The WESTERN SOCIALIST

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# Let's Get Going

We of the World Socialist Party advocate a new system of society in which the proceeds of our common venture are to be the heritage of all. The task involved calls for the willing co-operation of the large majority for we propose that the land, factories, mines, mills etc. be taken over by all of the people in the interests of their requirements and common welfare. This is a big undertaking but notwithstanding its soundness the attitude of the workers to the idea has been largely one of indifference or even of hostility. People express doubts that it can be done and regard the proposal as impractical and a dream of visionaries. There are those too, who, influenced by a hostile press and radio think that what we want has already been achieved in Britain and/or in the Soviet Union. They cannot be blamed for not being overly impressed by what they see in those countries and must be made aware of the fact that socialism is actually far removed from anything predominating in Europe or anywhere else in the world today.

## URGENT NECESSITY

The matter of taking the tools of production away from the privileged class and using them to produce for our common needs is not to be taken lightly, or scoffed it. It is an urgent necessity if we wish to survive, for the clash between rival national business interests now threatens our very existence. Wars can not be stopped under capitalism because it is this very capitalist system which brings on the conditions that make wars necessary today — competition between nations for markets, trade routes and sources of raw materials. It is not necessary here to dwell upon the horrors of modern warfare. We have all seen, whether at first hand or through our movie news reels, newspaper and journal photographs and television screens, the flaming fronts, the ruined cities, towns and countryside, the pitiful, anguished faces of the streams of refugees. It would almost seem that the civilized nations are so eager to give a helping hand to the innocent victims of war that they do everything in their power to increase their numbers. Nor is there anything much worth while to look forward to in those intervals between international warfare that society is pleased to call peace. For here we are faced with such problems as lower wages, unemployment, strike and lockouts. The fears of insecurity during peacetime are not exactly stimulating.

Would the working class be worse off than it is today if it decided to stop entrusting its fate in the hands of the few who now control its destiny and started off on its own? No doubt it is true that some of the workers in this country are comparatively well off; live in fairly comfortable homes, have automobiles, radios, television sets. They have machinery to toast their bread, wash their clothes, keep their food at the correct temperature, wake them up in the morning etc. They eat three times a day although it may sometimes be necessary to skimp on their meals in order to keep their automobiles running and the installment collectors from breaking down their doors.



## WIDESPREAD POVERTY

Looking over the situation more closely however, we find a different picture than the one usually depicted of the American standard of life. In all cities there exists localities known as slums, festering sores that the profit system seems unable to do away with. Widespread poverty is made very apparent by these depressing areas and the host of charitable organizations which constantly, piteously and ever more beseechingly approach us with outstretched palms, begging alms for the poor, the unfortunate, the cripples, the blind, the sick; or perhaps a contribution to help some poor child enjoy a day or a week in the country. So the system staggers on from wars to "prosperity" to depression — often all three phases operating simultaneously, and all with the consent of the vast majority of "free" citizens.

## CONFUSED THINKING

What is wrong with our thinking? One would think that since the vast majority of us can read and write, have access to libraries, museums, lectures, night schools, etc., we should at least have the rudiments of a fairly good education. The evidence discloses however, that we have nothing to brag about on that score. The literature on display at book and newsstands is a criterion of our intellectual and cultural level. Our radio, television and movie fare too have a depressing effect on those who would look for culture. Our reasoning faculties become blunted as we unconsciously imbibe the opinions of gifted writers and speakers who may or may not believe what they promulgate as truth — for they work for a master even as you and I.

We might ask ourselves, have we the brain power to run what is admittedly a huge undertaking? Actually we, the working class, are running things today, only for the benefit of a few. Everyone from office boys to managers of industries are in the largest sense, workers. Although many managers can be termed part owners of industry, the real ownership and control of the nation's capital is vested in the hands of a small economic class that takes no part whatsoever in production. The capitalist class has evolved in the course of time from the organizers of business to a gang of useless parasites. Not only do the workers produce the shoes, clothing and other necessities but the luxuries as well. A large part of our energies is spent in wasteful, useless work such as advertising, financial, religious and the jobs created by the necessity for making life easy and worthwhile living for the capitalists. Then there is that huge section of the working class which produces implements of war or become the members of the armed forces.

## WASTE

The scramble for profits permits little thought of conservation, and waste is really encouraged. Many fires are started to collect insurance and to get rid of surpluses; fashions are changed frequently to stimulate sales; forests are cut down with no thought of future needs; fisheries are depleted; lands are excessively worked and streams are polluted.

## SO-CALLED FREEDOM

We might also check up on our alleged freedom under this competitive system! We are constantly reminded of the freedom we possess under the Constitution. If this were true it would never be mentioned, anymore than it is customary for people to brag that they have the right to walk on the streets, to use the libraries, visit public parks, etc. Actually, newspapers and other sources of information are largely controlled by their advertisers; preachers lay rather low on the