

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

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE PROLETARIAN PARTY OF AMERICA

Vol. XXVI, No. 5, Whole No. 290

Chicago, Ill., May 1957

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Price 10c a Copy

MARXISM AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE

May Day, a labor holiday, is symbolic of the unity of the laboring masses throughout the world in their quest and struggle for a better world, free from ruling class exploitation and social suffering. Its international observance reflects the universal bond and common interest of the exploited masses in all countries alike. By its militancy it emphasizes the class composition and conflicting character of present-day society, to end which it dedicates itself. In this struggle Marxism takes the lead, clearly pointing out the objective as also the practical and logical means to be employed in this huge task of social reconstruction.

Marxism has not invented the class struggle, as its capitalist opponents frequently charge. Just as Isaac Newton's formulation of the theory of gravitation was only the recognition that planetary gravitation already exists, objectively, so too, with the class struggle. Karl Marx formulated the theory of the class struggle, based upon the recognition of its objective existence. This theory led him to the conclusion that this class struggle ultimately cannot but lead to social revolution, the establishment of socialism and a classless society.

That which, therefore, is charged as being a product of Marx's thinking is actually the objective product of society's own development.

Classes and class antagonisms are not peculiar to modern capitalism alone. As the Communist Manifesto, written in 1848 by Marx and Engels clearly states: "The history of all hitherto existing society (i.e., all written history) is the history of class struggles.

"Freeman and slave, patrician and plebian, lord and serf, guild master and journeyman, in a word: oppressor and oppressed, stood in constant opposition to one another, carried on an uninterrupted, now hidden, now open fight, a fight that each time ended, either in a revolutionary re-constitution of society at large, or in the common ruin of the contending classes. . . . The modern bourgeois society that has sprouted from the ruins of feudal society has not done away with class antagonisms. It has but established new classes, new con-

ditions of oppression, new forms of struggle in place of the old ones.

"Our epoch, of the bourgeoisie, possesses, however, this distinctive feature; it has simplified the class antagonisms. Society as a whole is more and more splitting up into two great hostile camps, into two great classes directly facing each other: Bourgeoisie and Proletariat."

Class existence and conflicts between them are not new. They date way back to the beginning of private ownership of property, to the Greek, Roman, Babylonian, Egyptian and other ancient states. There have been many slave re-

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MAY DAY - 1957

The observance of the first of May, known as May Day, as a workers' "holiday," is not legally sanctioned by capitalist governments. In fact, its celebration as an International Labor Day is discouraged if not actually forbidden by the capitalist ruling class. It has been denounced as something alien, the "creation of foreign radical agitators and rabble-rousers."

But contrary to such denunciations, May Day's origin has an American background. It arose out of the early struggles between capital and labor, culminating with the demand and movement for better working conditions and the shorter working day, the 8-hour day movement during 1884-86. In

these early class conflicts, the militancy displayed by many thousands of American workers has had few parallels. That period had also its courageous and honest labor leaders, who did not flinch even in the face of death, those Chicago labor leaders, known as the Haymarket Martyrs, who were executed in 1887 by the capitalist ruling class.

Shortly after, in 1889, the first of May was chosen as a day of "international demonstration" against exploitation upon the recommendation of the American delegates to the Paris congress of what later came to be known as the "socialist" or 2nd International. Since that time, each year, May Day has been celebrated by the class conscious workers the world over.

This very often took the form of huge demonstrations and parades in the main cities of the world. America had its share of this aggressive display of "workers' might" and "strength of their numbers" particularly during the Depression Days of the 1930's. With clenched fists raised high in the air, and singing the "International," the workers marched down the cities' streets in defiance of capitalist "law and order." They had "nothing to lose," for in truth, the depression had really swept many bare,—and they had much to gain, once capitalism would be abolished. Is it any wonder then, that capitalists fear and hate May Day!

But what about May Day, this year, 1957? In spite of the capitalist reaction in America and attempts to suppress its observance, nevertheless the class conscious workers will celebrate it, even though their meetings will not be as large as in the past, or as large as elsewhere throughout the world. The objective conditions in the U. S. are not favorable for huge demonstrations, mainly because the majority of the workers are asleep, socially and politically speaking. Most of them are still steadily employed, and influenced by capitalist propaganda. It has been drummed into their ears that "they never had it so good," that they are "free laborers" and much better

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HOME SCENE

LABOR RACKETEERING

The Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labor or Management Field, in examining some of the officials of the Teamsters Union, have uncovered corruption, collusion between union officials with employers, financial finagling and other shady dealings. Beck, Brewster and Hoffa, the big-wigs of the Teamsters, were exposed for their part in the charges made by the committee. That the Teamsters' officials are no angels, simon-pure trade union men, is no surprise. That other unions may be similarly gifted with Becks and Hoffas, will also come as no surprise. The whole economic setup, the capitalist system, is a robber setup, corrupt to the core. It infects many, a great many, from all accounts, including the unions.

So far, at this writing (April 14), the exposure has dealt in the main with those union officials engaged in corruption, vice, financial juggling and very little with collusion with management. It is with this latter phase, the sell-out by union leaders, IF comprehensively dealt with by this "do-good" Senate Committee, that may be of service to the labor movement. Then it would give a glimpse of what goes on behind the scenes between some union officials and their corrupted counterpart, management. Then, also, the membership of those unions might do something about the whole dirty business of corrup-

tion, collusion and collaboration of their officials.

The legitimate interests of trade unions as a workers' instrument for gaining higher wages and better conditions are now recognized by and large, as necessary by both capital and labor. It was organized for such essential purposes. That its purposes and interests are at times turned upside down by crooked officials and corrupted by the influences of capitalism does not alter the genuine principles of its need and existence. Labor needs an organization to fight back against capital's encroachments.

Since unions operate within the confines of capitalism, corruption, collusion and such are bound to creep in from time to time. A vigilant membership could limit the evils of the system but not eradicate it entirely, as the breeding ground (the profit system) for such wrong doing is ever present.

An aroused and vigilant membership could do more, by getting off the tread-mill of limiting their fight merely for higher wages and better working conditions, a guerilla war, that leaves them where they are, still exploited. Instead, they should begin to use their organization for higher goals, the abolition of exploitation. By so doing, they'll arrive at real security and brotherhood of man.

ECONOMIC JITTERS

There is less and less concern about inflation and more and more

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MARXISM AND THE CLASS STRUGGLE

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bellions against master-class rule, which albeit unsuccessful, nevertheless expressed strong resentment against their conditions of oppression. Right down thru feudalism we read about the many peasant revolts against conditions of serfdom.

In modern capitalism, or bourgeois society, class antagonisms have not been done away with, but they have been simplified, as the Manifesto says. They have also become intensified. We have two great classes, the bourgeoisie or capitalists, and the proletariat or the wage-working class.

That which characterizes capitalism from preceding societies is its ever march, "Constantly revolutionizing the instruments of production, and thereby the relations of production, and with them the whole relations of society." (Communist Manifesto)

But this constant revolutionizing and improvement in industry, commerce and communication cannot be done without at the same time concentrating and organizing the labor force. Today we have tens of thousands of workers under one roof. With the growth of capital there is, then, a simultaneous growth and organization of the proletariat as a class. It is this organization of the proletariat by the bourgeoisie for its own production purposes that inadvertently unites the workers in their independent struggle for their own class interest.

It is out of the capitalist relations of society, the constant conflicts between capital and labor over the conditions of work and share of its product that Marxism eventually arose. These class struggles, the conditions and relations of capitalist society, plus the philosophical and scientific advances gained at the time made possible the crowning achievement of Marx.

His discovery of the law of Value and Surplus Value; as well as the Materialist Conception of History, these two theories led to a scientific and historical analysis of capitalism, introducing order into history.

From this time on history ceased to be a conglomeration of disconnected and inexplicable events. It became a connected and changing process in which the material conditions of production and the changes within them set the pattern for all other changes in the social superstructure. It followed from this materialist standpoint that classes, not individuals or their ideas, were the makers and changers of history. If up to Marx's time (and still is official today) it was regarded that great men, kings, queens, generals, ideologists played the dominant role in the shaping of the course of events; a new ideology was born which laid stress on changing material or economic conditions as the basis, and

class struggles as the motive power of history. Thus the great French Revolution of 1789 was the product of the struggle between the feudal nobility and the rising bourgeoisie; thus the Russian Revolution of 1917 was the struggle between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat; thus the American Civil War was a struggle between the Southern slave owners and the Northern rising manufacturers.

This Marxism has achieved. It made a science out of history, similar to the physical sciences. And socialism which up to his time bore the utopian stamp, became a science, that is scientific socialism, or Marxism.

Marxism is the highest form of class consciousness or understanding. In their every day struggles the workers may be conscious of their independent class interests as far as their immediate needs are concerned. They will unite and battle for a shorter work week, more pay. That is all well and good, but not enough. As long as the struggle remains within these limits the basic conditions for their exploitation — capitalism remains. Nothing is definitely solved. Their lot as wage-workers is sealed, always subject to conditions of economic and political insecurity. Only by advancing into the higher form of class consciousness or Marxian consciousness can the workers hope to realize a permanent condition of economic security, a better world for those who perform all the useful and necessary functions of society.

In his economic analysis Marx correctly pointed out the course of development of capitalism as well as the conditions and internal contradictions leading to its decline, the role of the capitalist state, as the public power of coercion, the political path that the proletariat would have to take in assuming revolutionary power. All these have since been historically vindicated. Capitalism is now everywhere in a state of general decline. With the exception of the U.S. which is the main bulwark, capitalism cannot for long hold out on its own. Nor is the situation in the U.S. as healthy as it appears on the surface. True the workers are very backward in their class consciousness, still ardently defending the system which exploits them. But will they be as willing and loyal to defend the system that keeps them down when jobs become scarce once again, as they well might? There are many current changes in technology being introduced into big industry. It can be safely assumed that the next few years will bring its toll in labor cutbacks. Does that suggest increased labor security and prosperity?

U.S. capitalism is rapidly running into a snag. It is building up its productive powers to such an extent that its conditions of output will far exceed its outlet. What

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off than the "slaves behind the iron curtain."

However, these American "citizens" are beginning to worry lately. They are wondering: how long will their prosperity last? There have been some "soft spots" developing in industry, particularly in textiles, house appliances, building construction, automobiles, etc. Even the steel industry announced some "curtailment in production." These "free workers" have produced so abundantly that they over-produced, that is produced more than can be sold on the market. So, in the midst of "prosperity" some workers have already lost their jobs. They are "free" of their jobs, but no worker relishes that kind of "freedom."

Capitalism is a "buying and selling" system based on competition for a profit and exploitation of wage-labor. So long as it can find a market to dispose of its products at a profit, that long, and no longer, will it employ labor.

There can be no real economic security for the worker under capitalism. Furthermore, even when a worker is employed steadily, he is under constant economic pressure from his capitalist employer who wants ever more work from him, and at the same time pay him as little as possible. It stands to reason that the less in wages a capitalist pays, the bigger are his profits. That is why the capitalists are opposed to labor unions. The latter endeavor to increase the wages which means a cut in the profits of the capitalists.

Lately much noise was made in the press, TV, and radio, about the "misuse of union funds" by such union officials as the head of the teamsters' union. He was denounced, not alone by the capitalist class and its "Senators," but also by such "union brothers" as Meany, Reuther & Co., the heads of the AFL-CIO. They put on a good show of being "outraged" by such "racketeering" in the labor unions. However, that which is far worse than any racketeering, that is, the exploitation of wage-labor by capital, they are very silent about. In fact, they support that very system, capitalism, that sucks the lifeblood of the worker thru exploitation.

Thus, on this May Day, American labor has a big job on its hands, some "unfinished business." That job is not only to rid the unions of the racketeers, but to go even further and kick out capital's own henchmen, its "labor-lieutenants," those misleaders who hide behind the cloak of "respectability" and "honesty." Only

then? Crisis or war, or both. Is that the answer? Is that the prospect of a better, harmonious world? Hardly. The proletariat holds the key to the future. No other class has the material interest to gain thru a change. Capital

when this is done, can the workers say they have made a step forward, toward their "historic mission" of abolishing exploitation altogether, and with it all racketeering.

By contrast, elsewhere throughout the world, especially in that 1/3 under workers' control, in such countries as the Soviet Union, Peoples China, and East European Democracies, there have been advances. Even that set-back in Hungary, caused by last year's counter-revolutionary attempt at a capitalist restoration, is being overcome with the aid of the Soviet Union, economically as well as politically. It will take time to complete the industrial development of such countries like Hungary and Poland. The class conscious workers of these nations know that in the Soviet Union they have their best ally, regardless of capitalist slanders.

Furthermore, the Soviet Union has gained much prestige abroad, especially among such Arabian nations like Egypt and Syria. She was the first big nation to condemn the British, French, Israeli invasion of Egypt and offered to come to the latter's aid. This, more than American intervention, caused the invaders to withdraw their forces. Capitalist imperialism, American, British and French, feel frustrated at this rise in Soviet prestige.

The peaceful overtures of the Soviet Union had won for her many friends, like India, for example. But at the same time the Soviet Union has warned the whole capitalist world what it can expect if it precipitates a nuclear war. Particularly, it warned those Western European nations who have leased bases to U.S. armed forces that they would be the first to be devastated in the event of such a war.

Threatened by the capitalist world, especially by the U. S. imperialists, the Soviet Union had no alternative but to keep herself well-armed, as she is today with nuclear weapons and even guided missiles. This May Day she will rejoice in her strength—but will also look forward to that day when no nation will threaten the peace of the world.

However, peace on a world-wide scale will only be brought about when capitalism in the remaining two-thirds of the world will have been abolished. To achieve this, as Karl Marx put it: "The proletariat of each country must, of course, first of all settle matters with its own bourgeoisie." This, then, is the message of the Proletarian Party of America on this May Day, 1957.

Al Wysocki

has all to lose, and it stubbornly resists change. But the workers have the world to gain. They have but to grasp the revolutionary and scientific content of Marxism and the world is theirs.

R. Daniels

PROLETARIAN NEWS

A Journal for the Working Class
Devoted to the Education of Workers and
Their Struggle for Power
Published Monthly by the
Proletarian Party of America
Subscriptions—12 issues for \$1.00
Send All Subscriptions, Contributions, Etc., to
PROLETARIAN NEWS
333 W. North Avenue, Chicago 10, Illinois

The Ebb and Flow of Working Class Consciousness

The general organized movement of the working class, in all of its economic and political phases, is affected by every social breeze that blows, most often unfavorably. At times, it surrenders almost completely to capitalist ideology and drifts with prevailing conditions. It allows its own interests to be overshadowed by those of the capitalist class. In its struggle with the employers, it takes the initiative only when faced with dire consequences.

Altho numerically strong, the organized movement of the American workers is sadly lacking in militancy and social vision. Theoretically, it is at low ebb, and in retreat before the organized onslaught of the political and economic forces of big business. Therefore, the American working class, instead of being the vanguard of the world's workers—as behooves a class with its qualifications—seems to be satisfied with the role of rearguard, and is allowing itself to be used as a tool of Wall Street's imperialistic policies.

As U.S. capitalism moves toward total war, and possible destruction, the workers—organized and unorganized alike—are spinelessly drifting along with it. The new money-bag colonialism it either is unable to comprehend or tacitly approves. Its sons are in uniform in many parts of the world, propping up decadent monarchies and semi-fascist republican governments. And all of this, with practically no protest, let alone drastic opposition.

How has this degeneracy fallen upon the American workers? How come that they have allowed themselves to be sucked into this subservient world role? Have they forgotten the depression years, the hungry thirties? Is it now a case of full stomachs and empty heads? Or is it national pride that has carried them away because America has assumed the task of world savior of a decadent social system, and all that Americans previously denounced as undesirable, such as the Japanese monarchy and its ancient ruling cast, the remnants of German Nazism, British Toryism, and similar obstruction to human progress?

What a price the American workers may have to pay for this imperialistic scavenger job they have allowed the political henchmen of Wall Street to jockey them into!

The ups and downs of this social system, its booms and bursts, register themselves upon the mass mind. That we must expect, but there should be a measure of social vision, some comprehension of the disastrous drift, on the part of the leadership of America's mass movements. That does not seem to be forthcoming. On the contrary, the top leaders of the labor unions are cooperating in the building of Wall Street's financial empire, with its "verge of war" diplomacy.

Big business is firmly in the political saddle. Congressional opposition to its policies is practically nonexistent. It is sure of itself, convinced that nothing stands in the way of its world-wide activities. At home, it even has taken the initiative against the docile labor unions. In many states it has set up anti-union laws, under the euphonious title of "the right to work." However, that is not the only line

of attack. It uses many undermining methods.

Just at present, under the pretext of driving corruption from the labor unions (a job the workers themselves neglected) the capitalists politicians are out to hobble those organizations, and render them inefficient through obstructive red-tape measures. However, abolishing the labor unions is not the aim of the capitalists, but reducing them to helplessness, to blunt their solidarity, and force them to work at negative cross-purposes. A lifeless labor movement will serve capitalism's purpose better than its destruction.

Unfortunately, there will be no worth-while internal change from the top. The labor leaders, and their special privileges, are not menaced, but the dues-paying membership is. It is there where the awakening must take place. The entire union practice must be overhauled. Careerism must be discouraged. Big salaries promote contempt for those who pay them, the card-carrying membership. The economic interest of the high salaried leaders become something apart from the interest of the rank and file membership. Those who have something to conserve usually become conservative, and often reactionary.

During, and following, the war, the unions carried out the wishes of the capitalists. They drove the "left-wing" out of the few offices it held and off the active committees, and many they drove from the unions entirely. Granted that the "lefts" often erred and sometimes acted stupidly, but they never deliberately betrayed. They constantly fought big business.

With the "lefts," especially avowed communists, eliminated, the bosses now turn their attack upon the "rights." But it won't be a frontal attack. That would be too clumsy. Besides, they need the "right-wing" leadership. It is the mass membership they are aiming to hog-tie. It will be an indirect attack, "the crushing embrace of a friend." A Jesuitic approach will work far greater destruction to militant unionism than an open breach.

The American capitalist politicians are clever and unscrupulous. They realize that the time is propitious for their undermining, anti-union work. The apathy of the workers—following the line of least resistance, as they think—their indifference to social questions, their political unconsciousness, has reduced the mass movement of the workers to an invertebrate body.

This spinelessness has not always been true of the American workers. They have a fine record of militancy and courageous struggle behind them. They were victorious in many industrial battles. The American labor movement has been tested and it has measured up well in many desperate crises, many adverse situations. However, it is not true to itself when it pursues a pro-capitalist policy and discriminates against any group within its ranks. And a stab in the back often is the reward of their rich overlords for such servitude. That is what is now being prepared for official labor's subservience to capitalism.

The capitalists don't like labor unions, but, they reason, if such must be endured, it is best that they be weakened and rendered as harmless as possible. There are many ways of achieving such aims. The internal spies and disrupters get certain results, but in a limited way. It is the greater objective, the tying up of whole industries, that the capitalists fear. Legal enactments, with heavy penalties, injunctions and similar measures are successfully used to checkmate the labor unions. More of that sort of thing can be expected from labor's political "friends," the Republicans and the Democrats.

Repression, however, does not always work as the capitalists desire. It has frequently

happened that during times of extreme suffering, the workers have put forth their best efforts and made their greatest gains. For instance, it was in the depth of the depression, out of the spontaneous sit-down strikes, that the greatest mass movement of the workers took place. It was then when the C.I.O. succeeded in organizing the Auto Industry, Steel, Rubber, Oil and such, and that the A. F. of L. also had its greatest numerical gains. This quantitative development, unfortunately, was not followed by a corresponding qualitative advance. The theoretical level has remained low, and class-consciousness today is conspicuous by its absence.

It is almost incomprehensible that workers in the most advanced industrial nation, literate and with know-how, should be lagging behind in the forward march of the world's workers in general, and especially in the field of politics. There is scarcely a nation in the world today where the working people have not developed their own political party, separate and apart from the parties of their employers. Yet, the American workers are still, in the main, without independent political action, and are still depending upon the crumbs thrown to them by the political parties of their exploiters.

Even in Great Britain, where the workers are probably closer to the apathy of their American brothers than elsewhere, the workers have a mass labor party. That, at least, whatever its theoretical and practical shortcomings may be, is a decided advance, by comparison. In most countries there are a number of working class parties with mass support. All of which indicates a higher degree of class consciousness.

It may be said that such a party is not needed by American workers because they enjoy a higher standard of living than workers elsewhere. That, in itself, altho greatly exaggerated, may account for much of the American workers' apathy, but it is not the entire story, nor does it explain the workers' blindness to Wall Street's foreign policy. Will it be necessary for them to lose millions of their sons before discovering why they were sent to those foreign lands?

As the vast numbers of Chinese, Russians and peoples of eastern Europe are drawn closer together upon a classless basis, the American workers, socially speaking, are still carrying upon their backs a rich class of parasites who live in luxury from the profits wrung from the productivity of social labor.

It will soon be forty years since the workers and peasants of Russia took over that vast nation, and since then have completely transformed its economy, making the Soviet Union one of the modern industrial powers. China has followed that lead. Thus we find that the backward workers of the world have gone forward, while the hitherto advanced, such as the British and Americans, hang back and allow themselves to be used as pawns in the counter-revolutionary world struggle in which American finance imperialists take the lead.

In effect, two worlds now confront each other, armed with the most destructive weapons ever known. One is the old world of capitalism. The other is the new world of the workers. Millions of workers, within the capitalist nations, are resisting the scheme of their ruling classes to destroy the workers' world, but they are not yet strong enough to take over those nations. In Britain, France, Italy and other countries, mass parties of the working class are definitely opposed to the anti-working class alliance, led by America and aimed at the nations of the workers' world. American workers seem to think that it is

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The Ebb and Flow of Working Class Consciousness

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none of their concern, but they are being dragged into it.

Here the labor unions have offered no mass resistance to this drift. Their political oppo-

sition is almost non-existent, and time is running out. However, it is not yet too late for American labor to assert itself in relation to both national and international affairs. It is high time that the American working class shook itself out of its torpor and took its stand with the vanguard of the world's workers in the universal struggle to break the bonds of

exploitation and reorganize the whole world upon a classless and warless basis, a live-and-let-live world of peace and plenty. This great change is in the making. This new world is on its way. It would take a tremendous leap forward if the American working class took its place in the revolutionary ranks.

John Keracher.

THUMBNAILS

THE MANY AND A FEW: Reasons for the U.S. "reversing" her previous position and joining the Baghdad Pact became evident when the U.S. and Great Britain announced plans to put the squeeze on Egypt. They are studying ways of by-passing the Suez Canal by running an oil pipe line through the Baghdad Pact nations (Iraq, Iran and Turkey) to the Mediterranean.

Private capital, ignoring repeated warnings about rock-bottom prestige among Arab nations, is very interested in financing such a pipe line provided they can get diplomatic guarantees of protection for such investments.

Of course, the first step is to join the team and become a Pact member, no matter what effect it has on future relations with hostile Arab states.

So, once again the "representatives of the people" have committed the lives of the whole nation to another explosive situation in the Middel East for the sake of making the world safe (?) for the greed and profit of the few.

WHO'S WHO: The trade union movement is currently engaged in a game of "good guys and bad guys." As you know, in order to have good guys you must have evil—so UAW-CIO leaders unload the bad guys (in this case Beck and the like) so they can be the good guys. But in order to be good one must have a reason (or excuse) for making someone look bad — and they didn't have to look very far.

In this case the trick was to deny, under penalty of suspension, the right of individual UAW-CIO leaders to invoke the Fifth Amendment before a congressional committee on the grounds it is un-American and therefore bad.

Now, along comes someone like Dave Beck who is forced to invoke the Fifth Amendment to save his crooked neck, which helps to make the good guys look really good and the bad ones seem very bad.

This is happening at a time of mounting capitalist pressure to break the back of the trade union movement through "exposure of dishonesty," right to work laws, endless legal battles, etc.

However, it is interesting to note, this "new union policy" of denying an individual member his choice in applying the Fifth Amendment, without losing union support, is the biggest back breaker to be suffered by the trade union movement in many a day. Unconditional surrender is what capitalism needs from labor, and got, thanks to Meany, Reuther and Co.

P.S.: We have trouble telling the good guys from the bad guys and we feel sure history won't be able to tell them apart at all.

THE BITTER TRUTH: "Son, you should think about learning a trade, like me."

"But, Pop, you told me the other day the garbage man makes more than you."

The Canadian publication, Northern Neighbors, reports, "The average salary for teachers at the

University of California is \$7,250. The City of San Francisco last year paid each of its 503 garbage collectors \$7,441.

ANOTHER JOLT: The right-to-work law campaign received a shot in the arm last month when Indiana's state legislature adopted a law forbidding closed shop unions in any form in that state. This was the 18th state to take such action. The victory for capital was considerable in view of the fact that Indiana was among the first industrial states to line up in the battle against growing trade union power.

It is generally agreed that small business interests are the backbone of organizations demanding

the end of closed shop agreements.

Smaller industries, local in character, seem to feel confident they can deal with their employees on a more or less individual basis.

On the other hand, the big corporations who oppose such laws hate the thought of giving up that handy appendage to their public relations department, commonly referred to as "collective bargaining agents" of the trade unions. Corporate power sees the value of such a complex organization which, at present, they can use as a go-between in handling their problems with the working class. And all paid for from the dues of the workers too!

L. D.

HOME SCENE

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talk about the downturn of business and the rise in joblessness. Evidence is piling up that the jittery feeling over business and jobs are real.

Business failures have reached the highest level since 1939. In 1956 the monthly average was 1057; during January and February of this year they averaged 1147.

Inventories climbed to the highest dollar total on record, \$88,700,000,000, a 7 per cent rise over a year ago. Steel operating at 93 per cent now is expected to drop to around 80 per cent capacity before long. Automobiles in dealers' hands were listed at 700,000 at the end of February, an increase of 100,000 cars over January.

Housing starts dropped below the million mark in February with no new rush of applications for government loans in sight. The million mark is supposed to be the minimum needed to replace the old houses and take care of the growth of population.

Prices in raw materials are weak where not supported by government aid and stockpiling. Is it any wonder that the business community is uneasy? With the clamor against the tax burden and for economy in government, the spending plans in Washington are getting a hard look.

Labor, too, is getting hurt. In the N.Y. Times, April 4th, business section: "Laid Off Or Fired, It's All The Same," subheaded "Furloughs of Workers Show Marked Increase in Wide Variety of Industries," Richard Rutter, the writer points out: "But the majority of the present lay-offs are results of specific business conditions such as swollen inventories, sagging demand and shrinking earnings. As

such, they indicate that the soft spots in the economic picture may be becoming too soft for comfort --to say nothing of optimism." The writers goes on to say: "One reason for the latest increase (in unemployment) is that Government compilers have recently for the first time considered workers who have been laid off 'temporarily' as unemployed." Previously to now, these jobless were considered on "furlough," vacation without pay, so to speak.

We now learn from the press, that last year for the first time in the U.S. the production workers, those engaged in manufacturing, mining, farming and construction were outnumbered by those employed in the trade, services, finance, utilities and transportation. The rise in productivity, the increase in automated factories, has enabled a greater output of goods with proportionately less workers. Automation is cutting in deeply in some of the big industries that lends itself to that development. The refuge of the service industries may be only temporary as these, too, are engulfed by the new technological revolution. Business machines of all types are being introduced. The outlook for employment looks dimmer than ever.

The big unions are conscious of the development and are beginning to talk about a 4-day week or 30-hour work week. Sharing the poverty of labor is not the solution to the problem. The answer lies in the abolition of capitalism and the reconstruction of society into socialism.

L.B.

"We see then that that which determines the magnitude of the value of any article is the amount of labor socially necessary, or the labor-time socially necessary for its production."

—Karl Marx (Capital, Vol. 1)

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