Strictly from an economic standpoint, and in view of the trend toward increased government old-age pensions, the workers would have been further ahead to take a wage increase instead of pensions. But then in this case, the capitalists would have lost out, and the system just doesn't work out that way.

Next, the pensions depend on the ability of the companies to maintain them, in other words, on the uncertainties of the economic system of capitalism. If a depression or deep recession sets in, will these companies continue to pay pensions, or will they beg off on grounds of "due to circumstances beyond our control?"

MORE STABILITY, MORE PROFITS

Other benefits to the capitalists in this pension is that it ensures more stability, more uninterrupted production. Not only are wages frozen for at least a year, but the unions agree to continue no-strike agreements (the tit-for-tat in collective bargaining), and in the case of Fords agrees not to ask for a change in the pension plan until March 1, 1955. Uninterrupted production means more profits in the end.

One more important point.

The CIO **Economic Outlook** for October 1949 contains an excellent article dealing with the subject, "Big Business Is Getting Bigger." It points out that in the steel industry, for example, three companies — United States Steel, Bethlehem, and Republic — control 50% of the net assets in basic steel, and that these same three companies control 58.9% of primary steel ingot capacity.

Yet the **Outlook** and the CIO is in a dreadful contradiction. It calls for stricter control of these enormous corporations, but the pension plans signed with private industry will further AID AND ABET the growing tendency towards monopoly.

How is this so? In the first place, pensions will drive the small marginal manufacturer out of business, as a newsletter we are forbidden to quote, points out. They just can't afford the additional costs, and the big steel corporations stand to gain their business. Second, the steel stike itself caused many small steel firms to close down, and now they will be unable to start again, thus further increasing the trend towards "big business getting bigger."

Finally, the steel strike, by increasing demand for steel, and by giving the companies the excuse of higher costs through pension payments, makes it certain that steel will not cut prices, whereas before the strike, the perssure on these corporations to lower prices was great. Indeed, some trade journals predict a rise of $4 a ton in the price of steel.

NARROWNESS OF THE UNION STRUGGLE

These few observations will be enough to indicate the narrowness of the struggle of the workers against the capitalists on the economic field, and to show that the unions, while supporting capitalism, and fighting its effects and not its causes, are at all times limited by the functioning of the system itself. In the long run these unions can do no more than resist the capitalists in their efforts to lord it all over the workers and drive their living standards down to a minimum for existence.

As long as capitalism exist, and we hope it won't be too long, the workers will be forced to organize into unions to struggle against the capitalists. It is easy, for example, to understand and sympathize with the desire of the working class to obtain some degree of security through pensions under an economic system which breathes and breeds insecurity.

But just as an operation and not medicine is the only effective way to remove pressure on the brain, so an operation is needed in the case of the working class. The pressure on its brain is capitalism, and the operation is — **Operation Socialism.**

KARL FREDERICK

The Socialist Party of Canada

and

The World Socialist Party of the United States

OBJECT:

The establishment of a system of society based upon the common ownership and democratic control of the means and instruments for producing and distributing wealth by and in the interest of society as a whole

DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES

THE COMPANION PARTIES OF SOCIALISM HOLD:

1. — That society as at present constituted is based upon the ownership of the means of living (i.e., lands, factories, railways, etc.), by the capitalist or master class, and the consequent enslavement of the working class, by whose labor alone wealth is produced.

2. — That in society, therefore, there is an antagonism of interests, manifesting itself as a class struggle between those who possess but do not produce, and those who produce but do not possess.

3. — That this antagonism can be abolished only by the emancipation of the working class from the domination of the master class, by the conversion into the common property of society of the means of production and distribution, and their democratic control by the whole people.

4. — That as in the order of social evolution the working class is the last class to achieve its freedom, the emancipation of the working class will involve the emancipation of all mankind, without distinction of race or sex.

5. — That this emancipation must be the work of the working class itself.

6. — That as the machinery of government, including the armed forces of the nation, exists only to conserve the monopoly of the capitalist class of the wealth taken from the workers, the working class must organize consciously and politically for the conquest of the powers of government, in order that this machinery, including these forces, may be converted from an instrument of oppression into the agent of emancipation and the overthrow of plutocratic privilege.

7. — That as political parties are but the expression of class interests, and as the the interest of the working class is diametrically opposed to the interests of all sections of the master class, the party seeking working class emancipation must be hostile to every other party.

8. — THE COMPANION PARTIES OF SOCIALISM, therefore, enter the field of political action determined to wage war against all other political parties, whether alleged labor or avowedly capitalist, and call upon all members of the working class of these countries to support these principles to the end that a termination may be brought to the system which deprives them of the fruits of their labor, and that poverty may give place to comfort, privilege to equality, and slavery to freedom.

Those agreeing with the above principles and desiring enrollment in the Party should apply for Application for Membership form to secretary of nearest local or to National Headquarters.

THESE FIVE PARTIES ADHERE TO THE SAME SOCIALIST PRINCIPLES:

SOCIALIST PARTY OF AUSTRALIA — Box 1440; G.P.O. Melbourne, Australia.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF CANADA — P.O. Box 751, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN—Rugby Chambers, Rugby St., London WC1.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF IRELAND — 93 Talbot Street, Dublin Eire.
SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW ZEALAND—P.O. Box 62, Petone, New Zealand.
WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF U. S.—3000 Grand River, Room 307, Detroit 1, Mich.