the capitalist or starve. The writer for the news media must write what the bosses want to hear, or his article doesn't get printed. The government is completely interconnected with the ruling class, since politicians and judges are either paid agents of the ruling class (corporation lawyers like Nixon), or members of the class itself (Rockefeller).

Only a relatively small portion of the capitalists' money is used for personal luxuries such as mansions, servants, yachts, and Rolls Royces. For them the function of money is to increase their power. The profits from one business are immediately used to increase the means of production. The money reinvested to make more money is called *capital*. Each capitalist must turn his money into capital or else be ruined by a competitor.

Vast amounts of wealth have been concentrated into the hands of the U.S., the core of the master class comprises a much smaller group. *Fortune* magazine lists 84 families that have over $100 million in personal assets. Twelve of these families, the Rockefellers, DuPonts, Mellons, Fords, Dorrances, Pews, Gettys, Hugheses, Cullens, Hunts, Ludwigs, and MacArthurs, has personal assets of $1 billion or more!

Capitalism

The bosses like to call it "free enterprise." But for the millions locked into hard, boring jobs with no relief except unemployment, the present system is neither free nor enterprising. What makes capitalism tick—and why does it so often leave the masses with a choice of war or depression?

Capitalism, like feudalism and slavery before it, is a society divided into classes where a few fabulously rich parasites are supported by the sweat and labor of vast number of toiling and oppressed people.

But capitalism is also very different from earlier forms of class society. For one thing, the laborers are legally "free." They are not owned outright as chattel slaves, nor are they bound to the land as serfs. Their labor is *sold* to the owners of capital (called the capitalists, the bosses, or the bourgeoisie) in a new and concealed form of bondage—wage slavery. The boss, who buys the workers' labor power in exchange for wages, always pays the workers *less* than the value they have added to the finished product. The difference is surplus value, from which the boss extracts his profits.

This basic mechanism of capitalist production means that the workers are *never* paid enough to buy back all the products