

THE TREMENDOUS changes taking place in Poland, pacing the trend for change in the Socialist countries and Marxist movement throughout the world, point up anew the stagnant mentality that rules our American labor movement. Those who speak for American labor, especially George Meany and his advisor, Jay Lovestone, have since the 20th Congress of the USSR's Communist Party assured their followers that there is "no change."

They became most fearful of a change, or most reluctant to see any, because they know of the inevitable changes that would stimulate in the capitalist world, too, in a direction towards peace and less emphasis on the cold war.

The long overdue changes in the socialist countries, and in the outlook and program of the Marxist movements everywhere, were held back for a long time by the stringency, tightness and in some respects exaggerated measures brought on by cold war conditions.

THE PROCESS of "de-Stalinization" coinciding with a considerable easing of world tensions came to a climax in the 20th Congress, when the basic lines for the new outlook and next stage of socialist development were put before the whole world: The much-quoted report pointed to: the tremendous scope and strength of the Socialist world, now stronger than the clear-cut capitalist world; the immense part of the world that is "neutral" although

World of Labor

by George Morris



Seeing Polish Events In Their True Context

in the "zone" of peace; the greatly reduced threat of war and the possibility of avoiding a war; the developing new conditions that offer the possibility for a peaceful parliamentary way to socialism, with many roads leading to it depending on the conditions, and independent initiative in each country.

Narrow-minded people, whether on the right or left didn't see the significance of these conclusions. They cling to dogmatic concepts. People like Meany simply repeated the old refrain, and said, if anything, we need more appropriations for arms and to reassert the Western policy against East with stronger determination than ever. They refuse even to budge on the question of union delegations to the Socialist lands.

AND WE STILL see some people on the left who think that the measure of devotion to the cause of socialism is an ability to recite old dogmas like a catechism. They see themselves as the guardians of the orthodoxy

in these "trying" times. They forget that it is the founders of scientific socialism who were most contemptuous of those who treated their works as a Bible.

Those who were slow to see the big changes in the offing, and the exploding pent-up force to bring them to life; are those who are most disappointed today, and they will be even more disappointed as the days fly by them. The 20th Congress opened the way for something that is unfolding before us with accelerating speed. The events in Poland towards democratization, independence and initiative for the country's own path to socialism give us a measure of the scope and speed of the movement. The conflict we see between contending forces is not a class conflict—not a struggle that involves the basic issue of capitalism vs socialism—but a conflict over emphasis and the pace of the change. In this conflict, some of the very people, even Krushchev who signaled the change to the world, may

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show done earliest some early the change too far.

THESE CONFLICTS largely a manifestation of the transition towards the new outlook and socialist advance, have encouraged the long-cherished "liberation" hopes of the enemies of socialism. This is where they make their big mistake.

The first words from Tybuna Ludu, organ of the Polish Workers Party, following the eventful Sunday, was to tell President Eisenhower "not to meddle in the development of our freedom." This was in response to the "generous" offers of help and sympathy.

A billion dollars in "help" to Yugoslavia, under far more favorable circumstances for the West in the past eight years, did not take that country from its socialist track. How stupid to think that the game could be successful with Poland or any of the other socialist lands that are also traveling the path of change.

CAPITALIST news accounts are strongly biased to give people an impression that the issue is between the East European lands that want a change and the USSR that doesn't. The fact is that some far-reaching changes are under way in the USSR, along the same path. The latest issue of the "Kommunist", theoretical magazine of the Soviet Communist Party to reach here,

(for example) features the need of a drastic change in the work of the 445-million member trade union movement of the country. The lengthy editorial goes into a most critical examination of the work of the unions and concludes that many of the organizations have ceased to be militant and do not "fight" energetically enough for the needs of their members.

The function of the unions, says that editorial, continues to be basically the same as in pre-socialist days, in the sense that they must struggle for an improvement in the conditions of their members, notwithstanding the fact that the conflict is no longer of a class nature and the managers of soviet industry, unlike capitalists, are concerned with the welfare of the workers.

The editorial at some points even seeks to arouse the unionists to awaken them for action. An example is given of a city where the management was not responsive to complaints on working conditions; but where an indignation rally called by the union brought a breakthrough, and there is no more authoritative word and advice in the Soviet Union than an editorial in the "Kommunist".

THIS IS just one example to show how wrong some people could be on events, like those taking place in Poland and other socialist countries today.

From the side of trade union leaders, it seems that Walter Reuther has for some time sensed the senselessness of just harping on the same old song as though nothing is changing in the world. He has departed considerably from the Meany-Lovestone line. This is especially evident by his welcome of Stevenson's campaign for an end of the draft and H-bomb tests, while Meany seems very unhappy about it.

Reuther even went so far last summer as to ask the Polish unions to get a delegation of auto workers visit their country. They sent him the invitation. His delegation would have been there for the Poznan trials and the events that followed in a position to see first-hand the tremendous developments and to draw realistic conclusions on them. But the UAW is still sitting on the invitation. We still don't know why.

CURRAN

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ously administered; and by providing for democratic elections." Curran expressed confidence that these were objectives which Bradley wants to achieve. He stated the opinion that action along these lines would "make possible before long IIA's return to the family of labor."

If IIA fails to take such positive action," Curran added, "it is certain that the united labor movement will act to protect the good name of organized labor."

Curran advised Bradley not to take the vote as an "endorsement of any union officials connected with any form of kick-back, racket