

Nationalization of Industry:

Is It Same As Socialism?

By STANLEY GREY

If nationalization is equivalent to socialism—a notion which remains imbedded in the brains of "socialists" who kneel to the "socialism" of Britain—then the world has recently been treated to a social miracle second to none.

Socialism, remember, is a system of society organized in the interests of the masses of the people and against the interests of the capitalist class.

According to a Dec. 15 dispatch to the N. Y. Times, there took place two conferences of the leading industrialists of India and Pakistan for the purpose of working out long-term economic policies for the respective countries.

Pakistan: "I. I. Chundrigar, Pakistan Minister for Commerce, Industries and Works, told the Karachi (capital of Pakistan) delegates that the armament industry, railways, posts and telegraphs, broadcasting, hydro-electric power and mineral and oil rights would probably be state owned."

India: "Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerji, India's Minister of Industry and Supply, outlined plans for the early construction of the two new steel plants under state auspices." He told delegates that central planning for industrial development was essential.

On the day of the conference, Indian Prime Minister Pandit Nehru stated that India's future economic policy would entail a large measure of "socialism" in certain basic and key industries. This speech was given to the annual meeting of the Associated Chambers of Commerce.

A STRANGE "CONVERSION"

It has been argued with great force by scholars that the ethics of Protestantism was a powerful social force which helped justify the ways of capitalists to God and thereby spurred on the early capitalist development.

They continue to act in their own interests as do capitalists of all religions, for capitalism is the religion of them all. And when they advocate, support or institute state ownership, whether through the instrumentality of a "socialist" like Nehru or a thoroughgoing reactionary like Jinnah (head of Pakistan), they do this to strengthen their position as capitalists.

Irving Blumberg

Word of the sudden death of Comrade Irving Blumberg has just reached us by wire from Minneapolis. This tragic news comes as a shock and a terrible blow.

As a member of the Minneapolis Chapter of the NAACP, his fight in behalf of the Negro people, against race discrimination and "Jim Crow" was followed by us in gratitude and admiration.

Comrade Blumberg was a friend and sympathizer of the Workers Party. Although he was not formally a member, he was regarded in every respect as one.

We are grief stricken at our terrible loss. We are notifying all our party members and all our friends who will mourn with his many friends in Minneapolis and throughout the country.

Political Committee, Workers Party.

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in some cases a necessary part of capitalist policy.

Let us consider the case of the backward countries emerging on the capitalist scene, such as India and Pakistan.

1. The basic aim of the capitalist class of backward countries is for a rapid emergence out of its state of backwardness. The classic capitalists of England and France had centuries in which to evolve into large-scale production and they took untroubled centuries in which to do it.

Merely to preserve their independence as a state requiring at least a modern army, they need to build large-scale munitions works. (Japan, for example, was manufacturing cannon even before the spinning jenny was introduced in her factories.)

SOURCE OF CAPITAL

2. Where will the capital come from? There are three possible sources:

a.—The native capitalist class. This group is weak and small and incapable of building the country up to a competitive position in which it could compete with the powerful capitalist countries with decades of accumulation behind them.

b.—Foreign loans. This involves the great danger of economic and political subordination to the lending powers. Where this step is taken, it will be with reluctance and great wariness.

c.—The state. In many ways the state is the ideal solution. The state supplies the capital (which it gets from the people) and the state risks the losses (which it passes onto the people).

UTILIZATION OF RESOURCES

3. State ownership and efficiency. Another need for state ownership is that it makes possible (not necessary!) a more efficient utilization of the nation's resources and organization of production.

In summary, state ownership of various industries, when instituted by the capitalist class, is designed to effectively and safely accelerate the country's progress to a modern capitalist state.

One of the aspects of the decline of capitalism is that it leads to an increase of state ownership required by the increasing feebleness of the capitalist class and the inability of planless capitalism to continue without some sort of planning.

WORLD POLITICS

Truman and His ERP

As has been expected, the international aspects of the Truman address on "The State of the Nation" have touched off sharp criticisms and conflicts within the ranks of the new session of Congress.

Thus the Marshall Plan, the backbone and highest expression to date of American foreign policy, is now formally cast into the fire and the debate will commence, growing warmer and more revealing as time passes.

Sharpest debate will be over attempts to cut down the amount of money involved, with Senator Taft demanding a scaling down to \$5 billion maximum.

Books You Should Know... (Image of books and a hand holding a pen)

By KATE LEONARD

"The Walls Came Tumbling Down" (Harcourt, Brace & Co., New York) is the autobiography of Mary White Ovington, one of the founders of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Miss Ovington's creed, that the Negro problem in the U. S. can be solved within the framework of capitalism is, of course, the basic creed of the NAACP.

Mary Ovington was born in 1865 into a family of culture and means and with an abolitionist tradition. Speaking of the influence of this tradition on herself, Miss Ovington comments that, like every imaginative child, she had her hero: the fugitive slave who followed the North Star to freedom.

She is just as attractive a few years later, going with "her young man of the moment," to hear Frederick Douglass and arguing with him about Douglas' second marriage to a white woman.

LIFE'S PREPARATION

Out of this abolitionist tradition came the motivation for her career, rather than from her work in early adult life as a social worker, or from her membership in the Socialist Party.

Between 1903 and 1908 she prepared for her future work. Her beginning was a survey called "Half a Man—The Status of the Negro in New York." What she has to say of New York, when San Juan Hill was Harlem, is of interest.

Miss Ovington is a sensitive observer, and both on this period and later her book contains much good material around her main interest. Visiting an old lady and her middle aged

shall run and operate the ERP. The Administration, of course, knows it cannot formulate conditions that openly and crudely play havoc with the national independence of the countries involved.

THE FINAL PLAN

Despite the violence and vehemence of the opposition, it is apparent that an ERP will emerge from this session of Congress. It must emerge, because the interests of American imperialism demand this.

For American imperialism, now reaching out for economic mastery over the markets of our entire globe, simultaneously with its probing for strategic bases for ultimate war with Russia, must come to the aid of Europe, from its own point of view.

What brains ERP—no matter what its final form—as imperialism is not so much the inevitable strings and conditions that will be attached to it, but rather this way in which it fits into the historic program of American imperialism, together with the fact that the entire discussion and debate over it (with the exception of the revolutionary party) will be a dispute over what is the best way to advance these interests.

Henry JUDD.

OFF LIMITS By James M. Fenwick

HERE COME THE MARINES!

Equipped with tanks, guns, flame-throwers, bulldozers, trucks, jeeps and other matériel for whiling away the tedium of shipboard life, 1,000 marines left the United States early this year for Mediterranean waters.

Afraid that some idiot somewhere, somehow, sometime might consider the movement a purely routine affair, the State Department declared that it "was a routine administrative action by the Department of the Navy, undertaken without consultation because of its relatively minor importance."

Almost everybody got the point, including even—battled-scarred Admiral "Bull" Halsey, fresh from his recent encounter with the WCTU, who declared that the Marine Corps might well be making history once again in 1948.

The move was the most recent in the series of steps taken by U. S. imperialism to contain the Stalinist penetration in the Mediterranean area. This latest measure in the cold war conveniently coincided with the establishment of the Stalinist puppet government in Greece.

Other measures taken recently in Greece through U. S. initiative include: a 12,000-man increase in the Greek regular army and an increase in the national guard, bringing it to fifty battalions; the assignment of U. S. advisers for combat operations; and an increase in the table of organization for heavy machine gun and mountain artillery units. In addition, the British have turned 40,000 rifles over to the Greek army.

The contemplated retirement of British forces from Palestine is another factor leading to U. S. involvement in that critical area. According to reports from both Washington and Jerusalem, Zionist leaders are beginning a drive to secure arms from the United States for the prosecution of the struggle against the Arabs which flared up as a result of the UN partition decision.

U. S. imperialism's plans for Panama have struck a snag. A treaty for the establishment of thirteen air bases outside the Canal Zone area has been voted down by the National Assembly of Panama, 54 to 0. Frank T. Hines, whose chief qualification for ambassador to Panama was a first-rate failure as Veterans Administrator, has been withdrawn and less crass proposals and methods are being devised.

NOTES ON WORLD WAR III

There's one in every crowd. In the army it was the character who genuinely liked C-ration hash. Among the capitalist politicians it's the person who doubts the inevitability of World War III.

We have characters like Shawcross on this side of the Atlantic, too. Listen to the New York Times: "No World War III is expected, according to information available at the Chemical Industries Show."

That there is an exceptionally large group of men in this country happy in their lunacy, at least as described by the profound Shawcross, is revealed daily in the paper:

"WASHINGTON (AP)—The National Security Resources Board has asked 14 industrial leaders to meet with it next Wednesday to advise the board on forming a general program for industrial, civilian and military mobilization."

"WASHINGTON (AP)—A group of atomic scientists and a military team of admirals and generals have been assigned to organize and staff the new proving ground for atomic weapons at Eniwetok, in the Far Pacific."

"WASHINGTON (AP)—The highly secret operations at Sandia Base, New Mexico, were referred to for the first time yesterday by the Army as a 'guided missiles project.'"

"WASHINGTON (AP)—Admiral of Fleet Chester W. Nimitz says the United States Navy holds 'undisputed control of the sea' and could establish floating air fields off any shore to attack inland areas."

"The former chief of naval operations predicts... The Navy will arm its carrier-based planes with atom bombs."

ECHOES FROM WORLD WAR II

"Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Army chief of staff," the New York Times states, "is reported by close associates to be on the verge of closing a deal for his wartime memoirs for an amount 'in excess of \$500,000.'"

The impression is given that Miss Ovington is so closely identified with the organization and its leadership that she is protective. This does not make for critical appraisal, or a definitive study of this phase of the struggle for democratic rights for Negroes.

Attention, New York Readers! Dancing, Refreshments, Entertainment AT MANHATTAN BRANCH SATURDAY NIGHT SOCIAL JANUARY 31, 8:30 P. M. CITY Center, 114 W. 14th, N. Y. C. 50 Cents Admission

