There's A Hitch

Although there has been a tremendous advance in science and technology, the question arises as to just why they have failed to solve the ever increasing problems that beset the world. The best in technical brains and skills are deeply involved in producing the weapons and systems that will make the next great holocaust the most devasting yet. In addition to the waste of military efforts the scientists and engineers are dissipating their talents and energies to conjure up the many commodities that no rational society would think of producing. This junk is foisted on the working class by formidable merchandising and advertising means. Socialists have maintained that the capabilities are present for a solution of the economic problem but they cannot be used under capitalism.

Corroboration of the fact that we have enough technical knowledge to solve most of mankind's problems comes from the president of one of the nation's top scientific institutes, The California Institute of Technology. Dr. Lee A. DuBridge, in a speech at the New School for Social Research (New York Herald Tribune, 10-25-61) said that we now have enough technical knowledge to solve most of mankind's problems — from feeding "every hungry mouth on earth" to running every factory and heating and lighting every building with energy from uranium to building a car or washing machine that will run for 500 years.

The Caltech president painted a posible dream world where:

There would be no traffic jams, and every one could come and go "with speed and comfort."

The air of all cities would be free of "all forms of man-made pollution."

Houses — and even whole cities — would be weatherproof, "heatproof, coldproof and stormproof."

Large number of people or masses of materials could be transported from one end of the earth to the other in a few hours.

Fresh water, made from sea water, could "irrigate all the world's arid regions."

Dr. Du Bridge said that it was technically possible now to irrigate all the western desert in this country with distilled sea water to provide extra food for India or Burma or Africa.

But there is one hitch to making it all come true, said Dr. DuBridge, "just one small difficulty. **Money!**" (my emphasis).

Money, Dr. DuBridge, will not be any difficulty under a classless **moneyless** Socialist society. The problem will have been eliminated.

An unlimited moneyless society will be the only one in harmony with the illimitable potentialities of man's technical and productive capacity. There will be no buying and selling because who will want to buy what is freely available. Money will not be needed. This is a fantastic, unbelievable concept to those brought up and educated under present day society. The idea of money as well as its necessity (necessary it is now for both capitalists and workers) is bred in every fiber from childhood on. Everybody chases the buck. Money is the only true religion under capitalism and the way to accumulate it is by exploitation of the working class. When the working class achieves its economic emancipation it will slough off the fetishes that bind it.

Dr. DuBridge but confesses the limitations of capitalism. It is production for profit, governed by the economic laws of value and price. Too many confess its shortcoming, apologize for them, and try to patch them up. Too few are willing to go all the way to the only answer: Socialism and production for use.

W. N.

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