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BUNDLE RATES ON APPLICATION

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The front men of world capitalism continue to walk the tight rope and the Cold War rages on. Will the crisis over Berlin end the era of limited wars (18 of them since the end of Warld War II according to Gen. Maxwell D. Taylor) and usher in World War III? This is certainly conceivable but what is definite and positive is the fact that the capitalist world can no longer afford the luxury of "Peace." The armaments race must go on not simply because of the terrible struggle between the U. S. A. and the U. S. S. R. for world domination at this particular time but also because the production of armaments are now an integral part of the economy of all capitalist nations of any consequence. And so the bombast and the threats between the rival capitalist statesmen continue to keep pace with the production of nuclear weapons and man-made satellites.

It is not at all difficult for the typical American worker to see the humbug and hypocricy behind the international politics of the Russian ruling class. That Mr. Khrushchev & Co. are any more interested in the welfare of Berlin and Germany now than were the Russian rulers in 1945 when their troops marched into the smoking ruins of the Nazi capital is indeed doubtful. Certainly not to an extent greater than what the interest of Russian State Capitalism would permit.

This our average American fellow-worker can understand and he knows that the Soviet officials put forth so much hog-wash when they express strong concern for the "rights of self-determination by the whole German people."

On the other hand, neither is it difficult for the average Russian worker to see behind the pious pratings of Mr. Eisenhower and his State Department on the same subject. They know full well that the American ruling class is only interested in the German question to the extent that it affects American interests and that were it not for this fact, the American government would not intervene in Berlin to a greater extent than it intervened in Hungary in 1956. There would be expressions of sympathy for the "gallant" West Berliners and West Germans generally, but no threat of war.

Where the Russian workers and the American workers both fail miserably, however, is in their ability to see behind the hypocricy of their own rulers. Apt as they may be in recognizing the subjectivity of the other, neither can see his own slave status.

Caught in the middle are the unfortunate workers of Berlin. Should the two great Power blocs go to war they stand an excellent chance of becoming "liberated" as they were in 1945, along with their fellow-workers in the armed forces of the contending "liberators" and the rest of Europe generally. In fact the situation could become much worse for them since the Eisenhower statement ruling out ground war and favoring nuclear war instead.

Although the Berlin crisis like all the other crises of the Cold War may be at least temporarily settled before this issue of The Western Socialist sees the light of day it is still important to set the record clear from a socialist viewpoint.

The Socialist Viewpoint

The fact that there is still no peace treaty with Germany; that that nation is still divided into two conflicting regimes, neither one of which officially recognizes the existence of the other despite the enormous volume of trade which goes on between them; that neither the Russian nor the American nor any other ruling class desires to see a strong, unified Germany upset the apple-cart once more; yet on the other hand neither do they enjoy seeing the Bonn Republic waxing strong on its own and threatening world markets; the fact that the German capitalist class, despite its present advantages in not having to maintain as costly a military set-up as it would if it regained its status as a unified, separate nation nevertheless would undoubtedly enjoy the opportunity to return to world power; and of course the fact that the German workers are undoubtedly as patriotic as they ever were and as are the Russian and American and all the other workers; all these factors add up to a bundle of contradictions that are pregnant with danger.

Each side talks of the freedoms within its borders and the lack of freedom on the other side. Inasmuch as West Germany and West Berlin itself constitute the more highly industrialized portion of the area it has of course more glitter and it appears that the workers are better off than their fellows in the eastern section. Yet the old saw that "all that glitters is not gold" seems to hold true in this case. Otto Zausmer of the Boston Globe, reporting from the scene tells us that the difference is very apparent between the drabness of East Berlin and the brightness of the western section, that the stores in the western side are well stocked with merchandise of all kinds "at a price" and that the West Berlin worker can buy a suit of clothes any time he wants to part with a month's income. Not that the average worker in America is much better fixed even though he can buy a suit of clothes for anywhere up to the equivalent of a week's wages. He still can't seem to acquire a decent wardrobe.

The differences in the standards of East and West Berlin workers and East and West German workers generally are undoubtedly based upon the same factors which result in differences between standards of Northern United States city workers and Southern U. S. rural workers. The reasons so many workers continue to make their way from East to West Germany are quite likely similar also to the reasons that Southern U. S. workers pour into the cities of the North — particularly Negro workers.

And so again we make our position clear. Despite the crocodile tears of the Khrushchevs, the Eisenhowers, the Adenauers and all the other spokesmen for capitalism; despite the old moth-eaten slogans that continue to be raised of democracy vs. dictatorship; despite the continuing and continual lies by the politicians and propagandists on both sides of the "iron curtain" about Russian "Communism"; there is no interest in this quarrel worth the shedding of a single worker's blood. There is no reason for the working class of state-capitalist Russia to kill or be killed by the working class of capitalist America or Germany or any other nation. The only struggle worth participating in for the workers of the world is still the greater struggle — the class struggle. Workers of the world unite for Socialism.

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