market Square anarchists — victims of a police frame-up. A vicious press and pulpit joined hands in a campaign of lies, abuse, and filth that drove him to an early grave. Mr. Altgeld was a Democrat, but by no means a typical Democrat and received no help or comfort from his Party.

On the other hand, there was the sanctimonious Presbyterian elder and outstanding "liberal" Democrat, Woodrow Wilson. Mr. Wilson, despite his campaign promise to keep the country out of the European War if re-elected, a scant six months after his victory at the polls rallied the country into the war, thereby sacrificing millions of American killed and wounded in the bloody carnage. But this was war, some might argue, and Mr. Wilson was a liberal President in peacetime. Another myth! After the war Mr. Wilson gave the green light to another prominent "liberal" Democrat, Attorney-General Mitchell Palmer. Mr. Palmer, an active Quaker who was to become better known as the Quitting Quaker or the Quaking Quitter, converted the armories of the nation into concentration camps where assorted liberals, alleged Socialists, and members of the Industrial Workers of the World were held without warrants and incommunicado. The minions of Mr. Palmer — Democratic Party job-leaders — wrecked workers' and union halls, not to mention workers' heads. Perhaps, their outstanding crime was taking an alleged anarchist, Salsedo, and flinging him to his death from the twenty-first floor of the old "World" building, on to the sidewalk of Park Row in New York City.

The I.W.W. was virtually destroyed, its leaders flung into prison. Hundreds of "aliens" were deported, without trial, on the S. S. Buford. Federal troops, militia, the plug uglies of veteran organizations and the dregs of pool rooms and dives were armed with guns and clubs and given the go ahead to maim and to kill all those who dared to strike against the coal, copper and timber barons.

## YOU SCRATCH MY BACK...

The "liberal" or "reactionary" labels can not be so easily attached to the Democratic and Republican Parties. Capitalist political parties, regardless of the popular image, can do nothing much but keep the rusty, creaking wheels of capitalism turning. A reactionary such as Russell Long of Louisiana, recently elected to the powerful post of Senate Whip with liberal Democratic votes, has a record of having voted against the nuclear test ban treaty, civil rights for Negroes, medicare, domestic peace corps and foreign aid measures—all dear to the hearts of liberal Democrats. Yet this bigoted racist will not disappoint his liberal colleagues and will steer the Johnson reform measures to the President's desk for his signature.

How is such a miracle brought about? Merely by political horse-trading. The liberals lay off the off-shore oil deals, and the lucrative oil-depletion tax write-offs and the oil barons represented by Mr. Long are content to let Russell support the measures of the liberals. Not that social reform measures are against the interests of the capitalists—even the section represented by Mr. Long. Social Security is cheaper than maintaining county poor houses and since wage rates are never adequate to permit workers to contribute to the support of their aged parents, social security becomes a godsend to the capitalist class.

In fact, the entire gamut of social legislation is economically sound and practical to the capitalist class, as well as being unavoidable. The figures of those on relief rolls in 1964 totalled 7,800,000 as against 5,500,000 in 1954 — an increase of 42% against a population increase in that decade of 18%. Mine safety measures reduce costly shut downs and expensive reopenings of the shafts. Such measures result in decreased litigation — a costly business. In like manner, Workmen's Compensation is preferable to added legal costs in civil cases. Health measures are a must for the smooth running of industry. Epidemics are no respecter of class and absenteeism of workers due to sickness cuts into profits.

There is no doubt that individual capitalist corporations have fought against social reform, believing mistakenly that such measures were not in their interests and would even lead to their ruin. But such an attitude is not general today. Despite opposition through the years the representatives of the total national capital in Washington have enforced social legislation and capitalists, generally, have found it good for them because they found it profitable. Even Governor Johnson of Mississippi, surveying the drastic drop in business in his Gulf beach resorts and a consequent refusal of industry to locate in his racist state, now declares he will not tolerate the red necks and the Sheriff Raineys making a mockery of the law. Yet Governor Johnson rose the Mississippi political ladder by being himself a darling of the state's bigots.

## THE LIBERAL "REVOLUTION"

And so, the capitalist class is finding its future in liberalism, and the most "revolutionary" changes imaginable are taking place in ideas on subjects formerly the pet hates of the reactionaries. The dissemination of birth-control information is now becoming respectable and even the Roman Catholic Church is forced into a position of making an "agonizing reappraisal" of its historic attitude toward this inflammable subject. Legalizing and toleration of labor unions is now admittedly much cheaper than shutdowns and the hiring of strikebreakers. In fact, the labor lieutenants in charge of the unions assure industry a minimum of shutdowns while, at the same time, the union acts as a free employment agency with union stewards acting as assistant foremen.

Furthermore, the enfranchisement of women, eighteen-year-old youths, and Negroes, as well as the elimination of literacy tests as a requirement for voting is unavoidable. The need of the ruling class to keep its fingers on the pulse of the population is a prime necessity.

## FASCISM NOT NEEDED

Would social legislation have been watered down and civil rights curtailed or suspended with a Goldwater victory last November? At most for a brief period, although even this is doubtful. The capitalist productive process is a delicately woven, intricate, and complex mechanism easily subject to sabotage by the disgruntled. The slightest disturbance is reflected immediately in the world's stock markets, and panics the financial and industrial overlords. The ruling class is not likely to turn over control of their system to John Birchers, Minute Men, and such extremist elements. Groups of this type form an auxiliary that frightens old ladies of both sexes who respond by filling the coffers of the big political parties. In this sense the right-wing saviors of America are of use to American capitalism, but certainly not as political rulers.

The Marxist, then, does not panic at threats of "fascism" in modern capitalist societies. Material forces at work remain the determining factor. The wheel of history cannot roll backwards. Dictatorships do suit the climate of backward nations in the twentieth century. Having arrived on the scene as national entities rather late, having no developed bourgeoisie capable of operating the industries, being forced nevertheless to compete on a world market with highly developed capitalist societies, there is no other recourse but for the state to take over. With the assumption of powers by the state comes the need for totalitarianism — to greater or lesser degree. This, however, is for the backward areas, not for the industrial giants such as America. The alleged threat of "fascism" is but another of the flood of burning issues that daily erupt from the capitalist society. Socialist knowledge is the only antidote.

SAMO