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Labor and the 1948 Elections

The "Cold War" and
Capitalist Breakdown

Food, Population, and Communism

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LABOR & THE 1948 ELECTIONS

The working man again faces an election year when the president and his executive arm of the government are decided for a period of four years and when many senators, representatives and state officials are elected. But again the working man has little choice in the election phase of parliamentary activity under the peculiar forms of American bourgeois democracy. At least the class conscious worker knows that the two old parties are not his parties. If a situation would develop where the Republican and Democratic party prevented all other parties from getting their party and candidates on the different state tickets, there would be no other choice for the worker than to boycott the election. Boycott the election with proper agitation and propaganda against the sham democracy of the capitalists that only allows places on the ballots for the twin parties of imperialism.

At first thought this seems like a most unlikely situation, that is the ruling off of all parties except the twin parties of imperialism. But when one breaks down the problem to the 48 states and from county to city in the different states, one finds that the sham American form of democracy rules off of the ballot the parties claiming to represent the working class and to a great extent it also rules off of the ballot the liberal, petty-bourgeois parties, such as the Wallace Progressives, the Labor Party, etc.

When one adds up the few places and states where the parties claiming to represent the working class have tickets in the field, and compare this to the amount of states necessary to obtain a majority for presidential election, it can be seen that the election laws are so complicated that these parties could not obtain enough electoral votes to be taken serious by the imperialist rulers. If it were not for the agitational value of such action, the capitalist would not even give these opposing forces another thought.

To make matters worse, for the liberal capitalist, the number of states and sections of the states where electors for presidential candidates cannot be placed on the ballot for the Wallace Progressives reveals that reform capitalism cannot even come near a 51% success in this sham democracy.

In the light of what has just been stated, and considering it a fact that the twin parties of capitalism do have the worker and middle class candidates ruled off the ballot in the vast majority of states and sections of states, the question of boycott becomes a reality for many workers in many states. What can reform labor and class conscious workers do but boycott in those states and areas where the parties claiming to represent the workers are not allowed on the ballot? Of course they can carry on a "write in" campaign. And this should be done when and where you do have a candidate of the party of the working class, not some revisionist "Marxist" group.

THE REVISIONIST POSITION

When we bring up the question of revisionist "Marxist" groups the question is raised and must be answered as to what must be done in those few and scattered areas where the Socialist, Trotskyites, DeLeonists or some other group do have candidates? For the average trade unionist who is to the left of Wallace and the Stalinists and who firmly believes that it is Marxism to fly two banners in confronting the class, it is logical to support any one of these parties just as a protest vote against capitalism, rather than a boycott.

When we state the question of confronting the class with two flags we mean the theory and practice that it is correct to be a member of a "Marxian" group or party and at the same time support the Labor Party candidates in a given area if and when the "Marxian" forces support them. If one accepts the Labor Party position (which we as revolutionary Marxists reject) then theoretically it is only a tactical question (as the Shachtmanites have done) to advocate to their members the either of the Socialists, the Cannonites or the DeLeonist presidential candidates. It is theoretically inconsistent on the part of the Cannonites to object to this on theoretical grounds. They can object on tactical grounds and for factional reasons. But since they support the theory of the Labor Party, and fly two flags before the class, they are in the same boat as the Schachtman group.

Revolutionary Marxists must participate in elections and the other phases of parliamentary activity. Our principle line has been laid down by Lenin and our political and organizational independence must be assured by flying one flag, the flag of revolutionary Marxism before the class. The tactics will be worked out in the United States on the basis of objective conditions. As a small group with no candidates we must boycott and agitate our position to the class, raising all the issues and giving a Marxian answer. As a group large enough to participate here and there we try to get on the ballot, and above all we carry out the WORKERS VOTE CAMPAIGN wherever we have a cadre.

In the deep south, where even the Republicans are considered foreign, our general line is the same. The tactics will have to be worked out from state to state and city to city.

LABOR HAS LITTLE CHOICE

Labor has little or no choice in the present election. No revolutionary Marxist candidates are listed. There are some centrists and reformist "Marxists" in the field who at least know the value of election campaigns, but who know little about scientific socialism. The Wallace-Stalinist bloc is also unworthy of any support. It is a reform capitalist bloc which cannot be considered seriously by any revolutionists.

At least one thing is clear regarding the third party. This is the first election year that the capitalists are afraid of the third party. Not afraid that it will seriously challenge them. Not even afraid that they will poll any more votes than the third party did in the 1924 campaign. But they are afraid that the third party may NOW

crystalize into a permanent set up to be taken over by the mild progressives of the CIO and AFL and seriously challenge their clever sure-fire two party system. That is the real meaning of the arguments against the "REDS".

It is possible that the Wallace forces on the left of Truman and the Dixierats to the right, each with their separate ticket may get enough electoral votes to throw the election into the House. This could be possible only if the Republicans make a poor showing. In other words, if Truman can line up enough labor votes to throw the balance, he will either throw it in the House for settlement -- or may win. That is if Truman gets enough labor and middle class support.

THE LONG RANGE PATTERN

An outstanding factor of the 1948 election which reveals the general long range pattern of American class developments, is the following: In all capitalist presidential elections up to the present, with the exception of Roosevelt three terms, the working man in his voting strength was not decisive. His votes counted but he did not "hold the balance of power" as the third party did in Minnesota, in Wisconsin and the third party forces in New York do.

If the AFL and CIO leaders can muster enough votes behind Truman, whom they endorsed only because there was nothing left for them with their bankrupt political policy, than the BOURGEOIS REFORMIST labor leaders can decide the choice of candidates in the 1948 election on a national scale. This the reformists know and this is the reason the two party capitalists are frightened with a third party.

A third party, for some time to come, will be a third party like the two New York third parties of the Socialists and the Stalinists. They will act for a balance of power and trade with one or the other of the two parties, whichever gives them the best horse trade. Their "independent" role will merely be the organization of labor and labor's friends in a structure which will enable them to control and deliver the vote. A thing they cannot do in the two party system. Naturally it will be a bourgeois reformist third party. This will give Cannon and Sachtman plenty of room to shout for an independent social reformist third party.

Sept. 19-48

THE "COLD WAR" & CAPITALIST BREAKDOWN

Three years after the conclusion of World War II, the globe is in the grip of a "cold war" between yesterday's victors. Gone are the mutual exchange of congratulations, good wishes, and lasting peace comraderie of the leaders of the United (Bandit) Nations Organization, successor to the late and unlamented League of Nations. In this short period, the whole cycle from high promises to high hopes to disillusionment and cynicism of the old League has already passed. Instead there are the red hunt and spy hunts, realignments of political groups and governments, direct and indirect terrorization of whole populations with threats of starvation and military force, forced mass migrations, changing of national borders with little or no regard to the masses needs, and growing rearmament. This is the crowning achievement of a war and a "peace" won by that collective security for which middle headed liberals and Stalinists have been braying since 1934!

The current crisis only emphasizes the depth of the contradictions of the UNO world. The US-GB bloc and their satellites contest the Kremlin and their satellites, for control of Berlin and Germany, the former leading power of the Axis. The German bourgeoisie, "purified" of the most outstanding Nazi criminals, is kept safely out of the hands of a wrathful proletariat through sham trials. Krupp, Thyssen, Schacht and Associates receive short sentences, while their property is held for them, and their American and British partners under the various zonal arrangements under bankers and lawyers entitled not "Herr" but "general." Franco, beneficiary of Hitler's aid in the war against the Spanish workers and shelterer of numerous Nazi capitalists, is approached by Wall Street's representatives for a new military alliance. In France war-time "collaborationists" and "resistance" support De Gaulle or/and the numerous "Third Force" governments, while the largest party of the French workers, the CP, is kept out of the government. In Italy, yesterday's "purified" fascists support the De Gasperi in company with conservative bourgeois democratic and right-social democratic forces (Saragat) while the largest parties of the workers, the Nenni SP and Togliatti's CP are excluded on Wall Street's orders. In Greece Hitler's role against the masses, later taken over by the British, now proceeds under American imperialist "technical and military advisers."

In Palestine the Jewish masses who survived Hitler's slaughter and fled the UNO's Europe, wage civil war with the Arabian masses to the mutual benefit of Arab feudalists (ex-Hitler friends now working with British and American capital) and Jewish capitalists, over control of a tiny county mostly desert. In the Far East, English, French and Dutch capital which yielded easily to Japanese advances, now wage merciless warfare a la Hitler against the colonial masses. And in China, Chang Kai Shek, who "battle" against Japan for years has been mostly myth, wages warfare against the worker and peasant masses of Northern China who really fought Hirohito, Tojo & Company. And over all this stands American imperialism pretending that the Kremlin is the chief cause of the world crisis, while Wall Street is a world benefactor with its Marshall Plan "aid", i.e. aid to Europe's hundreds of millions of people of 15 billion for four years as against 15 billion dollars every year for its own military arm.

LIP SERVICE TO THE U.N.O.

Against the background of such a world, with each crisis involving immediately and directly mass movements and uprisings of hundreds of thousands and even millions of people, the verbal pyrotechnics of the demagogues in the UNO shrink into insignificance. Indeed, even those who give loudest lip service to the UNO ignore it in every move they make. From the US Marshall plan to the control of Japan, to the censorship-concealed war of British, French and Dutch imperialists in Southeast Asia, the capitalists conduct the class struggle with no illusions, while the middle-head liberals wring their hands over the "extremism" of all concerned, oppressors and oppressed alike.

The cold war between Wall Street and the Kremlin was and is inevitable despite the agreements on the post war world at Teheran, Yalta etc. This is not because of reactionary or Stalin's wish to violate agreements. Nor is it because Stalin agrees to the Lenin concept that the capitalist world and the Soviet Union cannot long live peacefully side by side, whether "Socialist" Bevin says so or not. It does arise out of the decay of world capitalism and the revolt of the masses which compel Wall Street and the Kremlin to clash regardless of any subjective wish, sanctified by any number of 10, 20, or 50 year pacts for "peace."

CHARACTER OF OUR EPOCH

Our epoch is one of capitalism in its highest form, imperialism. Monopoly has long since replaced competitive "free enterprise". International cartels have divided the world, in steel, coal, electricity oil, etc. They have not, however, replaced anarchy of production as enthusiasts of "organized capitalism" believe. The first and second world war expressed these struggles in most violent form.

On a world scale, the productive forces have come into conflict with the productive relations (capitalist property) to an extent unimaginable by the authors of the Communist Manifesto 100 years ago. As never before, "the productive forces at the disposal of society no longer tend to further the development of the conditions of bourgeois property; on the contrary, they have become too powerful for these conditions, by which they are fettered, and no sooner do they overcome these fetters than they bring disorder into the whole of bourgeois society, endanger the existence of bourgeois property." Since 1914 two world wars and a devastating crisis-depression have attempted to solve these crises by "enforced destruction of a mass productive forces... conquest of new markets" (one imperialist from another) ... the more thorough exploitation of the old ones. That is to say, by paving the way for more extensive and more destructive crises, and by diminishing the means whereby crises are prevented." This brilliant analysis written in the rising period of capitalism rings resoundingly true today when the increasing crises of decay capitalism threatens the existence of all civilization. Under imperialism these tendencies and contradictions shake the world in thunderous crises that leave no people and no continent untouched.

Lenin's understanding of this world condition brought forth the development of Marxism as to our epoch being one of decay capitalism,

the eve of the social revolution. Objective conditions would arouse the proletarian masses in the advanced countries and the colonial masses in the backward areas to revolt, breaking with past passivity. Contrary to reactionary howls today, the "danger of world revolution" comes not from the Kremlin but from the objective conditions which capitalism itself prepares. The repeated references by bourgeois spokesmen, as well as Stalinist betrayers, to Lenin's ideas (after Stalin destroyed the Third International politically in 1928 and organizationally in 1943) serves only to prove the soundness of Marx, Engels and Lenin's concepts.

But since the whole world order of the Versailles Peace, as well as Hitler's brief "new order" has passed into limbo, the bourgeoisie after World War II must try to vision a new international set up for their class rule. Some American capitalists dream of a Pax Americana (American Peace). After Napoleon's downfall and the Congress of Vienna of 1815, the British navy and their domination of world markets, and their brand of power politics, kept world peace for a century; all the wars that took place were minor affairs compared to the Napoleonic wars. Likewise, reasons Wall Street, today, with the decline of British imperialism and the crushing defeat of the German upstart, American capitalism can dominate the world with its navy, power politics, the atom bomb, and domination of the UNO.

BOURGEOIS HOPES FOR SOVIET UNION

As for the Soviet Union, the bourgeoisie believe the following: While their hopes for a mutual destruction of Hitler dominated Germany and Stalin dominated Soviet Union proved false, the weakness of Soviet economy as a result of war destruction may lead to its downfall if proper tactics are used. The use of agreements with Stalin to help crush social and colonial revolutions in Europe and Asia can become part of their drive to restore capitalism to Russia itself. Stalin's offensives outside the Soviet Union are basically within the framework of a defensive, retreating and waiting policy. He supported the League of Nations until Anglo-French capital at Munich made it obvious they gave it up to turn Hitler against the USSR. He supported the Hitler Stalin Pact until Hitler invaded the Soviet Union. His post war "expansionism" took place only because social revolution in Eastern Europe forced him to intervene to avoid this danger on his very doorstep. His opposition to any tendency to a federal Eastern Europe (timidly proposed by Tito, Dimitroff, etc) to keep these countries divided and reduced to a buffer area between the USSR and western Europe also fits into his weak policy covered by bluff.

But the revolutionary upheavals following the global war make the period of this policy uncertain. The period of the armed truce will be punctured by crises, and must be concealed by the most adept maneuvers and alternating threats of war and pledges of peace. Thus last year's hints for guidance of more observing and unhysterical capitalists and intellectuals were dropped carefully. Thus Arthur Schlessinger, Jr. (who recently was drawn into the Economic Cooperation Administration set up in Europe) wrote in *Partisan Review*, issue of May-June 1947 (just before the Marshall Plan was announced on June 5th at Harvard University "British policy under Chamberlain presents a model of how not to under-

take a campaign of containment. The U.S. is faced with the same situation today, only the geographical margins of tolerance are greater with the USSR than they ever were with Germany. Reduced to its fundamentals, the American problem is to arrange the equilibrium of forces in the world so that, at every given moment of decision, the Soviet General Staff will decide against aggressions that might provoke a general war on the ground that they present too great a military risk. At the same time, the US must not succumb to demands for an anti-Soviet crusade nor permit reactionaries in the buffer states to precipitate conflicts in defense of their own obsolete prerogatives. Fascism has receded, but it has not disappeared... (The US) must commit itself, economically, politically, and militarily to the maintenance of this balance over a long period..." "Though the secret has been kept pretty much from the readers of the liberal press, the State Department has been proceeding for some time somewhat along these lines.."

And along the same lines there appeared in July 1947, Foreign Affairs (with extracts reprinted in Life Magazine) an article by "X", believed to be Geo. F. Kennan, top policy expert of the U.S. State Department: "It would be an exaggeration to say that American behavior unassisted and alone could exercise a power of life and death over the Communist movement and bring about the early fall of Soviet power in Russia. But the U.S. has it in its power to increase enormously the strains under which Soviet policy must operate, to force upon the Kremlin a far greater degree of moderation and circumspection than it has had to observe in recent years and in this way to promote tendencies which must eventually find their outlet in either the breakup or the gradual mellowing of Soviet power. For no mystical, Messianic movement--particularly not that of the Kremlin--can face frustration indefinitely without eventually adjusting itself one way or another to the logic of that state of affairs.

We must tax the patience of the reader with one more quotation. The imperialists must for public consumption confuse Stalinism with Communism although they themselves know better. Likewise they must confuse the revolutionary aspirations of the workers with Moscow's maneuvers and present a picture that all workers who oppose Stalinism support capitalism via Social Democracy. But here also the exploiters know better.

Drew Middleton, N. Y. Times correspondent, reported on the sentiment of workers in Berlin (August 15, 1948): "It seems that the greatest strength, the greatest resolution is in the working class sectors... There are people with terribly little to lose whichever way the political battle goes... In these districts you meet many who say, 'I am a Marxist, but not a Communist. What is communism today? Another kind of Russian imperialism, not a working class movement.'

Or those who say, 'Yes, I am a Communist, but not a Stalinist. Only stupid Germans believe that Russia today is a Communist state. Certainly I still see hope in Communism, but not in Russian Stalinism.'

Such expressions do not of course present a Marxian position as held by the RWL, U.S. Marxists hold that the Soviet Union is a degenerated workers state, under control of revisionist bureaucracy, and that

the Soviet workers will have to carry through a political revolution to restore working class internationalism and workers democracy to the USSR, under the leadership of a new, truly Communist Party of democratic centralism.

But they do reveal that the workers of Germany, like the workers of the rest of the world, have no desire to see a restored capitalist world, with or without Stalinism in partnership to Wall Street.

It is this basic reality, of the post war world with its unprecedented economic, social and political breakdown of capitalism that the "cold war" between Wall Street and the Kremlin serves to cover.

(To be continued)

10-3-48

C O R R E C T I O N T O T H E A U G U S T 1 9 4 8 I S S U E O F
I N T E R N A T I O N A L N E W S

On page 3, paragraph 3, sentence 4, appears the following clause, "It is obvious that since the new primary antagonism (since the second war--as we stated over two years ago) is between U.S. and USSR.

The word primary should be deleted from the text. The Revolutionary Workers League position has always been that the primary antagonism in the world is between the working class and the capitalists. The antagonism between the US and the USSR is but a mirrored form of this primary struggle.

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FOOD, POPULATION & COMMUNISM

There is a strange paradox about truth and lies, facts and fancy that represents a cycle of opposites. An idea which has no basis in facts and which represents a lie will be used over and over, again and again, by the reactionary exploiters, no matter how many times scientific facts repudiate such ideas. On the other hand, truths and facts which can scientifically be verified, ideas which are to the interest of the exploited masses are "killed" over and over again by the defenders of the privileged few. Such ideas that hurt the pocket books of the people in high places are twisted out of their context, warped, lied about and suppressed. But these truths cannot be killed. They return to haunt the exploiters and their scribes and will eventually triumph--if society is to progress.

The difference between these facts and fancy is that the lies are kept alive by artificial, hot-house methods through the exploiters domination of the state and all avenues of expression, while the truths are kept alive by their own internal strength. Take away the artificial foundation from the lies and they will die of their own accord; but with the greatest obstacles the scientific facts slowly gain the lead.

Each prejudice, lie and fancy that helps maintain the exploiters and the privileged must be refuted by each generation all over; and by each new recruit to scientific facts day in and day out.

THE MALTHUS DOCTRINE

One of these false ideas that the exploiters and reaction keep alive is the Malthusian doctrine of population in relation to the food supply. In the 18th Century, Thomas R. Malthus presented the theory of gloom that populations always outstrip the food supply, stating that man would always fight to extend his borders for his increased population, but that the relation of food to population was such that there will always be hunger and starvation because there is not and never will be enough food to go around as the population can always outstrip the food supply.

Marx and Engels in the last century scientifically repudiated this prophet of gloom and since then, year in and year out, the Marxists have answered the new crop of followers of Malthus. But today, after the 2nd World War, with the worst period of famines and starvation the earth has yet seen, the doctrine of Malthus is gaining recruits and is again preached from high places in the circles of the defenders of the exploiters.

THE PRESENT WORLD FOOD CRISIS

No one will deny that during and after the Second World War there exists an actual food shortage in many parts of the earth. But once we get down to the basic causes of the food shortage, the doctrine of Malthus is blown sky high. Malthus gave his false theories objective settings and presented his concept as a natural law of the development of population and food supplies. But when we realize that the famine in food, clothing and shelter has been man made and is not a product of the

recalled natural laws we have thrown a different light on the subject.

The destruction of the necessities of life in the Second World War alone is so great that if man had used an equal amount of labor and productive power for social development instead of destruction, the whole earth could have been raised to the level of the standard of living of the skilled worker section of the U. S., and the world would still have tremendous surpluses left over for a rainy day. And each year the same amount of energy used along the same line could multiply this effect upon the earth's population. In a generation or two the sun would not recognize its own earth. But instead, after many generations of wars under different systems of exploitation of man by man, all thinking people realize that the very question of the continuation of civilization is at stake.

FOR THE SAKE OF ARGUMENT

For the sake of argument, let us recast the Malthusian doctrine in order to throw more light upon the subject.

One could state that SO LONG AS MAN LIVES UNDER ECONOMIC SYSTEMS OF EXPLOITATION OF MAN BY MAN, the exploitation of the majority by the minority as represented by Chattel Slavery, Feudalism or Capitalism, regardless of the different levels of development under each, so long as this condition exists, then it is true that populations will always outstrip the food supply. But the whole argument falls to the ground as a natural condition and is then revealed as a man-made shortage and negative ratio, once you state the problem as it is stated above.

You at once reveal that the shortage of food and the surplus population is a condition due to faulty organization of the productive forces of society and the misuse and waste of these productive forces under exploitation and war of plunder.

Marx and Engels and many other Marxists refuted the Malthusian doctrine, not upon the basis of present twentieth century development, with its startling inventions and discoveries in every related field that has to do with the production of food. They repudiated these false ideas upon the productive capacities and development of nineteenth century capitalism. To find these ideas again gaining momentum with twentieth century inventions and discoveries, merely reveals how bankrupt the theoreticians of capitalism are and expresses disintegration and decline on the part of capitalism to use what is at their hands to reach to find a way out of the impasse imperialist wars and exploitation has led us to.

THE FAMINE CONDITION

Food experts and the UNNRA statisticians reveal that twenty to thirty million humans perish each year due to lack of food. In many cases the deaths are indirect; but the real causes can be traced back to malnutrition. They also admit that the wars aggravate this situation. In Europe and Asia untold millions have died of starvation or due to factors traceable to lack of food during the war period and the UNNRA reports indicate that this will continue unless food is shipped into

these areas for a few years to come.

One hears so often the argument that we are doing all we can; that we just don't have enough food to go around to bring the standard up to the necessary calories per day to take care of the world's population. That is relatively true; but one cannot argue both sides of the question, eat one's cake and have it. By that we mean man's wars and man's exploitation of man by man has first created the shortage by refusal to use the productive machinery at the world's disposal, by waste and by war destruction. Then these very same people who are responsible for this condition turn around and argue the other side of the problem. They say we are doing all we can; we don't have enough food to go around.

For the sake of argument, even if we forget the past, forget the war destruction, if the world's productive forces, raw materials and labor power ON HAND NOW are used efficiently and properly, in a short period (the period since the war was over, for instance) we could have everybody on earth out of danger of starvation and malnutrition. But production would have to be based not upon selfish profit motives, but upon the needs of mankind as a whole.

Everyone remembers the time of the Roosevelt New Deal when Henry Wallace was Secretary of Commerce and they plowed under crops and killed livestock. In the world wide depression of 1929-39, before the war, famine was mounting throughout the world and millions were on the verge of starvation living on far below the necessary health standard of sufficient calories per day. This is just a "small example" of the whole problem. We had men, factories and raw material; but we starved. And today the world has the men, factories, raw material and "know how" to increase this a thousand-fold, yet famine, misery and privation stalk the lands of the world.

SOME FACTS AND SOME FANCIES

The UNNRA and other authorities on food and famine point out that in the prewar period over half of the earth's population existed on less than 2250 calories a day. In that period the greatest number of these were in Asia. But here again you come to the "prewar days" of 1939 but not the "prewar days" of the Japanese invasion of China in 1931. And you have the masses of the rest of Asia under the iron heel of the British-Dutch, French and other imperialist exploiters. It was not that the "whereall" did not exist. It was due to the system of capitalism and its colonial empires.

These authorities point out that it takes at least 3200 calories a day to keep a person well fed. But today the masses don't even get 2000 calories a day in India and many even less as starvation continues. Mexico has a low average of about only 1900 calories a day per person. The average in Austria was only about 1400 calories per day per person.

J. D. Ratcliffe, one who sings the song of Malthusian gloom, points out that only seven per cent of the earth's surface is under cultivation, and that most of the earth's surface cannot be cultivated due to large areas covered by ice, deserts, tundra, and mountains, to say

nothing about the fact that most of the earth is covered with water.

They tell us that there remains only a little over a billion acres that can still be brought under cultivation and most of this land is in the tropics. Of course they say nothing about other important facts. For example, the Old Webster's dictionary lists the western part of the United States as the Great American Desert, and in the early period of the United States, even after the Civil War, it was a desert. But nobody anyone who would call the western part of the United States a desert with its irrigation projects, its tremendous and growing food surpluses of all kinds providing those things which it takes to defeat famine would be considered a fool.

If man's discoveries and inventions (many hardly used yet) are applied in other parts of the earth as they have been mildly applied in the United States, the land ratio for food can be increased manifold, both horizontally and vertically in the scientists graphs; both in acreage and in productivity per acre.

J. D. Ratcliffe says, "Nutritionists calculate that it takes 2.5 acres of land to feed and cloth a human being. Since there are four billion acres of arable land on earth and 2.2 billion people to feed, it works out that each human being must subsist on 1.8 acres--which is not enough."

This is considering the problem as it exists at present under the present world wide set-up of monopolies, colonial empires, imperialist greed, and the exploitation of man by man. This is plain poppycock. This is plain stupidity. If the United States had figured this way when they went to war against the Axis, Hitler would already have the earth in the palm of his hands. If they, the imperialists of the United States, just sat down and totaled up the present factory production (at the start of the war) and on that basis figured their supply lines, their lend-lease and their military might, the United States would have been easily defeated. But for war destruction and the huge profits that go with it, these exploiters had real imagination. For example, instead of the production of a few thousand planes per year which was considered a huge number, Roosevelt set the goal for a hundred thousand planes. Many who don't know our productive capacities thought this was crazy. It was "crazy, but not the kind of crazy ideas these people who thought so had in mind. It worked, only it worked for destruction while we can do even more for construction if we could set our economic system to it.

Likewise in these quoted figures the earth's arable acres cannot be figured out on the present basis. In most places, in the greatest number of cases, antiquated methods of farming are still used. If the most modern methods of farming were used on a world scale, even this one step would alter the world picture and all of Ratcliffe's conclusions. There are many other scientific steps we have not even mentioned. To transform the antiquated methods of farming into the most modern methods of farming on a world scale is far less of a job than it was to produce and transport throughout the globe 300 billion dollars worth of war destruction, the small amount used only by one nation in the war, the United States.

WHAT CAN BE DONE

The Hitler argument for more living space, an old argument, as old as the exploitation of man by man, is absolutely unnecessary once the problem of food and population is approached scientifically and placed upon a human basis instead of the basis of the exploitation of man by man. Society grew beyond tribes and clans and at the turn of this century it grew beyond the straight jacket of nations. Now, about half a century after the earth was already ripe for genuine internationalism, for a one world idea, the atomic bomb is shocking many more than Marxists and class conscious workers into the understanding that the earth has grown up and nations are outdated. With this one world and internationalist approach must go the concept of the elimination of the exploitation of man by man. Otherwise the one world idea is a fake for imperialist domination of the earth by the strongest block of imperialists. The Axis tried it and failed. And with this idea will go the understanding of human needs and the problem of food and population can be adjusted scientifically--if we stop fighting each other and use that energy to really conquer and exploit nature on a grand scale.

In addition to these broad social steps mentioned, some everyday practical steps within the realm of agriculture and related industries are the following:

- A world wide plan and division of labor to raise crops where productivity is the greatest and not the present day wasteful self-sufficiency based on power politics and nationalism.
- 1-Scientific soil conservation of used and usable land.
- 2-Modern machine methods, large scale farming.
- 3-Development of dams and hydro-electric plants(TVAs)for all the productivity that goes with scientific soil conservation.
- 4-Proper scientific irrigation and reclamation of the soil.
- 5-Scientific soil treatment and crop development.
- 6-Use of modern methods and discoveries, such as Burbank, Hansen etc
- 7-World wide modern methods of storage and preservation of food.
- 8-Special reserve planning and planting and storage of high calory content crops for emergencies, regardless of people's food habits and likes, such as certain greens, grasses, soybean, yeast products, etc.
- 9-Extensive world wide development of hydroponics.
- 10-More adequate use and distribution of modern methods of making fertilizer for dirt irrigation and hydroponic farming.

It has already been proven that by using the hydroponic farming method a hundred acres of farm land will feed about three hundred thousand people, that is, a good sized city. Even the use of this method alone, not considering the other developments and inventions that are not used (except by a small per cent of the world's farmers) the food problem can easily be licked by civilization.

HYDROPONICS

Hydroponics is the old forgotten method of farming that has recently been rediscovered and extensively developed by the army in the

volcanic Pacific Islands in the Second world war. It is the growing of food products in water instead of in dirt. Irrigation is not even a half way mark between dirt farming and farming by hydroponics. Once hydroponics is taken out of the realm of hobby and fun, and experiment, and placed on a basis to serve mankind, it will be such an advance over the other methods of agriculture that it can truly be said to be revolutionary in its developments.

Civilization has had many technical revolutionary developments. But agriculture has been lagging for many years. Revolutionary developments have taken place in industry, communications, transportation, medicine and many other scientific fields. But now the cycle returns to agriculture with Hydroponics adding up many scientific developments in many fields and combining them into a new synthesis. If man uses this together with his other scientific understanding, he can win the day and make the dream of one world and the brotherhood of man a reality. He can really conquer this earth and use it as a stepping stone for conquests in the outer space.

Dr. Earle A. Spessard, professor of biology at Hendrix College, Arkansas, one of the many now developing the field of hydroponics, has produced startling results. An excellent article in the June 1947 MAGAZINE DIGEST on this subject states, "Dr. Spessard 'feeds' his plants on water in which is dissolved what Milton Lomask, in KIWANIS MAGAZINE calls, 'the ten elements that every plant eats', Boron, calcium, iron, maganese, sodium, nitrogen, phosphorus, sulphur, potassium, and magnesium. The fact that the plants are 'fed' and not left to draw their nourishment, if available from the soil, results in one of the most important features of hydroponic culture, that various plants require varying amountsof certain elements and these can be supplied in appropriate amount to produce top-quality fruit."

Dr. Spessard, ".... asserts that ten men, each operating a one acre tank farm, can grow enough garden produce to supply a community of 8000 the year around."

OUR 'POINT OF VIEW

One cannot leave this question standing up in the air. We know from factual evidence that each system of exploitation, even when it presents new discoveries and inventions, does not utilize them to their fullest extent, and by no means uses these progressive developments for man's good. The element of private profit and exploitation has warped all of this. At the same time it has retarded many further developments. As we have often said, the new system in its infancy will give impetus to many things in order to get a dominant position against the former contender. Capitalism did just that in relation to feudalism. But once capitalism no longer feared feudalism, then the feudal remnants the landed aristocracy, became the junior partner of capitalism to hold in check the masses. Then capitalism became a brake upon further progress. Today in the decay stage of capitalism countless discoveries and inventions, to say nothing about the productive use of what already actually exists in machines, men and raw materials are held in check.

The revolution in agricultural development is also held in the

capitalist prison as well as the whole world wide plan of solving the problem of malnutrition, famine and starvation. Instead the best capitalism can do is a little charity through UNNRA.

June 10, 1947

DEFEND THE SOVIET UNION

On this thirty-first anniversary of the Russian Revolution the world once again stands in fear of war. The invasion of the Soviet Union by the imperialists, with the United States at their head, will be an attempt to wipe out the last remnants of proletarian property relations in the basic sectors of the economy. Playing the role of hand maiden to world imperialism, as do all social reformists, Stalinism betrays the revolution within Russia by capitulating to bourgeois pressures in the economic spheres and political spheres, thereby, giving these forces such strength that they may well play a decisive role in the invasion. In the bourgeois world, Stalinism channelizes the heroic struggles of the masses into harassing and hampering movements to prevent the Marshall Plan's success, instead of combining those defensive maneuvers with the struggle for workers' power.

Now, thirty one years after the first successful proletarian revolution, the issue is clearly poised. American imperialism has licked all competitors in the arena of world trade and for the time being rules the roost. It can now squarely face the task which on two previous occasions have failed, in 1918-1921 and again in 1941-45. In fact it must accomplish this job within the very near future, before even the giant collapses under the weight of supporting the whole bourgeois world. If this last prop should break before the world's toiling masses have suffered important defeats, revolutions will flame throughout the earth's surface. The Soviet Union undoubtedly cannot escape being seared. The Marxian forces in the Soviet Union may wrest control of the government out of the hands of the Stalinists and restore worker's democracy and workers' control of production. A Soviet Russia under Marxian leadership in a period of revolutionary upheavals means the death of capitalism.

Only successful proletarian revolutions can save the Russian Revolution. The tremendous vitality and energy of the world's oppressed despite six years of the most brutal war in history, shows their willingness and ability to carry through their revolution. Only one thing is lacking -- The Marxian Party. The building of these parties and the International to turn these defensive struggles into a struggle for power is the key task of the day.

For the Defense of the Soviet Union, despite and against Stalinism! !
Defend the Soviet Union by extending the October Revolution! !
Build Marxian Parties! ! For the Communist (4th) International! !