FROM OUR MAIL-BOX

SECRETARY, DUBLIN SOCIALIST GROUP: "On Oct. 12th the first public meeting of the Irish Association of Civil Liberty was held in the Mansion House, Dublin. There was anything from seven to eight hundred people present. On the platform were a professor, an Earl, a B.L., and a K. C. (grand representatives of liberty!). The audience were treated to the usual outpourings of these 'Liberal gentlemen'. However, they had to finish sometime, and when that fortunate time arrived the meeting was thrown open to discussion. Naturally — and long before the Chairman had initiated the discussion — Comrade Cullen had his hand raised. Yet, despite that, he was not the first speaker; he was second. He rose, opened his jacket, and slowly looked round the hall — then he started. He simply lashed into them, right and left. His words coming slowly and deliberately, with the necessary emphasis here and there, in the rising and falling tone of the accomplished speaker, he castigated and debunked them and their ideas with all the force at his command. It was really a terrific show. 'The Earl of Wicklow has spoken of the family' — came the slow and scornful voice of Mick — 'but what has become of the family under CAPITALISM?' He then went on to show the disruption caused to the family by capitalist economic conditions. 'Why, the legal gentry exist through their ability to discover the loopholes in the law!' — was one of his cracks, and again — 'splitters of splitters, that's what they are!' When he had finished, the applause that broke out surprised me very much — it was loud and long, and really rather unexpected. After him a couple of speakers tried to raise the Russian bogey and forward the cause of Corporativism. Then I caught the Chairman's eye. I took a somewhat academic line, explaining the property basis of all law, and pointing out that 90% of the people possessed no property at all. 'They exist by virtue of the wage or salary they receive — yes, or SALARY', I said (there were quite a proportion of such types present — salary-earners). After developing the point about the property-basis of law, I continued: 'But no one on this platform' (pointing to the platform) 'has dared to question the law itself — oh, no. These gentlemen and their ilk have a vested interest in it's continuance.' And again: 'They speak of the fundamental rights of the human-being, and utter such sentimental and hackneyed phrases as we've heard — how often before? What rights can the majority have seeing they are denied economic freedom?' (Here I went on to develop the class basis of present day society.) I finished by quoting Shelley. 'What is freedom? Ye can tell that which slavery is, too well...' Though the Dublin papers boycotted any mention of the discussion, the 'Cork Examiner' (yes, CORK) gave us quite a complimentary mention in their 'Dublin Letter' column:

"When the discussion was thrown open to the audience, one noted that from one very small section of the crowded hall there came the pleas that 'the system' was to be blame, and these Socialists, as they termed themselves, seemed to have been well briefed, for the arguments they turned out were similar basically and in hue, and it would seem that they came from an advanced Socialist study group'."

BEL AIR, BRITISH GUIANA: "The workers in British Guiana certainly appreciate the publication of their struggles in the WESTERN SOCIALIST, and the interest you evince in their welfare.

"The sugar workers have gone back to work under the same conditions. They have lost heavily — besides five brave comrades shot down by the police, sixteen weeks of starvation and misery and a heroic struggle have brought nothing in return. Only starvation has forced them back to work. For the sixteen weeks that they were on strike, their spokesmen went all over the colony collecting whatever the poor underpaid workers and farmers could afford. But as the strike continued more and more people were forced to come and eat in the communal kitchens run by the workers, with the result that the money became short and they couldn't be fed any longer.

"The chairman of the three man Commission appointed by the Governor to inquire into the causes leading up to the shooting has left to take up his post in

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SELLING FREE ENTERPRISE

The advertising boys who write so glowingly of soap, and how it can make you a success in romance or business, are at this moment launching a nation-wide campaign to sell capitalism to the people.

The program will be an elaborate, well-financed attack on the apathy of the workers of the country to the vaunted "best of all possible systems" free enterprise, (the slick un-offending phrase for capitalism.) The campaign will be conducted by the Advertising Council, Inc., a non-PROFIT organization directed by leaders of business, education, religion, labor and other social services. Look at the names on the Advertising Council's committee: Paul Hoffman, Marshall Plan boss; Evans Clark, director of the Twentieth Century Fund; Boris Shishkin, AFL economist. And the "free enterprise" ads have been approved by Charles E. Wilson, president of General Electric.

Radio stations have pledged time for full-length dramatizations, the outdoor and car-card advertising companies have agreed to provide large space, as have the leading Sunday newspaper supplements, business magazines and house organs. The value of the facilities pledged is more than $1,000,000, according to the *New York Times* (Oct. 17, 1948). The campaign will be more than a parade of ads. Local industries will conduct regular tours of factories to show "free enterprise" at work. Business leaders will run discussions on the whys and wherefores of capitalism.

All this will add up to a deadly serious effort on the part of the business system to put their best foot forward for popular support and acceptance.

These are the reasons given by a committee set up in 1946 to determine the true extent of popular misunderstandings (?) about free enterprise:

1. The depression, by throwing millions of people out of work through no fault of their own, has had a lasting effect upon the present generation of workers. It has rocked the faith in the capitalistic system, made them resentful of its seeming ineptitude.
2. Specialization, earmark of the system, has increased production but at the same time robbed the individual of his pride of workmanship. The worker no longer has the feeling that he is significant economically, or that he "belongs". Thus, he tends to be vaguely unhappy and frustrated without knowing the reason for his discontent.
3. U. S. industry has become so huge, so complex, that the role of the individual has become minimized. The workers can hardly be expected to comprehend industry's overall operation. Even a large number of white-collar men have been removed from intimate contact with the system.
4. Management has been remiss in communicating with its own workers openly and honestly, and as a result, an