"Thou shalt not kill" commandment where it may be construed as opposing war.

Spokesmen for the system and its interests are given free rein, but it is in rare places that socialists are permitted to speak where preachers and politicians hold freely forth. Atheists and many other dissidents are also discriminated against and it is becoming increasingly more difficult for anyone not holding orthodox political views to keep a job.

WHAT SOCIALISM OFFERS

But what of the advantage under our proposed collective enterprise? Socialists are far from being pikers. We do not advocate making things a little better. We would not even propagate the idea could we not see benefits beyond the wildest dreams of a Rockefeller or a Morgan, — not a reward in money or power but emoluments far transcending anything we can visualize under the system we are living under today. A bountiful earth fairly shouts to us to partake of her abundance; deserts and waste places wait to be turned into luscious gardens. Man has at last reached the point where the products of his inventive genius have outstripped the demands of our present society, in fact many of his discoveries that would add much to the welfare of the people must remain in closely guarded vaults for the profit system cannot absorb them.

We can not measure freedom, security, the right of access to common granaries and workshops with a dollar yard stick. In a free society it would no longer serve as a measure of happiness, of respect or of greatness. A new standard of measurement — the appreciation of what a person contributes to society would bring the plaudits of the multitude, a far greater reward than a mere monetary consideration. Today's world in a dollar and cents world. Success means what you have in your pockets — and don't get caught. The small merchant may be beaten or killed for the little cash he has taken in; the rich must have bodyguards to protect them, their wealth, and their children from thieves and kidnappers. Today's world has wars and depressions and a thousand and one irritations, frustrations and repressions, nearly all of which are the results of the system of exploitation of one class by another.

IT'S UP TO US ALL

So we extend an invitation for all interested to our round table for discussing a new organization of society. And the sooner the better. Let's face the situation as it is. The present system has gone beyond the patching up stage. No sooner is one reform instituted than a dozen others clamor for attention. An uprising in Puerto Rico, a wave of strikes in Italy, a crime wave in the U. S., an upheaval in Peru, race riots in Africa — each one of which could lead to world wide repercussions and social suicide. If you can find any solution to the turmoil existing other than the producing for use instead of profit let us hear about it.

Fred Jacobs

WHAT WALL STREET SAYS ON PEACE

As we said, capitalism is afraid of peace. Now, as if to confirm this judgment the stock market has dipped sharply in a wave of selling. "The cry," explains C. Norman Stabler, financial editor of the "New York Herald Tribune," was that it was a peace rumor, and this stemmed from the fact that the group of securities most heavily sold were the aircrafts and other so-called "war babies."

"Entrance of the United Nations forces into Seoul again," Stabler continued, "and the general retreat of the Communist forces gave rise to reports that we might stop at the 38th Parallel, and that the Korean War would be brought to a halt."

Such a development would save the lives and limbs of about 300 American boys each week, but it would be hell on business.

WEEKLY PEOPLE

ECONOMIC NOTES:

THE WAGE STABILIZATION

If all the muddle connected with the present attempt of the Truman administration to stabilize wages were laid end to end it would stretch around the earth several times. This is no light figure of speech. At the present writing (March 15) both labor and management representatives have withdrawn from the Wage Stabilization Board, and Wage Stabilizer Eric Jonhston is berating cabinet officials for hog-tying his wage stabilization program.

All is confusion in Washington, and no one knows what wage regulation will be issued tomorrow, nor which official will be there to issue it.

The workers are confused, too, and lacking a Marxian understanding of the economics of capitalism, are constantly sucked up by the wage-price-profit cycle and whirled around to the point of dizziness. As a concrete example of this, we quote at length a letter written by a female worker to the **Detroit Times** editor (February 28), and reflecting the thinking of most workers today. She writes:

Wages go up and so do prices. Prices outclimb every nickel pay raise. Surely the heads of unions and management know it's a vicious circle? Perhaps you will say we have a higher standard of living now? However, years ago, I could go on trips, afford to drive a car, didn't have to budget carefully for food; altho wages were extremely low. Now I'm lucky to see steak once a month; yet I'm making three times what I did in 1930. So what's it all about. I get a raise, management raises prices. Will it go on and on until it finally bursts? Why doesn't somebody talk sense, and then talk sense to us?

The worker wants to know why he can't get a wage increase without prices rising further. The capitalist, big and small, wants to know why he is unable to increase his prices without having to raise wages. The old age pensioners, bondholders, those on fixed salaries want to know why the government cannot do something about keeping both prices and wages down so that the dollar will not continue to lose its purchasing power. The capitalist farmers seek to have agricultural prices raised (at least to bring them up to parity) at the same time they lobby for wage freezing. In turn, the government damns all group for not cooperating better, and is itself alarmed at the rising cost of the armament program.

This is the crux of the entire situation. The two basic groups involved in the wage-price-profit controversy — the workers and the capitalists — cannot cooperate, and no government regulation can force them. They are at cross-purposes. It is in the interests of the workers to seek to maintain their wages at least at a level sufficient to carry on an existence, and if possible, to push them over the minimum. The capitalists, on the other hand, **must** keep their profits as high as possible, and in order to do this must fight all attempts at wage increases, and where they are forced to yield them, must seek price relief as compensation.

THE LUKEWARM WAR

This struggle between the working class and the capitalist class over the division of the wealth produced by the workers is the key to the lukewarm war between the labor leaders and the business and government representatives now being waged in Washington. We say "lukewarm war" purposely, because we shall have occasion to show that the union leaders are not as much inter-