TWO STRAWS IN THE WIND

It is significant that even the supporters of capitalism often give similar answers to the socialist ones when coming to grips with the problems of the modern world. It becomes increasingly obvious that apologetics for the status quo no longer **make sense.** Lacking scientific knowledge of the workings of capitalism, these critical supporters of present-day society use phrases that are inadequate in describing the real problems. Implicit in both quotes below is the recognition of the need for completely new answers in light of the world of 1960.

Straw No. 1 — The Committee on Science in the Promotion of Human Welfare of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in a report published in their official journal, "Science," warned that:

> (The) growing disparity between scientific progress and the resolution of the social issues which it has evoked... threatens to...disrupt the history of man...The growing importance of science as a military and political instrument threatens to erode the integrity of science itself. Basic research is poorly supported and, in the view of some observers, lacks vigor and quality. The grim international competition for supremacy in scientific accomplishment may lead to unseemly claims of priority. Secrecy arising out of military applications may restrict the development of science.

Straw No. 2 — Taken out of context and pieced together as a declaration of objectives, guess who made the following statement:

> (We should be) joined in a common effort to construct permanent peace... in a sorely troubled world. The drive of...rising human aspirations is creating a new world...of both ferment and promise. An awakening humanity (must) make a renewed attack on poverty, illiteracy and disease...Technology is also in revolution. It has brought forth terrifying weapons of destruction...for the future of civilization...It has opened up a new world of outer space...a celestial world filled with both bewildering problems and dazzling promise. This is indeed a moment for honest appraisal and historic decision.
>
> We can strive to master these problems for narrow national advantage or we can begin at once to undertake a period of constructive action which will subordinate selfish interest to the general well-being of the international community. The choice is truly a momentous one.
>
> The means are at hand. We have but to use them with a wisdom and energy worthy of our cause.
>
> (Eisenhower's address to the United Nations, 9-22-60)

The prevalent **accepted** ideas which are so unquestionably taken for granted become revealed as untenable when examined seriously, in light of the experiences in the real world of today. Imperceptibly but convincingly, newer and more accurate notions become **established** in men's minds — notions that are far closer in harmony with the facts of life.

The great, latent strength of the socialist movement is that the unfolding of capitalism, itself, reveals the validity and need for socialism.

RAB

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After the referendum had been taken
and ignored
after the losses had been sorted
after the millions had been killed
in the name of sanity
after the names had been noted
by the remaining scribes
the drinks
spilled and lipless
cloaked along the bed wood...

twelve rooks perched on an oak
croaked or spoke of happy days
when wages would rise
like angled spires
so that the mire of dulness
up and down
would not crown the mortine talk
or the post dinner walk
along the verandah
ushering in the new chatter
chattering in the new affluence

After the crap had been swallowed
and digested
by the last of humans
two men
beside the remains of a collar bone
and a dozen scorched ants
spoke of the need of leaders
and a currency
to meet the survivors
of other nations

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