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But have you ever stopped to think what the publication of **The Western Socialist** entails? Those who contribute articles are not professional writers.

They are socialists who offer their time and talents freely. The time and effort necessary for editing, proofreading, bundling and mailing are freely donated. Much of the money necessary for the financing the **The Western Socialist** comes out of the pockets of A FEW who in some cases can ill afford it.

The country is now allegedly prosperous — there are lots of jobs and a steady flow of pay envelopes. But prosperity has not reached **The Western Socialist.**

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AMERICAN SOUND AND FURY

HYSTERIA

The Greeks had a word for the American scene of today. Translated into English the word is **hysteria.** On the military front, U. S. capitalism is still embroiled in a world wide struggle, both cold and hot, with the Russian bloc of capital, a war which shows signs of continuing for many years to come. This despite the recent peace "offensives" of both the USSR and the U. S. A.; despite the exchange of sick and wounded prisoners of the Korean War; and the attempts to resume discussions on the ending of that particular phase of this new world war. On the home-front, this condition of seemingly permanent war reflects itself in an investigation and a sort of purge of prominent individuals in government service, educational institutions, the professional field and even the business world — individual whose closets rattle with soviet skeletons.

It seems that in this land of freedom, where, unlike Russia one is considered innocent until proved guilty, the unfortunate victim of a Senate investigating commitee is offered a free choice. He can either answer the clever questions that are thrown at him or he can invoke the U. S. Constitution and refuse to answer on grounds that he might incriminate himself. Now supposing the examinee takes the first option cited and testifies that at one time he belonged to the Progressive Citizens of America, the Friends of Soviet Russia, or horror of all horrors! the Communist Party. The fact that he might no longer belong to any of these organizations means very little, as little as it means that all of these groups, including the Communist Party have been entirely legal organizations, the last named even having been on the ballot in many states and having entered its own candidates for election to all types of political offices up to that of the presidency. Immediately he confesses his past associations he has wrecked his future insofar as his career is concerned. Not only this but he is forthwith requested to identify others also suspected of these associations and can quite possibly help to involve others even to the extent of their being tried for perjury.

On the other hand, this being a "democracy," he can take the second way out and refuse to testify. Immediately he takes this step his name is likewise plastered over the front-page headlines of every capitalist newspaper in the land and in most cases he is "suspended" or just plainly fired from his job. Regardless of which choice he makes he is forthwith put down as a traitor and unless he has at least the means of a Whittaker Chambers who had the wherewithal to retire to the life of a