

The Productive Relations

The sum total of the productive relations constitutes the economic structure of society. The basis of the productive relations of capitalism is that the working class has to sell its labor power to the capitalist class in order to live. This fundamental relationship is static. Society, however, is much more complex.

The relationships among the workers, among the capitalists, and between the workers and capitalists are all part of these definite indispensable relations that shape, not simply the society, but the individual. For example, can anyone deny that the special oppression of black people is part of the productive relations? Or that the position of the proletarian woman is not part? The struggle for reform is precisely a struggle to reform the productive relations. In this country, there have been the legal reforms of Social Security, civil rights and women's rights, to name a few, but capitalism cannot provide any more. With no reforms left, society turns toward revolution.

The Revolutionary Process

The beginnings of the revolution is not within the economic struggle. There is no way to transform the economic struggle to a political one. They are two different processes. One

is against the capitalists and the other is against the state.

Processes start with changes that create a polarity and a line of compulsion. The means of production have developed past, and come into contradiction with, the mode of exchange. A larger and larger section of the population cannot be employed under capitalism. The unemployed, in turn, then cannot purchase their subsistence.

That section of the class that has been driven out of social production and into the fight for survival is the first example of political polarity. They cannot fight the capitalists because there is no connection in production. Their struggle is against the political means of control. The political struggle develops when the state power interferes with the circulation of the necessities of life.

From this time onward, everything depends upon the subjective. The understanding of this process must come from outside the activity. The knowledge of the science of society has to be introduced to the fighters and to the rest of society. The political struggle intensifies to the degree that the polarities separate, connections liquidate and all forces flow to one or the other pole. This depends upon activity. The greater the activ-