APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

WORLD SOCIALIST PARTY OF THE UNITED STATES

FOREWORD: The test of admission to the World Socialist Party must be neither more nor less than acceptance of the essential working principles and policies of socialism as a class movement. To demand more is to degenerate into a sect; to require less is to invite anarchy and embark on the slippery incline of reformism and compromise. These essentials of socialist principles and policies are outlined in the DECLARATION OF PRINCIPLES of the World Socialist Party. They can easily be understood by the average worker, and they comprise the irreducible minimum of the principles and policies of socialism narrow enough to exclude all who are not socialist, yet broad enough to embrace everyone who is. They form, in consequence, a reasonable and sufficient test of the applicant's understanding.

QUESTIONS TO BE ANSWERED BY THE APPLICANT

1. (a) Are you now a member of any political party?.....Which?.....

   (b) Have you ever been a member of any political party?.....Which?.....

   .....

   (c) What is your present attitude toward that party?.....

   .....

2. Can capitalism, through reforms, be made to function in the interest of the working class? .....

   Explain: .....

   .....

3. To establish socialism, must the workers first gain control of the powers of government through their political organization?..... Explain: .....

   .....

4. Do you affirm that while a member of the World Socialist Party you will neither directly nor indirectly support or vote for any political candidate except that of the World Socialist Party? .....

5. Must we have leaders to obtain our object?.....Explain: .....

   .....

6. What is your attitude to religion? .....

   .....

7. What system of society exists in Russia? .....

   .....

8. (a) What is the function of trade unionism? .....

   .....

   (b) Explain its advantages and limitations: .....

   .....

NAME ..... Date .....

Address ..... City .....State.....

Admitted by Local.....Local Sec'y.....

National Sec'y ..... Date .....

A complete statement of the applicant's position on the questions above is desired when interviewing by the proper committee is not practicable.

The National Administrative Committee reserves the right to seek further information from the applicant.

Members-at-large are requested to answer all questions.

If desired, applicant may amplify replies on additional sheets.

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EXECUTIVE SUITE

The long mouldering corpse of American "free enterprised" rolled over in its grave and emitted a most sepulchral chuckle. Federal Judge J. Cullen Ganey, in a Philadelphia courtroom upon handing out a series of large fines and small (30-day) prison terms to a group of the nation's highest salaried and most respected executives, observed:

> "What is really at stake here is the survival of the kind of economy under which America has grown in greatness, the free enterprise system." (TIME, Feb. 17, 1961)

And, as though in rebuttal to the learned jurist, Mr. F. F. Loock, president and general manager of the Allen-Bradley Co. of Milwaukee declared:

> "No one attending the gatherings was so stupid he didn't know they were in violation of the law. But it is the only way a business can be run. It is free enterprise." (ibid)

The charge for which the electrical companies and their executives were convicted was that they had conspired over the past seven years to fix prices and rig bids in the sale of about 7 billion dollars of electrical equipment, in flagrant violation of the anti-trust act. The companies also face a series of private suits, and in some cases are reported to be already seeking settlements, out of court, to the accompaniment of a wave of selling of General Electric and Westinghouse stocks on the New York exchange, Although we understand, as socialists, that the legal woes of the capitalists and a falling off in prices of stocks is of no concern to the working-class, we still find it of interest to peer into and examine the depths beneath the muddy water stirred up by these champions of so-called free enterprise.

Let us, for example, take the case of the giant General Electric Company, the history of which is certainly typical of the American success story and the executives of which are without doubt among the nation's finest, most responsible and respectable citizens. A thumbnail sketch of the past of this corporation is a sketch, in miniature, of the development of American "free enterprise."

There are few in the United States today who would link the name of J. P. Morgan with one of the eight largest financial combines in the country. Morgan is thought of, by most who think of him at all, as one of the buccaneers of wealth of a time long gone by. Names like United States Steel, American Tel. and Tel., International Tel. and Tel., Kennecott Copper etc. are of course household words but it is not generally known that these corporations are all part of the Morgan financial empire, along with General Electric Corp. Away back in 1881, Thomas Edison, the brainy inventor and budding capitalist, had founded the electric power business with his Pearl Street central station in New York. But despite his undoubtedly fine inventive powers and despite the fact that it is generally understood that it takes "brains" to make money, Thomas Edison had to look for outside capital. He found the support he needed in the person of J. Pierpont Morgan, who, although he knew nothing whatsoever about the technical nature of the industries