

weighs like a giant ball and chain on the economy and on social and human development.

Capitalist production is unplanned and chaotic, because that is the nature of capitalism. Advances in science and technology create leisure and wealth for the ruling class and unemployment and poverty for the working class. Under capitalism, technology makes profits for the ruling class, but nothing for the working class.

SOCIALISM AND TECHNOLOGY

To fully take advantage of advanced technology for the good of society requires a planned economy that takes into consideration both the level of production and the level of consumption. Socialism and the scientific and technological revolution go together hand-in-glove. Socialism is a scientifically planned and operated economic system that eliminates private profits. It eliminates private corporations. It is a social system owned and run "of, by and for" all the people. It is a humane system concerned first and foremost with meeting the needs and desires of the people. Thus, it can make decisions to research, investigate, discover and invent, etc., and apply without considering profitability, but only practicability and benefit for the people and society as a whole.

Under socialism, each new technological breakthrough means an advance for the people. The increase in production is passed on to the people by way of wage increases. When machines replace workers the hours of work are cut without any real cut in wages. Under socialism, there are no competing, antagonistic interests or classes. War is no longer profitable and all the scientific efforts now poured into weapons of destruction can be turned toward creating science and technology for sustaining and nourishing life, for curing diseases and disabilities, for making life better and better and for learning more about it.

Thus, in the capitalist world science and technology are fast bringing on a new crisis that it can't solve. This new crisis will affect the class struggle, the working class, the trade unions and of course our Party.

Under socialism the work force of a newly mechanized factory or industry would simply be retrained and relocated by society. The costs involved in making these major adjustments in machinery technology and human labor come out of social profits, the profits that were once privately confiscated, stolen, by the ruling class through exploitation of labor.

Socialism is in harmony with new, advanced technology. Socialism is the only system that can utilize technology for the benefit of all the people. New technology and socialism fit together. The scientific and technological revolution under socialism creates much greater career possibilities and greater leisure time for workers. Technology enables society to assign the dirtiest, hardest jobs to machines and robots, while humans will increasingly do the work that requires creativity and ever higher skills. Advanced technology creates a totally integrated production process. It requires workers of a different kind. Capitalism can't produce the workers needed to run the new technology. Already, mass public education which was necessary to create a better educated and skilled work force for the industrial age is being destroyed by capitalism because the system no longer needs more mass production workers, but instead only a much smaller technological elite.

WHAT NEEDS TO BE DONE?

The trade union movement is the only force that can deal with the very severe and serious problems this new crisis of capitalism is bringing. The trade unions should call a national, perhaps even an international conference that would take up such questions as:

- Ways of stopping the corporations from stealing all the fruits of the new technological breakthroughs;
- A struggle for federal laws that would guarantee the transfer of the benefits of technology to the workers and people;
- A struggle to prevent all layoffs as a result of application of new technology;
- Affirmative action programs that would apply to every application of new technology;
- Draft legislation for a Science and Technology Bill of Rights for workers and consumers;

Such a conference should be based on the premise that humanity is not threatened by machines or by the new scientific and technological advances, but by the capitalist system which subordinates workers to machines and uses scientific and technological achievements against them for the sole purpose of maximizing profits. It is only through a united struggle of the labor movement, the trade unions, and all working people that the negative effects of the chip and robot revolution sweeping our land can be successfully resisted. Over 140 years ago, Karl Marx—as if looking into a crystal ball—saw