CHAPTER V

SOCIALISM AND/OR COMMUNISM

1. Reread pages 36-41. Then tell why "the nearest approach to the bee-swarm is found in socialism or communism."

2. The author says on page 42 that there is not much choice between the terms "socialism" and "communism." How does he explain this?

3. What is the contrast which the author makes between Karl Marx and Frédéric Bastiat? Pages 42-45.

4. Frédéric Bastiat has been described as "the Tom Paine of economics." Why?

5. Marx and his followers believed that in order to bring socialism into existence capitalism could be "knocked out" "by the promotion of collectivistic measures through existing governmental agencies." Is this happening in the United States today by means of: (a) the federal income tax (b) social security (c) public housing (d) the T.V.A. idea? Explain. For help in considering this question you may want to read:

   The Communist Idea (Part I) by Karl Marx
   The Communist Idea (Part II) by Earl Browder
   The Communist Idea (Part III) by F. A. Harper
   The Income Tax: Root of All Evil by Frank Chodorov
   Middle-of-the-Road Policy Leads to Socialism by Ludwig von Mises
   Public Housing by Paul L. Poirot
   Shirtsleeve Economics by William A. Paton
   Social Security by Paul L. Poirot
   The TVA Idea by Dean Russell
   To Communism . . . via Majority Vote by Ben Moreell
   Understanding Our Free Economy by Fred Rogers Fairchild. Part Nine

6. Do you believe that we, the American people, are "knocking ourselves out in our own gymnasium" not only through our use of the federal income tax, social security, public housing, and T.V.A. but also by: (a) giving aid to our "allies" (b) by engaging in military operations against communism everywhere in the world (c) by inflating our currency and thus making the poor poorer (d) by adding to our national debt, thus putting heavier burdens on the backs of our children? Explain.

7. Who was Vladimir Ilich Ulianov? When and why did he bring about the establishment of the Third International? What part did he play in the shattering of the Second International? See page 45.

8. "But there is really no distinction between the Socialists and the Communists except from the standpoint of tactics . . ." Do you agree? See page 45. Also, see *The Socialist Tragedy* by Ivor Thomas.

9. On page 46 the author says: "The phrase 'all but' is the obstinate difference between a man and a bee." To what is he referring?

10. (a) What is "The Law of Lek," as reported by Rose Wilder Lane? Pages 46-47. (b) In this report Mrs. Lane says, "I staggered myself by mentioning taxes . . ." What does she mean?

11. Read *Private Enterprise Regained* by Henry Hazlitt for an account of the communistic experiment in Plymouth colony.

12. In the footnote on page 48 the author names other communistic settlements in America. On page 49 he tells us why they all failed. Can you give additional reasons for their failure?

13. (a) On page 49 the author says, "Under communism, everything is run by the 'masses.' At least that's the theory of the thing." (b) On page 96 Isabel Paterson in her book, *The God of the Machine*, says, "The phrase 'dictatorship of the proletariat' is like the 'roundness of a triangle,' a contradiction in terms. It has no meaning." Show the relationship between these two statements.

14. "Dictatorship always feeds on itself." Page 50. Why is this? How does this historical fact prevent its "withering away"?

15. Why are poverty and distress the inevitable result of dictatorship? How does this result become a cause of war? Page 50.

16. Why, under communism, must those in charge set things up as a military camp, as in ancient Sparta under Lycurgus? See page 50.

17. "Communism is . . . an attempt to make a static world in a dynamic and changing universe." Page 51. Give the author's explanation of this statement. For results of this attempt see also, *What We Do, and Don't, Know about Soviet Russia* by Harry Schwartz.

18. On page 52 the author says, "In all fairness, it must be said that communism recognizes human equality and the brotherhood of man — in theory at least. But it fails to recognize the *real nature* of man." What does he mean by "real nature" of man? Explain and give examples. First reread pages 39-41.