SOCIALISM ON TV

Below is a report of an interview and a partial list of questions asked of James D'Arcy on Tom Duggan's TV program, Channel 13, Los Angeles, Sept. 6th, 1958.

Duggan: We have as a guest tonight James D'Arcy of the World Socialist Party.

Ques: Mr. D'Arcy, what is your nationality?

Ans: I was born in Scotland, the last twenty years I have lived in London.

Ques: What political party do you belong to?

Ans: To the Socialist Party of Great Britain, which is a sister party to the one I am representing here tonight — The World Socialist Party of the U. S. A.

Ques: How many members do you have in Great Britain?

Ans: I do not have that information, however, we are a minority party of very few members.

Ques: Isn't it very small compared to the population of Britain?

Ans: Yes, we regret the numbers of socialists there as elsewhere in the world are small, we wish there were more of us.

Ques: The Labor Party in Britain is large, are they not socialists?

Ans: No they are not, there are few socialists amongst them, they accept members from all walks of life, the majority of these are non-socialists.

Duggan: They claim to be socialists, and we accept them here as such. Tell us the difference between your World Socialist Parties and the Labor Party.

Ans: The party I belong to and the sister groups: The World Socialist Party of this country, with the Socialist Parties existing in Ireland, Australia, New Zealand and Canada, all claim that Capitalism cannot be made to run in the interest of those that produce wealth.

Ques: Does not the Labor Party claim the same thing?

Ans: No the Labor Party asserts that by advocating better housing conditions, and various welfare schemes, in other words by smoothing the rough edges, Capitalism can be run for the benefit of the workers. They are essentially a reform party.

Ques: But the Labor Party when in power did nationalize much of the industry in Britain. Isn't that Socialism?

Ans: No, that did nothing to benefit the workers, but it did benefit the owners of industry. It assured them by a guarantee of regular dividends from Government bonds, in place of the uncertain earnings they had received in the past by the private companies. They have no intention of abolishing profits, no desire to change the for sale system to one based on production for use.

Ques: Why do you say things are not produced for use. Are not the automobiles you see on the high-ways, and the houses that have been built, used by the American workers and others?

Ans: Yes, I admit that workers on this side do have more cars, and in some respects are better off than we in England.

But cars are not made for use, or those many thousands stock-piled by the manufacturers, would be used on the road to replace the worn out wrecks that are so unsafe to high-way travellers, and would be made available to millions who want them. I have only been in America a short time, but it seems to me workers must have cars to transport them to and from their work.

Ques: How do conditions here compare with those in England?

Ans: I find in general we all face the same problems, i.e., how to feed, clothe, and house the family, how to stretch the pay-check, the insecurity of the job, the same hazardous outlook as to the danger of world war, and atomic bombs, and the haunting spectre of another universal depression.

Ques: How do you propose to go about eliminating these problems of capitalism, and bring about Socialism?

Ans: The method is one of understanding and education. When people understand the cause of their problems, which is the social system Capitalism, they will seek for its solution and end it forever.

Duggan concluded: Education is what we have our colleges for. For myself I want to say in closing, that I will remain in the good old Democratic Party of America.

Thank you Mr. D'Arcy for having the privilege of interviewing you. It has been a pleasure. We will send to your address in London a clock as a souvenir from this program.

From notes taken by Fred Evans, Los Angeles Local.

NAGASAKI

(The second Japanese city destroyed by an "A" bomb — was it bombed for military or for "scientific" purposes?)

"One of the constructors of this last bomb (of the three built up to that time), who for obvious reasons does not wish to be named, admits: 'I dreaded the use of this "better" bomb. I hoped that it would not be used and trembled at the thought of the devastation it would cause. And yet, to be quite frank, I was desperately anxious to find out whether this type of bomb would also do what was expected of it, in short, whether its intricate mechanism would work. These were dreadful thoughts, I know, and still I could not help having them'."

Quoted in "Brighter than a Thousand Suns", by Robert Jungk.

We do not blame him for wanting his name withheld.

Letters to the Editor:

POLITICS AND UNIONS

May I comment on the question, "Politics and Trade Unions." There is no room in trade unions for politics, the function of unions is to get the best wage, and the best working conditions possible for its members, and to resist any move for the reduction of same. Whenever politics is introduced that is dynamite, dividing all its members into various sections, Conservative, Liberals, Socreds, CCF, Communist, then the fight is on.

Doesn't history mean anything to these so-called leaders? The unions of the U.S.A. advised their members to vote Democratic, they voted Republican; in Canada they advised them to vote CCF, they voted Conservative.

These union leaders should pay less attention to their own ambitions, and educate the rank and file, that reforms under the present system have proven their futility today and that the expansion of capital and the production of goods are tending toward the saturation point, to what the markets can absorb.

The only solution to this problem, is the abolition of wage system, and the production of goods for the use of the whole community.

C. LUFF

Victoria Daily Times, 10-2-58.

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CRITICS OF SOCIALISM

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