rhetoric presented as a political ideology! The folksy jester turns into a philosopher. The Alice In Wonderland quality of this situation might be humorous were it not for the fact that the destinies and happiness of hundreds of millions of people are at stake. At any rate, it is useless to try to discover a sophisticated system of ideas or a serious political program in Johnson's speeches. Rather the "Great Society" represents a projection of the hopes of the "moderates." Since these "moderates" contemplate no deep changes in society, the "Great Society" represents merely the latest version of the petty-bourgeois utopia where capitalism exists in a harmonious society without its contradictions. This is the real goal of the "Great Society" — a capitalist society that will satisfy men's needs. Socialists know that the chances of achieving this goal are nil because capitalism without the contradictions is as impossible as a leopard without spots.

One aspect of the "Great Society" conceived as a goal to be achieved is that apparently it contemplates the goal as being achieved through the leadership of politicians. The classical economists of yore claimed that the market system, if left to its own devices, would automatically function so as to satisfy men's needs in the best manner possible. Today, however, there is a widespread recognition that no "hidden, unseen hand," to use Adam Smith's phrase, guides capitalist economy. Left to itself the system is liable to run down like an old clock. Today, governmental activity is seen as a necessary antidote for the capitalist economy's propensity to economic malaise. Hence all the blather about the need for the country to rally behind political leaders in a movement to right all the wrongs of the past. The admission of the point, being made by socialists, that the market system does not automatically function satisfactorily is implicit in this stance. The timid souls who place their faith in the Johnson Administration hope that the contradictions of capitalism can be solved without inconveniencing those who find the status quo comfortable. It is this hope, with the delusions about the stability of contemporary capitalism, that presents the utopian aspect of the "Great Society." Since we think it is safe to assume that Johnson does not intend to institute any radical departures from past policies there is no reason to believe that his efforts will be any more successful than past efforts.

### NO "FORTRESS AMERICA"

One element discernible in the talk of a "Great Society" that shows the myopia of the apologists for contemporary America is the implicit isolation of U. S. society from its world context. Seemingly, there is a possibility of a "Great Society" in the United States amidst chaos and disaster in the rest of the world. We say this because there is no suggestion that the "Great Society" involves the solution of social problems throughout the world. Yet if there is one incontestable fact about the economy of the world today it is that the whole world is bound in a web of economic interdependency. In short, economically, we are today one world. We stand or fall together. Any reactionary dreams of a Fortress America impervious to events in the lesser realms outside American boundaries is unrealistic in the extreme.

American capitalists have investments in the billions of dollars throughout the world. The U. S. government must protect these investments. The influence of U. S. capital exerts pressures on and therefore is resented by native capitalists throughout the world. The U. S. government constantly faces confrontations with the governments representing these native capitalists. Economic imperialism and neo-colonialism are becoming issues of concern throughout the world. For example, in recent election in Chile much discussion revolved around the status of the U. S.-owned copper mines. Nor is this phenomenon limited to the so-called underdeveloped nations. In Western Europe, entrenched capitalists are also becoming aroused to the dangers of the Yankee business invasion.

### CAPITALISM MEANS WARS

As other national economies mature, the challenge to American capital will lead to more intense competition with dire effects to the American economic empire. This will lead to economic repercussions in the stateside conditions. American capital will be forced to defend its position with armed might. The Panama Canal Zone, the Congo, and Viet Nam have already seen bloodshed. The "Great Society" will be forced to send American troops elsewhere. The glory and profits of the "Great Society" will require an increasing tribute of blood.

The sad fact that the "Great Society" of today requires a continual slaughter of human beings brings us to the greatest contradiction of capitalist society — the contradiction between the desire of ordinary people to live in peace and the inexorable logic of a war-based system that leads to war. To paraphrase Clausewitz, war is merely the continuation of business rivalries by other means. The nation-state is the political expression of the interests of capitalists in a given geographical area. States compete among themselves for wealth and power and since armed force is the final arbiter of international disputes, economic competition leads to military confrontation. The arms race is the inevitable result of the race for profits. It hardly needs to be said that today nuclear weapons have made the arms race a threat to human existence. The "Great Society" will be a society living under the sword of Damocles.

The social and economic changes sweeping the world are bound to shake the confidence of American workers in the "American way of life." The conservatism of American life is due for shocks. Some have already been administered. American Negroes saw that elsewhere in the world dark-skinned people were becoming respected members of the international community. The American Negro bourgeoisie utilized these aspirations to demand equal status with their fellow members of the U. S. ruling class. This illustrates how social changes elsewhere in the world have repercussions on American life.

### AND DOMESTIC EXPLOSIONS

Modern communications make people aware of some of the possibilities of modern life and so people are less likely to stoically accept their lot. This revolution of rising expectations, as it has been called, presents a challenge to the American establishment. The decision-makers must grant enough concessions to satisfy rising aspirations. Yet since drastic action is required to do this, and since the moderate politicians do not want to take drastic action, the rising expectations are doomed to frustration. The American civil rights struggle shows that U. S. leaders cannot or will not grant enough concessions to avoid explosions. Who would have believed a few years ago that the year 1964 would see riots with Molotov cocktails thrown at police and National Guardsmen in the major cities of the North? The hopes of workers, Negro and white, for a better life run into the inertia and apathy of the decision makers.

One thing that has stoked the fires of discontent among Negro workers is their inability to get the jobs necessary to partake of the benefit of the "affluent society." One-third of Negro youth are unemployed. The frustrations of Negro workers reveal what lies in store for large numbers of people when automation really begins to take hold. A recent report by the noted educator, Dr. Robert H. Hutchins, predicted that if present trends continue, by 1970 fully half of all boys graduating from high school will not be able to find work!