LETTERS TO THE PRESS

SOCIALIST ANSWER TO CAPITALISM

Armagh Guardian — Armagh, Ireland

Sir — While welcoming your interest in the World Socialist Party (Ireland) I deplore the fact that your report contained such a personal slant.

Our party is not interested in personalities, only in the case they represent; we have no leaders and only one object — the establishment of Socialism.

I am secretary of the Armagh Branch of the W.S.P. and a member of its executive committee, my personal life has no bearing on the case of the party I represent.

The W.S.P. of I. in common with the companion Parties of Socialism in the U.S.A., Britain, Canada, New Zealand and Australia, holds that the problems of the working class are caused not by any particular political party or personality, but by the very nature of our present economic system This is true whether the workers live in America, Britain or Russia. The problems of unemployment, war, poverty, etc., being caused by Capitalism cannot be solved within that system, no matter how good or sincere are the people undertaking the task of running Capitalism.

The position in present society is, that the means of production and distribution are owned by a very small minority — The Capitalist class and by virtue of this ownership the rest of society — the working class are forced to sell their "labour power" and while this system remains the lot of the working class cannot change materially, they will remain "wage slaves" subject to unemployment, poverty, insecurity and live with the threat of war.

Socialism is not a mere dream, it is a scientific answer to the problems of Capitalism, an alternative to the present way of life.

Socialists are not interested in the reforms of Capitalism, but only in its abolition and the establishment of Socialism.

A majority of class-conscious workers understanding and demanding a real change will establish Socialism — a system wherein the means of production and distribution will be owned in common by society as a whole, and where all will have free access to the fruits of production.

This change in the basis of society will mean the end of many of our present conventions and needs.

It is not possible in this short letter to develop the Socialist case in full, but your readers will have an opportunity of hearing the case and to question our speakers on Thursday, May 9th, at 7.30 p.m. in the City Hall where the Armagh Branch holds a public meeting. Yours sincerely,

J. HACKETT

May 2nd 1963

CONFUSION OVER LIBERALISM AND COMMUNISM

To the Editor of The Star

The Star, Johannesburg, S. Africa, 11-5-62

Sir, I was somewhat surprised to read in The Star of October 24 that a political scientist was prepared to accept, at face value, and not critically or scientifically, the view of themselves taken by liberals and "Communists."

Prof. E. P. Gey van Pittius, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pretoria, was commenting on a "current confusion over the two terms," liberalism and Communism. Methinks he adds to this confusion.

According to the news item, he said: "Basically, liberalism means to live and let live." That may be what liberals would like us to believe it to mean. Traditionally and historically, however, liberalism stands and has stood for:

— Freedom of factory owners and traders to operate unhindered by outmoded feudal restrictions.

— The minimum of State interference in, or restraint on the exercise of their economic power by employers over employees.

— The minimum of tariffs and other barriers to trade, especially when this suited the needs of the factory lords, as in the case of Britain in the last quarter of the 19th century, when they had a virtual monopoly of world markets.

— An implacable hostility to workers' efforts to maintain or improve their working conditions and wages through trades union organization and action.

Professor van Pittius equates "Communism" with the "Marxist-Leninist ideology," thus reinforcing the myth within current confusion, of "Socialism in Russia."

The then Secretary of State of the U.S.A., Dulles, sent a telegram in January, 1959, to the departing Russian Minister Mikoyan, in friendly terms bidding him farewell and maintaining that American capitalism was better than the State capitalism of the U.S.S.R.

That was the term used by Dulles and it seems apt to me. Mikoyan disagreed, but the "New York Times" of January 25, 1959, in an editorial "A Matter of Definitions" was logical in defence of Dulles's label for Russia.

P. ALEXANDER, Johannesburg

UNJUSTIFIED WORRIES

The N. Y. Times, 5-7-63, reports this interesting item: The Sterling Drug Co., makers of Bayer aspirin stated in an ad that the Journal of the American Medical Association referred to a "Government-supported medical team" which suggested that it endorsed Bayer aspirin as per its research study on analgesic products. The Federal Trade Commission asked the Federal Court for a temporary injunction against the company and was refused. It appealed to the United States Court of Appeals because it maintained that the Sterling Drug Co. misrepresented the research study. The FTC conceded that none of the statements in the ad were "literally false" but the ad's "half truths and ambiguities" would mislead the "careless, not-too-bright consumer."

In its decision upholding the Federal Court and the Sterling Drug Co., the United States Court of Appeals ruled: It was true that "many words in the ad had alternative dictionary meanings," and added that "if that in itself were a sufficent legal criterion, few advertisements would survive." It continued, the public had long been satisfied with various claims on behalf of rival analgesic products." It concluded, "...the FTC worries about consumer misrepresentation by the Sterling Drug Co. were unjustified."

LET THE BUYER OF BAYER BEWARE!

"WE'RE" OUT IN FRONT IN THOUGHT CONTROL

Soviet scientists not only accept mental telepathy as a fact, The Insider's Newsletter informs us, but they predict that one day machines will be manufactured capable of affecting the mental activity of masses of people.

The idea, it seems, is that during the thinking process the human mind generates radiation waves which can create corresponding signals in the mind of another person; thus, if a machine can be made to amplify the sender's radiation waves, we will have our first thought control machine.

Well, we are sorry to disenchant the Soviet scientists after all their hard work, but it is only fair to point out that the West already has a commanding lead in this field.

Or have they already heard about television?

—CALGARY ALBERTAN

Van. Sun April 16, 1963.

Wealthy Negroes Aren't "Black Men"

"The Negro is poor because he is black, that is obvious enough. But, perhaps, more importantly, the Negro is black because he is poor."

"The Other American" by M. Harrington

ONLY A HANDFUL OF WEALTHY NEGROES ARE NO LONGER "BLACK MEN"