Capital

Capital, says the capitalist, is money used in the production of more money.

The teachers of capitalist political economy put it more "scientifically." They explain that capital is factories, machinery, raw materials, and money to pay wages—the last named being in reality the means of subsistence for the wage slaves.

But these things are only capital and only command a return for the capitalist under a certain kind of social system.

For instance, the existence of Black workers and fertile lands in the South a century ago did not create the wealthy slave masters. Only a social system could do that. Only the social recognition of slavery with laws, customs, chains, prisons, and executioners could maintain the slave system.

And the massive machinery and other means of production in existence today do not in themselves equal capital. They are only the *form* of capital.

The essence of capital is its social relation to the worker. The insane domination of the means of production over the producer (the worker) is only possible because of history and because of customs, culture (brainwashing), courts, and prisons which all dictate that this be so.

Consider the billions and billions of dollars worth of Rockefeller capital.

There are not enough one-dollar bills in existence to equal the value of the corporations the Rockefellers own or control. But dollars are only the name of the game. They are not the game itself.

In reality the Rockefeller corporations are a tremendous aggregation of the crystallized labor of millions and millions of people over the past 114 years (i.e., since the original Rockefeller went into the oil business). In reality, they even represent stored-up human labor from centuries earlier, too.

The Rockefellers' legal possession of all this material gives them the right to do as they like with it. And they like profits.

Thus the achievements, sweat, blood, tears, and daily grind of the living, and practically all the stored-up production of the dead—dead labor, so to speak—are used to enslave the living laborers today.

In the words of Karl Marx, "Capital is dead labor which lives, vampire-like, from the blood of living labor. . . . It is only the domination of accumulated, past, materialized labor over direct, living labor that turns accumulated labor into capital."

In a rational world the living laborer would be the master of the dead labor of the past. In a socialist society, instead of being the appendages of the machine as they are now, the working people would have machines for *their* appendages—that is, for their increased interest in the work process and infinitely increased enjoyment of the fruits of their work.

Capital, then, would no longer be capital—the possession of the capitalist. It would be transformed or reborn into its true form and essence—the accomplishments and creation of the whole human race being used by the human race and for the human race.