workers must be taught a lesson, and quickly. They were arrested, tried, and jailed (7 for 30 day terms, 1 for 60 days, and 1, who proved he had been sick on that morning and would not have worked anyway, freed). A second batch of nine "wildcatters" were haled into court a few days later. In ruling on the appeal of the carmen, the Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled (April 24, 1962), that the MTA is not simply a private corporation under government jurisdition, but also a public agency. Employees of public agencies are not permitted the usual restrictions to injunctions that are available to employes of private corporations. *

In America, in other words, it is legal to strike unless our rulers tell us it isn't; and in America, there is no such thing as "involuntary" servitude unless required by our rulers, when laws will be passed, in a hurry, to legalize such servitude.

RAB

* Upon receiving a personal apology from each of the involved carmen and a promise not to do such a dastardly deed again, the men were all released and forgiven. Five of them, however, were suspended from their jobs by order of temporary boss Otis Whitney, head of the State Police.

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NOW, LET'S LOOK AT THE 72-HOUR STEEL CRISIS

At 5:45 p.m. on Tuesday, April 10, 1962, Roger Blough of U. S. Steel entered Pres. Kennedy's office to personally inform him of the 3½% rise in price of steel. Just 72 hours later, on Friday, April 13, Mr. Blough announced the price rise was rescinded.

Here is a summary of what transpired during these 72 hours: four separate anti-trust investigations were in preparation; a bill to roll back the price increase was being formulated; other legislative measures to impose price and wage controls in the steel industry were in process of discussion; agents of the FBI questioned newspapermen "by the dawn's early light"; and the Defense Department — the biggest purchaser of steel, by far — began to divert orders away from U. S. Steel. (See comprehensive report by a team of 10 N. Y. Times reporters, Apr. 23, 1962.)

In the names of "public interest" and "national interest," the state, the executive committee of the capitalist class, can move very fast, when it serves their needs.

A revolutionary, socialist majority will not be hampered by the alleged "tediously slow workings of the bourgeois state." They will use the existing state machinery for the ONLY job at hand: to transfer the means of living from the hands of the parasites and put it where it belongs, in the possession of society, as a whole. Then, the state gives way to the ADMINISTRATION OF AFFAIRS of a socialist world.

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THE STARS LOOKED DOWN

He stepped up to the rostrum, adjusted the "mike" and swallowed some water from a glass. "Good old Tommy!" a voice echoed from the back of the hall. He smiled broadly, confidently, as he surveyed the packed hall. This was going to be a good meeting. The prominent men of the community, solid business men, were giving their support by being present on the platform. He had arranged with the chairman that there would be no questions. He wanted no voice of protest from some lone rebel. He took another glance at the expectant, careworn faces of the audience and: "Ladies and gentlemen," he began, "my opponents can leave for they do not come under this category." This raised a laugh. He adjusted his spectacles and joked, making his listeners feel on intimate terms with him. Another "good old Tommy!" came from the back of the hall. "If we are to preserve our free society, our way of life, our democratic society, this America... we must... blah, blah, blah... blah... blah..."

The rest of his speech was almost lost to me, for I was familiar with these same well-worn platitudes and had heard them many times in England, Canada and the States. I looked around at the audience and wondered what effect it was having on them. Some of them did not look too enthused, for they must have also heard it all before. "Our way of life." "Our democratic society." How often do we have pompous politicians repeat again and again these glib phrases? It seems that they are not only persuading and conditioning their audiences but have themselves become the victims of their oratory. A lie or a half truth repeated often enough is accepted without question by the gullible and most people, today, come under this category. The self-styled leaders' lives are cluttered with broken promises and excuses yet they still keep their power and prestige. What is important to them is that Parliament or Congress remain in the hands of the ruling class. For the politicians of capitalism must administer the profit system and are subject to the dictates and needs of the capitalist class — the section of society that lives from profits. One party's in, the other one's out. It makes no fundamental difference. Workers still must grub along, week in, week out, expending their energies on the job producing the profits for those who own the jobs. As some of us grow older and wonder how much longer we can stand the pace, a fresh generation grows up to take our places at the machines. Will they, unlike their parents, see through the glib phrases and double talk of the politicians and act in their interest as workers?

"We live in a free society." What hypocrisy! Just about everything today is a commodity, produced to be bought and sold on the markets. The only thing that is free is air, and that is contaminated with the belching of civilization! Just try taking a loaf of bread when you're hungry and haven't the price. Contrary to popular opinion, commodities are not produced to be used or consumed but to realize a profit . . . even though society has reached the stage where all can have their material needs satisfied. If the satisfaction of human needs is not conducive to human happiness, what is? The lack of them certainly makes the world a vale of tears for the non-owners.

Are we really living in a "democratic society?" What do these politicians know of democracy? These people condition our minds to an acceptance of their power and privilege and, when necessary, ruthlessly use the coercive powers of the state against us. These people who prate about democracy, whose genial smiles hide their nefarious intentions. These capitalists and their sycophants...

They know they can win you over with their appeals to democracy. It is something you hold dear, but cannot define, nor do these gentlemen intend to enlighten you...even if they know.