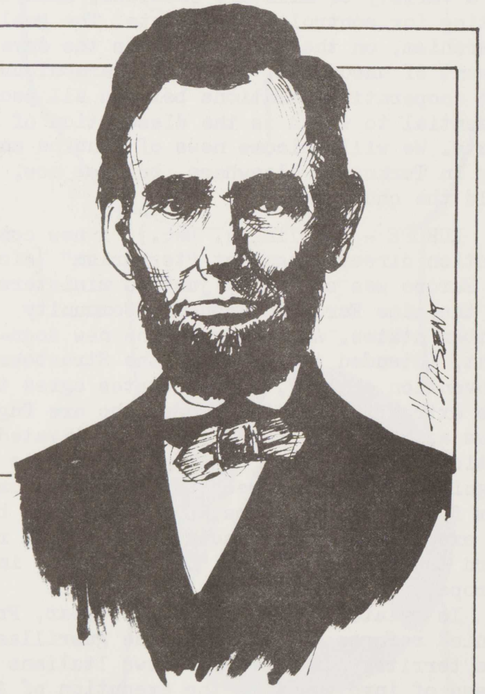
WORKER CONTROL (continued from page 3)
the biosphere of which we are a part is a chief characteristic of corporate capatalism. At Harvard Business school, in "Ruthlessness 101," they still teach that control and efficiency are everything...and damn the long-range consequences. Screw the worker and screw the public, thus proving your manhood and your right to a place in the jungle hierarchy! It is a mentality that is seemingly rational, but it is in fact prompted by highly neurotic motives: as if the future will never exist, as if the results of one's actions will never come home to roost.

Capitalism as we know it today (the chain-of-command, the love-envy of the king figure, the sacredness of profit for ownership) may be too fully wedged into its mind-set to survive. It has been busy cutting its own throat for decades through anti-worker, anti-community, anti-earth practices in large-scale industry (and through its "ownership" of governments and politicians). Now we find that capitalist concepts of efficiency and central control are disrupting basic food production. We know about the chemical-laden products of America's large-scale agribusiness (and the rampaging newly created insect life that has resulted), but others are now being sold on these disastrous ideas. In Europe today, where skillful small-scale husbandry of the land has been practiced since civilization began, agribusiness has come forth to destroy the food production and distribution systems which have always allowed for community self-sufficiency and economic and social stability.

Socialism has a problem with true worker control, because while it appears to be a good democratic theory it prompts a real conflict between the worker and central bureaucracy. Production-for-the-people easily degenerates into production-for-the-state as decided by technicians and commissars out of abstract world market practices.



"This country with its institutions, belongs to the people who inhabit it. Whenever they shall grow weary of the existing Government they can exercise their constitutional right of amending it, or their revolutionary right to overthrow or dismember it.
-Abraham Lincoln.

The socialist mentality can't shake its harsh conditioning from the last century of struggle: this mess must be straightened out from the top, efficiency is the key, the "future" is what counts. The scientific managers (and final decision-makers) quickly become an elite. The "careerist" from Mobil Oil and General Foods will slip happily into a socialist or soviet bureaucracy like a greased monkey.

Even where worker participation in decision-making has been most successfully practiced — in Sweden, Isreal, West Germany and Yugoslavia — there have been many unresolved problems. Sweden is strapped into a burdensome welfare system and may be losing its most talented and productive young people because of heavy taxation and just plain boredom. The Germans have cultural conflicts with authority and state repression which may never be solved. Isreal's ideal communes also carry the weight of authoritarian cultural problems. Yugoslavian "worker democracy," perhaps the most interesting such experiment in a socialist nation, results in millions of unemployed who must be "exported" to western European countries to find jobs.

The Anarchists offer a different method of worker control for business, industry and agriculture. Often their revolutionary practices have worked so well — in France, Russia, Spain and Italy — that they have had to be suppressed by armed force and wholesale slaughter. Neither capitalists, communists nor fascists could tolerate such a challenge.

-Mingo.

THE NEXT ISSUE OF "EMANCIPATION" WILL CARRY AN EXAMINATION OF THE ANARCHIST ALTERNATIVE IN WORKER CONTROL.

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