "law and order" to resort to force and violence in its attempts to break the strikes. Many labor union members still remember the Memorial Day Massacre of 1937 in South Chicago.

And yet workers can learn some valuable lessons from the history of the American Revolutionary War of 1776 for Independence. For example, there is the "right to rebellion" when governments become oppressive. Those early revolutionary "subversives," Washington, Adams, Franklin, Jefferson, etc., had the courage to rebel against the British government. They also knew that freedom for their class could only be obtained through a conquest of political power, and the establishment of their own State or government.

It is necessary for the American workers to remember these valuable lessons because the revolutionary historic task of abolishing capitalism still awaits them before they can achieve real, working class freedom. Al Wysocki

## HOME SCENE

(Continued from page 2)

of Commerce recently announced the drop of self-employment from 19.2 per cent in 1948 to 13.1 per cent in 1957—a substantial decrease, you would say, in just one decade. This slide of self-employed is an addition to the labor force—a relative growth, a growth in relation to the total population rise.

The proletarian growth is not a new or recent phenomena, in fact, it is an inexorable capitalist law in operation. A U.S. Senate Special Committee to Study Problems of American Small Business, said back in 1946 that “self-employed enterprises constituted 36.9 per cent of all the gainful workers in 1880, but their proportion had fallen to 30.8 per cent at the turn of the century, to 23.5 per cent in 1920, and 18.8 per cent in 1939.”

The above statistics prove beyond doubt the general decline, numerically, of the “independents” the self-employed, the free and independent American, who owned his own tools and his “soul.” As a strong influence in national affairs, he dropped out over a century ago, if it could be said he

ever had such influence in this nation.

Loss of ownership of the tools of production meant the self-employed lost his “independence” and became economically dependent as the wage workers, the proletarians, on a job. Modern tools of production are costly, run into the millions, beyond his reach. They're bouncy fellows but the elasticity is out and the population is more and more splitting up into two main camps, the bourgeoisie, the capitalists and the proletarians, the workers. While they (petty capitalists) yearn for the good old days, their future belongs and rests with the working class as a whole. As with the workers, they now have nothing to lose but their chains.

### Science Workers

The universities and colleges are graduating thousands of young women and men with science and engineering degrees yearly. Last year alone, U.S. industries spent a record sum of over \$8 billion on research and development, employing thousands of trained scientists. This year, 1959, according

to reports, some \$9 billion has been allocated along those lines. The federal government, too, is sponsoring and is investing heavily in furthering science to keep abreast in this space and electronic age.

Most of these educated men and women, scientists and technocrats, look upon themselves as something special, belonging neither with the working class nor the capitalists, but in a category by itself. While their learning differentiates them in their particular functions in society, economically, they as all others partake of earthly matters, engaged in social production in one way or another, related to the property relations in one class or the other.

Some of these high caliber men, with high caliber backing, ethics and what not, eventually blossom out into full fledged capitalists. They know their stuff, employ others with know-how and a profitable career plus capital is turned into a profitable business. They now exploit their fellow-man. They pay them alright, maybe even high salaries comparatively speaking, yet they extract profits from their employment in their ventures. As employers they belong to the category of capitalists.

The science degree or engineering diploma is of less importance to him now as a capitalist than the degree of exploitation and money making.

Most of the men of science find their place in the education mill or the laboratories of factories. In the university halls or laboratories, seemingly independent, the educator has his higher up, dependent on a salary and subject to dismissal and is subordinated. In the research laboratories of the workshop, the scientists' dependency is more open, less disguised, may even punch a clock and wear identity badges as the overalled wage slaves. These gentlemen are proletarians, wage workers if you please, no matter what they think of themselves.

As their numbers grow they become less exalted. The capitalist market strips them of their speciality. As Marx and Engels in their “Communist Manifesto” point out: “The bourgeoisie (the capitalists) has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honored and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest, the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage laborers.” L.B.

## A LOOK AROUND

**A QUESTION OF HOW MUCH:** Many facts and figures continue to pile up on the unemployment situation. Some experts in the collecting and checking of figures department tell us the army of unemployed is here to stay—will be around for a long time. (As long as Capitalism, we might add.) Here is the way some of the figures stack up:

In the last 13 years basic industries, such as mining, manufacturing and construction have increased their production some 40 per cent. On the other hand, only 8 per cent more workers were needed to do the job. In more recent years the proportion has increased with 1½ million fewer workers in

these industries and at the same time a 5 per cent increase in output per man hour. The steelworker feels the effect when you consider the fact that a short few years ago it took 50 men each 6 shifts a day to unload an ore ship. Now 10 men can do the same job in an 8 hour day. Steel production is at a high point but still there are about 50 thousand steelworkers out of a job or idle.

The result—fewer and fewer jobs for an ever increasing population... and still the debate goes on as to the blessings versus the cause of automation—with no solution in view. Of course there is always the attractive point of view which tells us automation

gives a man more leisure time because it takes less effort to produce better and better things of life.

Recently a friend replied—when we pointed out this advantage: “Leisure time? Who needs it! I haven't had a pay-check in 8 months.”

**IN DEFENSE OF WHAT?** Last month the Army accused the Senate Armed Service committee of endangering national defense by proposing a sizeable cut in the Army's Nike-Hercules anti-aircraft missile program.

In view of the fact that this was a public outburst which received wide distribution in the press it caused a good deal of rumbling up on Capitol hill and in the Defense Department. Not only were some honored Senators hurt and insulted but the Army release attacked the Air Forces Bomarc missile to boot. It seems the Senate Committee showed favor to the Bomarc program.

As for the Defense Department, they are worried about the fact that a subordinate department (the Army) can and does get away with such public statements “all on their own.” Some call it insubordination.

As we see it the Army brass is willing to risk anything to hold on to their particular toys with which they play the game of war. They are saying—you can order me off to war to rape and plunder, kill and be killed, destroy and ravage for the glory of capitalism but

please don't take away our Nike-Hercules. Some experts may tell you “it's obsolete, but it's all we've got!”

**THE OLD DOUBLE CROSS:** Late in May the leaders of 20 national unions in Cuba announced formation of an organization called the “Humanist Labor Front,” for the purpose of fighting communism in labor groups. These leaders—all members of Fidel Castro's 26th of July Revolutionary Movement—issued a statement claiming international communism is attempting to infiltrate the rebel movement through the “old and studied tactic of unity.”

The Cuban Communist Party is calling for unity of the labor movement as their slogan in rallies and demonstrations.

It is a sad commentary on the so-called revolution in Cuba (in truth, a civil war) that the new leaders are using an even older tactic than they accuse the communists of employing. That is the tactic of disunity. It's as old as history and has been successfully used for hundreds of years by one ruling class after another as a means of retaining power. Disunity is the enemy of all working class movements. The “Humanist Labor Front” has been well counselled by the tradition of capitalism and its spokesmen because their action will serve to retard the development of the labor movement in Cuba. And in so doing it will weaken the working class as a united political force for some time to come. L.D.

“And this is the economic constitution of our whole modern society: It is the working class alone, which produces all values.” (Marx: Wage-Labor and Capital.)

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