proletarian population which could not live on sunshine and pure air, but was willing and anxious to work for wages in order to live.

These appeals did not fall on deaf ears. L. A. became an important fruit and vegetable processing center. its oil industry grew and thrived and a clothing manufacturing industry of respectable proportions was founded. This industrial development which marked L. A. history for the past two decades, was like everywhere else in the nation, greatly accelerated during the late war. Henry Kaiser who took a page from the late Henry Ford, and added a few artistic pages to mass production himself, brought the steel industry to Southern California. During the war the area became a major center of aviation production. This has fallen off somewhat since cessation of hostilities, but still today L. A. is one of the major industrial centers of the nation, and to top its glory it is conceded that the next census findings will show L. A. with the 4th and perhaps third greatest population of the country, exceeding Philadelphia's 2,000,000.

With all this industrial development, and with its tremendous population growth, it could be expected that L. A. promoters, its Chamber of Commerce and other civic leaders feel mighty good and are going around mutually congratulating themselves with a "well done job boys." Alas — as the popular song has it — "into each life some rain must fall" or as these pages have constantly stated, there is an observe side to the medal of capitalist progress.

The city of L. A. is no exception. Its development has brought to light the same problems afflicting other cities, and in its case due to its drawing power the problems are there in a more serious form than elsewhere. Lately we are hearing plaintive cries and strange pleas from spokesmen for the city. Its mayor and its C. of C. are not welcoming new comers but are warning them to keep out — stay clear of L. A. For the city is now a critical area in the capitalist national economic setup. It is plagued by a larger, steadily growing, army of unemployed and faced with a mounting crime wave which usually accompanies unemployment. Feeding unemployed and combating crime costs money — means higher taxes for property owners. Naturally the stayaway plea does not apply to tourists with money to spend nor to capitalists with money to invest. It is directed to those propertyless workers who are still streaming into L. A. lured on by hopes of jobs or merely by the magic invoked by the name of L. A. — lured and drawn there by a legend of the past.

The word "legend" may seem out of place, but it has become particularly suitable to L. A. Its initial magnetic force, its favorable climate, has truly become legendary. The sunshine, the healthful air are now mythical and will be so for sometime to come.

Instead there is a new concoction. L. A. is now not only the movie capital, but it has succeeded to the dubious honors formerly held by such cities as Pittsburgh and St. Louis. It is now also the capital of smog — a recently popularized word describing the combination of smoke with various industrial fumes. This combination forms a blanket that hovers over the city for hour at a time every day, not only shutting off sunlight but polluting the general atmosphere. It is difficult to describe smog — one must experience it as this writer has — it presents itself as a sort of dirty gray haze over the city — no signs of sun and a mighty peculiar odor in the air.

Naturally there has been a great hue and cry about the smog. It has penetrated nearby Pasadena, which is largely a residential and commercial city rather than industrial. The city fathers are harassed by complaints. But they can't stop the industries from operating and belching out the ingredients for smog, nor on the other hand can the workers of L. A. leave their jobs or mortgaged homes.

The smog is a serious condition. It is not merely an irritating nuisance. Doctors appraising the situation are direly predicting until it is eliminated, L. A. will be one of the unhealthiest cities of the nation. Smog damages membranes, particularly the sensitive membranes of the eyes. Inhalation of smog over a protracted period of time may result in a variety of grave respiratory and other physical disorders. Some doctors contend that the unsolved new disease, virus X, is directly caused by smog.

Serious the problem is and particularly serious to the wage workers of L. A. They are chained to their jobs and to whatever personal possessions they managed to accumulate during the great prosperous period of lots of overtime and lots of overwork during the war days.

To the other class of peoples — the real important people of L. A. — who do not work in canneries, refineries or clothing factories, smog is no problem. They can move to Palm Springs, Santa Barbara and if smog overtakes them there, move further on. But the wage workers are there to stay — imbibing smog and getting an occasional smog-clear day to remind them of former times — enjoying the sunshine on the rare days it reaches them.

Distressing as the problem of smog is — it is not an insuperable one. If not an entire cure, an amelioriation of the situation is possible. Experts have been recruited to grapple with the situation and there have been some suggestions to date, impractiable because too expensive. One meteorologist pointed to the employment of hundreds of bombers deluging the atmosphere with millions of tons of water daily — a solution obviously made with tongue in check for it would require millions of dollars weekly to disperse the smog thru such means. Other cities such as St. Louis and Pittsburg have faced a similar condition and overcome their problems. However their smog was caused mainly by coal smoke, L. A.'s problem is particular vexing because it is caused by oil smoke and various chemical fumes and, further, its balmy weather has temporarily turned to a curse — these are not sufficient strong winds and storms to move the smog out once it settles over the city.

Eventually the technical means will be found to eliminate the smog.

But solved or not, the smog situation proves, once more, the contentions of socialist spokesmen that there are no paradise for workers in any capitalist city or any capitalist nation. Freed from smog, L. A. will still be a vast industrial center for the exploitation of wage slaves. No industrial center can provide a healthful or joyful existence for wage workers.

Over a century ago socialist thinkers dwelled on the unfavorable results arrived at by concentrating abodes around factories and industries; that there should be considerable space between the places where people work and where they live. Under capitalism this situation is inevitable. The homes of the wage slaves are tied close to the place where they are exploited.

A socialist society — where investments, profits, costs of transportation will be meaningless — will eradicate the gruesome crowding in unhealthy industrial surroundings. There will be no unhealthy centers in a socialist society where human happiness rather than profit will be the major consideration.

But until all the workers institute socialism, we can expect other workers moving from one section of the nation to another — moving to Texas — moving to L. A. — seeking better fortune in other places. Such moving about while bringing a change in scenery — will never bring a change in their dissatisfactions or frustrations. They will find capitalism every where — until the entire working class moves into socialism.

MORRIS PRIZANT