program is that he is pro-Russian, and when we get down to cases, that is all an advocate of Wallace's party will be able to argue.

INEVITABILITY OF REFORMS

Many observers claim that the Republicans took over the "New Deal" program of the Democrats, and that the latter took over the "Common Man" program of the Wallace group. Why is it that all these parties of capitalism embrace the same program essentially.

It is the time we live in, the material conditions of our day, that forces these parties to advocate the same things, except to up the ante a little. (Henry Wallace in a speech at Asbury Park July 18, called for $1.00 an hour minimum wages, instead of the 75 cents in the Democratic program. Competition is the life of politics, you know.) Labor is organized today; the social consciousness of all people is not the same as it was yesterday. Any party coming out AGAINST these reforms would dash itself to pieces. As Winston Churchill has stated, "We are all socialists now." And by socialism, he meant just such reforms as mentioned above. Outside of any direct suppression of labor organizations — and the capitalists do not need to engage in that now because they have everything under control — any party today which hopes for victory at the polls must demonstrate an interest in "social problems", and a "desire" (not necessarily the ability) to do something about solving them.

The problems facing the workers today are the same as they have always been under capitalism; security in their living, a decent way of life, and international peace so they can enjoy it. None of these things can come to them under a system of wage slavery that breeds insecurity, unemployment, a standard of living far BELOW the technical possibilities which exist today, and the constant threat of new wars and the use of atom bombs to destroy the civilization which does exist.

Neither the Democratic Party, the Republican Party, the Wallace Party, or any of the other self-styled "socialist" or "communist" parties whose programs calls for a continuation of the system of exploitation known as wage-slavery, but with a new name for it (nationalization, government ownership, mixed economy, workers' control of production, etc.) can solve these problems for the workers, and for all society as well.

A socialist today could only vote for a party which stands for the complete abolition of the capitalist system, whose candidates are pledged not to work for reforms to patch up capitalism, but to use Congress as a sounding board for socialist ideas, until such a time as a socialist majority take the necessary steps to abolish the system altogether.

Until such a socialist party, like the World Socialist Party, can run candidates in the national elections and give the workers a chance to vote for socialism, and not reforms, the socialists must go on with the only work open to them at the moment, that of spreading scientific socialism, and eventually getting their fellow workers to become socialists along with them.

K. FREDERICK

FROM OUR MAIL-BOX

[Cont. from p. 2]

ism, the workers' position get worse; that they must clearly understand the nature of a commodity society and how it fastens the chains of slavery upon them. If we look around the world and analyze the workings of these so-called labor or 'socialist' governments, we find that they are riviting the chains of slavery more firmly on the workers than ever before — and all in the name of Freedom. The time must come sooner or later when the workers will become disillusioned with these would-be saviours of the working class and understand that the only solution for their problems is the abolition of the commodity system known as Capitalism, and institute a system of production for use and not for profit."

SWISS LETTER

Basle, on the 3-nation bend of the Rhine, is the northwest gateway to Switzerland. Every morning the Arlberg Express from Paris disgorges several score French, English and American tourists in the arched station. They expect to find an island of good living in the sea of European austerity, a country in which the meals are big, rich and unrationed and the stores crowded with goods.

A trip through the tourist-ridden city center will not disappoint them. There is a restaurant on every block and the shop windows display a variety and abundance of consumer goods. The people are well-clothed and shod and look well-fed. The crowded streets are full of bicycles (one out of 3 Swiss owns one) and automobiles. American makes predominate among the latter, as American films dominate the movie houses. The streets are clean and the solid, Germanic houses exude an air of prosperity. Truly an Eldorado in the midst of Europe.

SWISS ELDORADO

But all is not gold, even in Eldorado. Prices give the first clue to the seamier side of the picture. The Swiss franc is a "hard", stable currency, worth about four to the dollar. Dividing Swiss prices in store windows by 4, we get about the same general price picture as that in the U. S. — which means that Swiss prices are high. A meal costs between 2 and 5 francs, a suit about 150, a pair of shoes between 40 and 60, a shirt between 30 and 40. Rents, we learn, are considerably lower than in America, ranging from 45-60 for a single room, to 100-250 for an apartment. Officially, the cost of living index has gone up to "only" 162.3 from the 100 of 1939, but most Swiss say that consumer articles cost at least twice what they did before the war. There is still price control, but there is frequent upward revision to meet "increased production costs." Rationing has been lifted on everything but oils, fats and rice.

This year, 1948, the Swiss Confederation is celebrating the 100th Anniversary of its modern Constitution. Press, politicians and professors are loud in praise of Swiss democracy. Off hand, much of this praise seems justified. Politically, Switzerland is about as democratic as any bourgeois state has been. However, there are several serious "buts". There is still no woman suffrage. Altho referendum and proportional representation make the government fairly flexible, the 7-man executive council, "Bundesrat", can pass measures by emergency decree.

SWISS DEMOCRACY

These emergency powers were freely exercised during the war years and saddled the masses with some unpopular revenue laws. On the positive side there is little racial tension, altho 3 distinct ethnic groups — German, French and Italian — live side by side. Whether this harmony would survive a convulsive social crisis is a moot question. During Hitler's heyday there was a sizable, vocal Nazi minority among the German Swiss — racist, militarist and anti-labor. Since the end of the war about 2 score of these "Frontists" have been tried for treason and given jail sentences of from 6 months to twenty years. Had Hitler chosen to invade, the chances are he would have found a well-organized 5th column in Switzerland, as he did in France.

WORKERS' LOT

On the economic plane the defects of Swiss democracy are just below the surface-layer of plenty. A recent tax survey shows the following income spread among 1,140,000 citizens: 53 percent received between 2 and 5 thousands francs a year. 37 percent got between 5 and 10 thousand a year. This accounts for ninety percent of