Schumacher wanted and his comrades will undoubtedly strive for in the immediate future, the fact remains that Germany is well on the way. There have been, of course, certain "safeguards" set up which are supposed to prevent Germany from using her resources and industry, and her proposed 500,000-man section of the new West European Army, for national aggrandizement as she has done in the past. There is, for example, the "Schuman Plan" which sets up an Authority of nine men — German, French and other West Europeans to control the production and distribution of the Ruhr, to make the coal, iron-ore and steel produced in this region available on the same terms to all of West Europe. The Plan is not universally liked, however, among the Ruhr industrialists. Those who produce steel are quite favorable as they have a vast new market opened and can once more wax fat on profits; those whose interests are tied up with iron and coal, however, see the Plan as an attempt on the part of the French to grab control of this most valuable part of Germany.

The importance of the Ruhr in the rebirth of Germany was ably brought out by Theodore H. White in an article in The New York (Sunday) Times Magazine for August 10, 1952. He brought out how the very operation of capitalism's needs resulted in "the change of Germany from a defeated enemy to a new ally."

"The first objectives were to make the ruined Ruhr produce a minimum of steel and the maximum of coal for recovery, to dismantle all plants above the levels set by the Allied Four Power Commission, and to devise some means of separating the resources of the Ruhr from the ancient ownership that had bred so much evil. By 1947 however, Europe's economic crisis and the need for Ruhr production resulted in recall of the old Ruhr technicians . . . In 1950 the Western foreign ministers took off remaining controls and urged Germany to make all the steel she could as long as the Western defense effort required it."

The facts of life are hard and starry-eyed idealists will always find them hard to take. The fact remains, however, that it will take much more than Schuman Plans to prevent Germany from once more emerging as the industrialist giant of Europe; nor will the "inter-nationalization" of West Europe's armies prevent Germany from once again developing her army for her own national aspirations. A news item in The Boston Globe of Aug. 29, 1952 points up the future for Germany:

"Bonn, Germany, August 29—(AP)—United States High Commissioner Walter J. Donnelly predicted today that West European nations will clear the way early in the Fall for West Germany to rearm as a partner in defense.

". . . Ratification of the (European Army treaty and the Allied-West German peace contract) would permit the Germans to start recruiting 500,000 soldiers, sailors and airmen they plan to contribute to the six-nation European forces. The United States and Britain already have ratified.

". . . Since World War II, the Germans have been forbidden to produce arms. But once the peace contract and the European Army treaty are ratified, Germany's vast industrial machine will be free to produce weapons under control of the European defense community."

Were our idealists and haters of Russian "communism" to take stock in present developments they might recognize the impermanence of alliances and rivalries, even those of the present alliances and rivalries.

HARMO

VANCOUVER, B. C.

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What Will Socialism Be Like?

Will there be a Prime Minister or a President? Who will do the dirty work under Socialism? These are the sort of questions that are asked. Altho the latter one does not seem to be heard so much lately, with the advent even under capitalism of labor-saving machinery.

In many respects we can only give a negative answer, because we do not know how soon it will be before the establishment of Socialism, and, therefore, we do not know what technological and scientific discoveries and advancements will have taken place in the meantime. We can, at least, say what will not exist. We know that after Socialism is established the coercive forces of the state machine will have disappeared, and government over persons will have been replaced by an administration of things. Hierarchical bureaucracy and subservience to social "betters" will also disappear. We will have emancipated ourselves from the fetters and the frustrations of finance; and we will be spared the horrors of war. Crimes against private property will be impossible; and sex criminals would be treated not as they are today, but as medical and psychological cases in need of treatment. Many of the crimes we have today which are not directly against private property (and over 90% are) are due to the insecurity and frustration under which many people are forced to live.

Poverty and want will have been left behind. When those people who are today engaged in mainly useless tasks, necessary to capitalism, are transferred to useful productive and distributive work superabundance will be possible.

By the time Socialism has been established organized religion will in the main have disappeared. During the last few years it has rapidly declined in Great Britain. The Church of England now commands less than 5% of the population as practicing worshippers, and the other churches and sects not more than 6% at the very most. Great numbers of the working-class are either not interested in religion or openly are hostile.

Religion is a social phenomenon; it is not only the opium of the people, but in many cases the cry of the oppressed. Therefore, no amount of merely negative and critical propaganda can completely destroy it under capitalism. To quote F. A. Ridley: "Only the positive achievement of a classless society can do that by abolishing its causes." (Socialism and Religion, p. 19).

With the achievement of a classless society, where, as Marx says: "after the enslaving subordination of the individual under the division of labor has disappeared, and therewith also the opposition between manual and intellectual labor: after labor has become not only a means of life, but also the highest want of life; when with the faculties of the individual, the productive forces have correspondingly increased and all the springs of social wealth flow more abundantly — only then may the limited horizon of capitalist right be left behind entirely, and society inscribe on its banners: "From everyone according to his faculties, to everyone according to his needs!" Only then will it be no longer necessary to pay for our daily bread!

* * * *

When the majority of the people understand the mechanism of capitalist society, its exploitive, wasteful and destructive nature; then will they see the need to change it. The ever increasing contradictions and collusions in capitalism will give rise to its opposite. But only the conscious awareness and desire to change this "sorry state of things" on the part of the vast majority will give rise to the possibility of going forward.

Instead of looking backward at a dubious past, we must look ahead. . . . to Socialism.

PETER E. NEWELL