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Wasting Our Time

We are just wasting our time in the Socialist movement. We are puttering around in a garden devoid of top-soil trying to grow beans. Our contacts are few and unintelligent, and if we happen to enlist the support of a worker with any degree of intellect it is only a question of time until he wakes up and envisions his future in a large mass organization that goes places, and gets things done. We are destined to remain small, obscure, impotent, and politically worthless. Why persist in wasting time when the outlook is so dark and ominous?

Yes, these are the accusations, the questions asked, and the kindly advice extended. If true, or applicable, they would constitute cause for anxiety, and leave us with a decisive migratory fixation. As it is we challenge their accuracy and, while always inviting criticism from any quarter, remain more than ever convinced that we have the real solution of the social problem, and will continue to work on it in our accustomed way.

True, there are larger groups in this country with more palatable offerings in the way of social reforms, and immediate demands. But such organizations have neither plan nor purpose for abolishing capitalism. They seek a position within the framework of the system to perpetuate and extend class society.

IS THE C. P. PREFERABLE?

The most important of the bigger groups is the Communist Party. It is generally to this outfit we are directed by those who have diagnosed our efforts as a waste of time. It is this group, then, that we must examine in order to ascertain the logic of the advice.

The Communist Party has been with us since the Russian upheaval. Its roots are still in Russia, and its political nourishment has been, and still is, siphoned out through Soviet channels. Bulletins with exaggerated claims of social accomplishment are periodically dispatched.

First on the agenda, we have the abolition of unemployment. Everyone in Russia, physically able, is working. This we can accept. In our own corrective and cultural fraternities like Sing Sing, Leavenworth, and San Quentin we can see on a small scale what is being done nationally in Russia. Everyone is assigned a job. A heavy penalty is exacted from anyone inclined to an infraction of the rules. Hitler and Mussolini, in their period of war economy were likewise blessed with a plethora of jobs. Today Truman is not so far behind. What was considered the "Utopian dream" of Henry Wallace, only five years ago, "60,000,000 jobs", is now exceeded by more than 3,000,000 in "our" preparation to take the measure of "our" enemies abroad. Would we not be wasting our time by becoming co-signers to this form of unemployment insurance?

Prices of everything the people use are coming down in the Soviet Union. An epidemic of deflationary spirals has hit the nation, and continues to sweep on. This is all due to the rapid production of wealth, and the consequent desire of the leaders of the "Red Fatherland" to see to it that every moujik shares in the benefits accrued.

A pair of shoes, that even a short time ago were equal to the product of ten days labor can now be purchased for a week's wages. Pictures of Stalin the Great, and autographed recipes explaining the way to complete a Five Year Plan in three years can be obtained at the bare cost of production.

This price list, minus its equation to the wage list, would be a useless guide to economic comparison in Russia as it would be anywhere else. Even the Soviet Year Book supplies us with no satisfactory evidence that the standard of living has made the vaunted ascent. Would we be conserving our time and energy by participating in this social hamburger of fact and fancy?

The Soviet magazines bring us pictures of children with rosy jaws, and engaging smiles. Reminds us of the seed catalogs we used to get in the springtime of youth. Plants and shrubs so pleasing and colorful, and so strangely at variance with the anemic specimens we later espied in the garden.

This parade of healthy and happy children was an important feature of German and Italian policy in their efforts to color world appraisal of their totalitarian regimes. A tour of inspection of American playgrounds could produce the same results.

In all countries where the exploitation of labor is the basis of ruler economy a strong and healthy element in the working section of society is imperative. These must be nurtured from childhood, and prepared for their part in the productive process. Could it possibly be construed as anything other than a waste of time for a Socialist group to condone and support such hypocrisy?

BUREAUCRACIES ARE ANTI-SOCIALIST

In addition to the loudly heralded social reforms of their era Soviet politicians have marched into the field of natural science providing us with ultimatums that are new, astounding, and thoroughly confusing. Brushing aside the conclusions of Darwin, Morgan, Mendel and Weismann they boldly insist that environmental factors only are responsible for changes in organic growth.

When a political party makes laws for the purpose of curtailing crime or promoting commerce it is not news. When a hand-picked bunch of bureaucrats passes an ordinance modifying and regulating the laws of nature, then, that is news.

Genetics, as we know it, is a branch of biology dealing specifically with heredity and variation among related organisms. As applied by the experts, in this arena, its purpose is to produce and improve strains, breeds, and varieties in animals and plants. Those workers and teachers arrived at conclusions that were warranted by the evidence they were able to assemble.

The sperm and ovum coalesce, and a new organism results. It resembles its parents, in general, while often differing greatly from them in particular. Chromosomes, small bodies existing in the cells of organisms, and the smaller genes, an element of the germ plasm, were discovered as the agents responsible for hereditary characters. The variation from the parent stock was attributed, primarily, to rapid changes promoted in chromosome and gene.

These were the conclusions of international geneticists. Their considered deductions, like decisions in all branches of science, are not necessarily valid in perpetuity. They can be, and often are discarded with the introduction of new and vital evidence. This is all that scientists require to change their verdict on a given problem. An official decree, or ukase, is not enough.

Now appears on the scene the politically sponsored Lysenko with a novel, untested, and unverified theory with nothing more to recommend it than the audacity of its promoter. He makes a wholesale attack on the chromosomes along with their genes. He boldly declares that there is no substance that carries the mechanisms of heredity. That each animal and plant is