

THE SOCIALISM which the present administration is trying to foist upon the country had its roots here in the labor movement. Unionism itself is essentially socialistic, but the roots go deeper. Early unionists used the minority of capitalistic firms who mistreated employees as a wedge to begin their reform crusade. They organized the working man and promised him better conditions, better pay and a whole list of "free" things.

To a certain extent, the early labor movement was probably a good thing. The small number of companies who took advantage of their workers deliberately controlled the other companies who sincerely wanted to improve standards for their employees. These minority firms paid low wages, turned out products more cheaply and other rival companies were forced to follow the practise or go out of business. But when labor organized these few firms, all were able to raise wages and improve working conditions without fear of cut-throat reduction of prices.

But as the labor movement progressed it passed from the hands of the sincere idealists into the control of tyrants seeking only to justify their own soft jobs. They made more and more promises to workers, and more and more demands of management to keep the promises. Today we have some desperate labor leaders who, having gone as far as they can, now are denouncing the principle of profits itself. This sheer abuse of power by labor is made possible only by industry's forfeit of rights in not telling its story and not working for capitalistic progress. This failure has been founded on the baseless theory that by being controversial they might alienate prospective customers.

The Democrats were quick to see a good thing in the labor movement. The promises to workers, pitting class against class in a social civil war, exceeded even the fabulous vows which labor had made. The idealistic socialist finds the power he is wielding very satisfying. The less idealistic, now being chronicled on newspaper front pages, are even happier. Doling out vast amounts of money, some of it invariably clings to the hands of the dolers.