

SOCIALIST MONTHLY

No. 1 - August 1951 - 10 cents per copy.

(Excerpt from Program of the Libertarian
Socialist League)

"We live in a world of insecurity, plagued by poverty, exploitation, militarism, and imperialism. Mankind is again threatened with a terrible war of even greater destruction. We see the cause of these conditions in the class system prevailing today; in both capitalism which is dominant in the United States and bureaucratic collectivism prevalent in the Soviet Union. In place of these systems it is necessary to establish a democratic socialist society in which the industry and resources of the world will be owned and controlled by the working class for the benefit of the producers. This socialist society is not the welfare state where there is planning without liberty. Moreover, nationalization without workers control is a step in the direction of bureaucratic collectivism, rather than socialism. Socialism is not possible without industrial democracy."

Official News Letter of Local New York,
Libertarian Socialist League.

Subscription: \$1 for 10 copies

Address: Local NY, LSL, G.P.O. Box 770; NY 1 NY

REPRESSION
ON THE
CAMPUS

REPORT OF
NATIONAL
SECRETARY
TO
NATIONAL
CONFERENCE

RANDOM
JABS

A GENERAL
SPEAKS
OUT

THE SOVIET
UNION
TODAY

R E P R E S S I O N O N T H E C A M P U S

The New York Times has done a curious thing. It has printed a set of articles detailing the sad state of civil liberties in American colleges today. It has also printed an editorial deploring this state of affairs. Since the Times supports the techniques used to bring about this situation it would be interesting to discover just what is behind this inconsistency of supporting the method but deploring the results. Is it merely capitalist hypocrisy or something more sinister? At any rate here are some excerpts from the articles which were written by Kalmon Siegel.

A study of seventy-four major colleges in the United States by the New York Times showed that many members of the college community were wary and felt varying degrees of inhibition about speaking out on controversial issues, discussing unpopular concepts and participating in student political activity, because they were fearful of: (1) Social disapproval; (2) a 'pink' or Communist label; (3) criticisms by regents, legislatures and friends; (4) rejection for further study at graduate schools; (5) the spotlight of investigation by Government and private industry for post-graduate employment and service with the armed forces.

Such caution, in effect, has made campuses barren of the free give-and-take of ideas, the study found. At the same time it has posed a seemingly insoluble problem for the campus liberal, depleted his ranks and brought to many college campuses an apathy about current problems that borders almost on their deliberate exclusion.

From many sources, the New York Times found that "censorship, wariness, caution and inhibition" had led to the following results on many campuses: (1) A reluctance to speak out on controversial issues in and out of class; (2) a reluctance to handle currently unpopular concepts even in classroom work where they may be part of the study programme; (3) an unwillingness to join student political clubs; (4) neglect of humanitarian causes because they may be suspect in the minds of politically unsophisticated officials; (5) an emphasis on lack of affiliations; (6) an unusual amount of serio-comic joking about this or that official investigating committee 'getting you'; (7) a shying away, both physically and intellectually from any association with the words 'liberal', 'peace', 'freedom', and from class-mates of a liberal stripe; (8) a sharp turning inward to local college problems to the exclusion of broader current questions.

Mr. Siegel gives the following explanation: "The times; the probable inevitability of the draft, the fear and uncertainty of national life and a fatalistic and frustrated conviction that little can be done in the college area to alter international developments"; "a mature awareness of the true nature of Communism, with the result that it has lost much of its former fascination, and the feeling that under present conditions, a firm, unswerving allegiance to established concepts is in the national interest and should be accepted." Municipal colleges, and large state universities in large cities, says Mr. Siegel, have been affected most. Among the examples he cites are the following: "At the City College of New York, a student leader said he was 'extremely reluctant' to express any opinions that might be considered left-wing, even when asked to write a theme in class on a political issue. A student editor held that his fellow-students were unwilling to speak out, particularly in engineering, where, he said, 'the wrong word at the wrong time might jeopardise their futures'. He said agents of the FBI were constantly inquiring about students applying for government jobs, and that some graduate schools, with Government-classified projects, were extremely reluctant to accept students who had committed themselves to an unpopular point of view". Student leaders at Hunter College (another New York municipal college) were fearful of signing petitions, because they were reluctant to get their names on 'any list'. Letters to the editor of the undergraduate paper, they said in explaining the greater caution, now open with 'It appears that', rather than with the 'I think',

and 'I believe', of years ago. A number of teachers offer qualifying apologies during their lectures, particularly when they move from the black-and-white realm of the textbook, to analysis and interpretation, saying, 'Don't get me wrong', and 'Don't think I'm a Communist'. At the U of Michigan, Dean E.A. Walter explained that students were quite obviously more careful in their affiliations, recognizing that Federal security officers were making careful checks of the membership of liberal organizations. At the U. of No. Carolina, J.R. Harris, assistant attorney-general for the student body, said that while the student newspaper was free to say what it pleased, there was an atmosphere on the campus, 'as in most of the country, which tends to equate criticism with disloyalty and liberalism with Communism'. It is interesting to note that: "At the country's leading Catholic colleges, deans and students explained that any pressures toward conformism were virtually non-existent because student and faculty thinking and action were consistent with the Catholic point of view. At Manhattanville and Fordham, students reported that the current pressures had resulted in a more militant Catholicism, and in a growing awareness of social and economic problems with which most of the colleges were now dealing. They said that rare expressions of extreme liberalism might bring social disapproval and 'constructive criticism'. The sameness of background and belief almost erased the area of debate on most controversial issues of the day, but did not preclude discussion."

Unlike the New York Times, Socialists oppose both the method and the result of capitalist repression of civil liberties. Nor does limit our concern, as does the Times in this instance, to students. Our major concern is for the plight of society's only useful element--the working class. We oppose any restriction on the rights and abilities of the workers to struggle for a better world. Students who want seriously to fight for civil liberties should not confine their efforts to the cloistered walls of Alma Mater but should take their place in the proletarian movement and, by throwing away their college-inculcated petty-bourgeois snobbery, take up the struggle for a workers world; a world where free exercise of all civil liberties will be the birthright of all useful citizens.

R A N D O M J A B S

Onward, Christian "Soldier"

The Rev. Daniel A. Poling is much perturbed because Gen. Mac'Arthur has not been allowed the "honor" of touching off World War III. Full of holy gall and pious spleen the Reverend jousts mightily against Mac'Arthur's critics in the pages of the New York Times. The fact that Mac'Arthur's policy has contributed much to the tension of international relations and nothing to its lessening, disturbs Poling not a whit. With the full courage of his convictions Rev. Poling mounts his swivel chair and safely behind the editorial desk at the office of the Christian Herald, summons the nations to Armageddon.

The Grapes of Wrath - Soviet Vintage

More than half of Russia's collective farms have been merged since early in 1950, reports I.A. Benediktov, Soviet Minister of Agriculture. He also indicates that the work norms for farm laborers will be raised. He says nothing tho, about the norms for the farm chairmen and directors whose "work" like that of their compatriots in U.S. farm corporations is performed in a swivel chair and not behind the plow. He also says nothing about raising the pay of farm laborers while raising their work quota. Besides a salary for exceeding their productive value (nil), the chairmen of soviet collective farms are paid bonuses on a pro rata scale based on the amount of work they squeeze out of the productive workers. Their lush incomes like their idleness is the direct fruit and also the cause of the poverty and hard work of the farm laborers. The roots of the Russian grapes of wrath flourish in the same soil as its American counterpart, in exploitation of wage labor.

"World's Most Comfortable Heels"

This advertising slogan of a manufacturer of that valuable adjunct to footwear, the rubber heel, has a double meaning for the Socialist. Right here in America we do indeed have the "world's most comfortable heels". Nowhere on earth is there a ruling class more coddled, more bloated with the wealth that modern technology enables them to wring from the toil of the working class. The American capitalist class stands today where Hitler wanted the German capitalists to be, on top of the world, the masters of men. Only the working class can challenge their domination.

Note to Thomasites

When the BLP relaxed control over India because Britain was too weak to hang on to it any longer, the SP disguised this and said it was due to the BLP's "socialist" statesmanship and to a principled desire to liquidate imperialism. Genuine Socialists, on the other hand, maintained that the BLP, British capitalism's "left wing", would not let go of any part of the British empire that Britain was strong enough to hold in subjugation. Events have proven this conclusion to the hilt. For example, 80% of the people of Cyprus want British rule out, but since Cyprus is helpless, the "Labor" party's "socialist" statesmanship doesn't see fit to liquidate that part of his majesty's empire. The events now transpiring in Iran provide another opportunity to assess not only the "socialism" of the BLP but also that of its apologist, the SP. While no genuine Socialist can approve of the nationalisation of the oil industry by the Iranian government as a substitute for working class ownership and control, on the other hand, neither is there any justification for British exploitation of Iranian resources. Where does the SP stand on this question?

Question With Answer

"How many oldsters would believe us if we told them that there are young people who hate security enough to voluntarily become poor?" (Oh, we'd believe you alright provided you're talking about the inhabitants of the Home for Young Idiots.) Such is the question, and the philosophy of a "news" paper called the "Sun Herald" which has the enthusiastic support of the Catholic Worker movement. Workers who are hypnotized by the pro-labor slant of the Catholic Worker should alert themselves to the consequences of its pro-poverty program. While the Socialist Movement strives for the advancement of human welfare, the catholic worker movement demands the spread of human private

Welfare Bureau Menus or Garbage A La Mode

Every so often we are offered the uninvited advice of charitable minded capitalists who are enthusiastically willing to tell the workers how to live on garbage ("Economically prepared, well-cooked and attractively served"). The latest instance of such unwanted advice which is supposed to prove that a family of four can eat "nourishing meals" for seven days on the princely sum of \$18.12. Unlike the usual run of economy menus this one is not studded with such items as breadburgers and triple-boiled coffee grounds (at least the sample list in the NY Times didn't mention them). This one really does offer a few meat dishes with real meat in them. But for all that, this menu is as phony as a three-dollar bill. Aside from its nutritional deficiencies, it is IMPOSSIBLE to buy the kind and quantity of food indicated, plus the staples without which it could not be prepared, for the sum of \$18.12. To take just one example, the prescribed quantity of fluid and evaporated milk is supposed to cost \$3.81. This item would actually cost \$4.90. All of which suggests a solution to the problem of what to do with the capitalists after we've abolished capitalism. Let the punishment fit the crime. Food 'em on the same diet of garbage ("economically prepared, well-cooked and attractively served") that they want the workers to live on.

Imperialist Russia Disciplines Naughty Satellite

The Soviet Union, whose apologists bellow thru every propaganda means at their command, that she is not imperialist, has once again made liars out of them all. The Soviet government has deliberately forced down the czech workers standard of living in reprisal for acts on the part of the czech government; acts for which the workers are in no wise responsible. It seems that the czech government decided to export to Western countries certain machinery and precision instruments that had been slated to go to the USSR, because the czechs felt that they needed the raw materials that the western countries would give them in exchange. So the exports to the USSR were postponed to 1951. This did not meet with the approval of the soviet government which proceeded

to embargo all deliveries of grain to czechoslovakia, even going so far as to recall a shipment that had already crossed the frontier. The resulting shortage of grain has led to a rise of almost 60% in the prices of bread and flour. Needless to say, it is the czech workers who are bearing the brunt of this shining example of soviet "Fraternity". Of course, the czech government doesn't dare blame the "workers fatherland" for this blow at the people's stomachs but instead has launched a campaign against alleged hoarders who will figure as the scapegoats for soviet imperialism.

Here Ya Are! Get Ya Free Crime Detection Kit!

Can't catch a criminal without a crime detection kit (free). Sounds like an ad in Junior's comic book, doesn't it? But it isn't. The offer of a "free crime detection kit" is made by an "institute of criminology" to those who enroll in its courses of "investigation, detection and criminology". What the "institute" is really doing is revealed by its slogan, "war plants need security personnel, be an investigator". It is training jerks with "crime-stopper" complexes to become snoopers and spies on the workers. It is one of the training schools for recruits for the american version of russia's MVD.

Tito Does It Too; Mass Deportation A Weapon In Imperialist War.

Mass deportation--that is--the deportation of an entire ethnic group without regard to class, political views, age, sex, guilt or innocence, has long been one of the weapons used by imperialists in their conflicts. Tito has now added one more item of evidence to the data that reveal Yugoslavia to be an imperialist state and not, as alleged, a "socialist" state, by taking up this weapon and wielding it with ruthless vigor against the White Russian minority within the borders of Yugoslavia. Some 3700 persons of all ages and political views, only a minority of them sympathetic to Russian communism, have already been dumped outside the Yugo borders. Since the number selected periodically for expulsion has tended to increase, the total deported by the end of January may approximate 5000 persons. Practically all of the remaining 7000 people of Russian extraction in Yugoslavia will probably be expelled. Each trainload of deportees pulling in to Trieste, the dumping ground, suffers from frantic improvisation and resultant hardships since the Yugoslav government doesn't advise the authorities of Trieste in advance.

Sign of Hope

The sign of hope on a horizon otherwise smogged by the calamities of our time is the revival over and over again of workers militancy in the class struggle. Altho often inert and unresponsive to the attacks of the ruling class, yet labor has and will again, wage aggressive struggle against its enemy. Some recent examples of this were the courageous struggle of the zinc workers and their wives against heavy odds, the Rhode Island teachers walkout, and the hospital workers in Minneapolis who are confronted with the scabbery of society matrons and debutantes. May we suggest to the hospital workers that they arm themselves with soggy scrub rags and forthwith wash the face of the next Mayfair madam who busts their picketline? In far-off Australia, coal miners of New South Wales served notice that they would defy a ban on work stoppages in the coal industry. There are uncounted other instances, unnoticed in the daily press, in which groups of workers in the best way they know, have resisted the attacks of the employers.

But so far, the great mass of the working class has hamstrung its militancy by blindly combatting only the effects and not the cause of its misery. Socialists, understanding the consequences of such a course, strive to bring the necessary consciousness of purpose and awareness of the goal into the ranks of the Labor movement. When that class consciousness has been absorbed and that goal of a classless society has been accepted by the world's workers, then history's last class struggle will enter its closing phase. It will then be only a matter of time until the final extinction of class rule and with it, its cruelties, follies and blunders, some of which we have illustrated in the preceding paragraphs. Such is the task to which we summon your support. We urge you to join with us and to take your stand with the Libertarian Socialist League on the side of lasting peace, boundless prosperity and human brotherhood.

ON CAPITALISM AND WAR

(reprinted from Libertarian World)

A Los Angeles newspaper recently printed a news article under the headline, "Socialist Thomas Riasas Voiced to Defend Capitalism". Below, we have reproduced the full quotation of "socialist" Thomas, and beside it, a section from an article which appeared in the May 6, 1950 issue of the New Leader Magazine, which seems to throw some doubt upon the soundness of Thomas's analysis. Read both articles and reach your own conclusions.

Birmingham, Eng., May 2 (AP) - Norman Thomas, Socialist Leader, defended capitalism in an interview today.

"There is no lie greater", Thomas told a British Press Assn. reporter, "than that in June, 1950, American capitalism was in such a position that it wanted the Korean war.

"The war was undertaken because it backed the one positive thing that came out of the world war--the United Nations. I believe we have got to see it thru."

(From the New Leader, 6 May 50)

"...competent authorities believe that the end of the growth in unemployment is not yet in view. For example, Dewey Anderson maintains that there will be 8,000,000 unemployed by mid-1950.

"If to this...be added the unemployed who still technically retain their jobs and the under-employed or involuntary part-time workers, the total might far exceed 8,000,000 by that date.

Question: Was it coincidental that the adventure in Korea was launched just at the time Am. capitalism seemed to be on the brink of another great depression?

A GENERAL SPEAKS OUT

(reprinted from Libertarian World)

I spent 33 years and 4 months in active military service as a member of our country's most agile military force--the Marine corps. I served in all commissioned ranks from a second lieutenant to major-general. And during that period I spent most of my time being a high-class muscle man for big business, for wall street and for the bankers. In short, I was a racketeer, a gangster for capitalism.

I suspected I was just a part of a racket at the time. Now I am sure of it. Like all members of the military profession I never had an original thought until I left the service. My mental facilities remained in suspended animation while I obeyed the orders of the higher-ups. This is typical with everyone in the military service.

Thus I helped make Mexico and especially Tampico safe for American oil interests in 1914. I helped make Haiti and Cuba a decent place for the national city bank boys to collect revenues. I helped in the raping of half a dozen central American republics for the benefit of wall st. The record of racketeering is long. I helped purify Nicaragua for the international banking house of brown bros. in 1909-12. I brought light to the dominican republic for american sugar interests in 1916. In China in 1927 I helped see to it that standard oil had its way.

During those years, I had, as the boys in the back room would say, a swell racket. I was rewarded with honors, medals, and promotions. Looking back on it, I feel that I might have given Al Capone a few hints. The best he could do was to operate his racket in 3 city districts. I operated on 3 continents.

.....Major General Smedley D. Butler, USMC

LEAGUE LOG

May Day Celebration: Branch New York participated in a joint Celebration with 4 other organizations, IWW, Peacemakers, CNVR and Catholic Worker. The meeting was held in Labor Temple with about 95 persons present, which filled the hall to capacity with some being turned away. Comrade J. Dinsmore spoke for the League and presented the case for

Socialism so effectively that much favorable comment was received from non-socialists in the audience.

Picket Franco Consulate: LSL joined other radical groups in picketing Spanish consulates in support of the striking workers of Barcelona.

New York Meetings: Branch New York meets the first Saturday in each month at its Hdq. Libertarian Center, 115 W 25 St., third floor. Business meetings are usually followed by discussions on selected topics. All workers welcome.

T H E S O V I E T U N I O N T O D A Y

The usual reaction of Stalinists when Socialists point out to them the oppression of the workers that prevails in the USSR, is to yell, "It's a lie!" It is a pleasure, therefore, to discover that some of the best proofs of Stalinism's reactionary nature are to be found on the lips of the Stalinists themselves. Such proofs as these choice bits, for example: from "Guide to the Soviet Union" a book recommended by the Daily Worker;

pp. 369-370 Probing for his secret of success, I asked him whether he had a workers council to help him run the plant. "We don't have such a system any more. We find it neither necessary nor desirable. The Workers do their jobs and I do mine."

Don't the labor unions have a voice in the direction of your plant?

No, they have other work to do, they don't interfere with management in any way.

But who are your directors? Who fires you if you fail to make good?

The commissariat that hired me is my board, but it doesn't tell me what to do.

Does a good board in America interfere with the manager? Certainly not. That's why you have efficient factory operation there.

(Edgar Snow's interview of a Russian factory director.)

p. 377 Management on the spot gets bonuses on a definite scale. A coal mine manager, for example, has 4% added to his salary for each % of output over plan in his mine.

p. 414 Chairman of farms this size are paid 90 labor-days a month plus 400 rubles in cash, with a bonus of 15 to 40% for output over plan, and an increment for length of service. In addition, it is to be remembered that the chairman shares all bonuses for crop or livestock records.

From the N.Y. Herald Tribune, 6 Aug 45. (Interview of Vassili Kuznetsov, chairman of the Soviet All-Russian Central Council of Trade Unions, by reporters.)

"There is little difference between our system and the American System," Kuznetsov said. "Take for example a wage case. First, a committee of workers in the factory meets with management. If they can't agree, the grievance committee takes over. The grievance committee is made up of equal representatives of labor and management. If the dispute is still not agreed, the All-Union Central Council of the Trade Unions takes the case to the government. The government decides."

And who is the government? The government is the employer. Once again the emphasis in the above is ours. Our fellowworkers in Russia, like us, labor under the yoke of exploitation and class rule. It is our duty as International Socialists to extend the hand of brotherhood and solidarity to them and not to their Stalinist oppressors. At the same time we must remember Liebknecht's words: "The main enemy is in our own country". Our own bourgeoisie must be defeated first before we can aid others.

From the report of the National Secretary to the National Conference of LSL

These are indeed critical times. Never in this country's history has black reaction so thoroughly permeated and dominated every phase of life, and never before have the people so feared to voice their opinions. The great mass of yellow "socialists" and so-called liberals have not only deserted their positions, but many have actively joined the reaction and now help to destroy what remains of bourgeois freedom. As Am. imperialism prepares for the final showdown with its Russian rival, this repression can be expected to grow in intensity and pervasiveness.

But the picture is not all black. On the general working class scene, the necessities of preparations for total war must bring wage freezing, increasing taxation, constantly rising living costs and many provoking inconveniences. At first these will be accepted as patriotic burdens, but sooner or later they must breed deep, large-scale discontent. Whether this discontent will be seized upon by charlatans and demagogues and dissipated, or whether it will be channeled in a progressive direction, depends upon the conduct of the genuine Socialist forces, which includes LSL, between now and that time.

So our most important work in the immediate period ahead is clearly indicated; it is to strengthen the League numerically. The most accessible field of recruitment and source of financial support are the hundreds, and possible thousands of principled Socialists formerly affiliated with various radical groups who quit them in disgust at what they regarded as betrayal of Socialism. They must be reached with our literature and by personal contact, familiarized with our uncompromising revolutionary Socialist position and their support gained. If we are to be a factor in the days ahead, a substantial increase in membership is a "must".

We are a small group. Unless we are deadly serious---unless we understand fully what we must do and what obstacles we face---unless each of us is prepared to give not only of his time, effort and money, but to make such sacrifices as are necessary to maintain and build the organization, our efforts here will be fruitless.

But if we are conscious of these things as never before, then we can plan here with some reasonable expectation of success...in achieving our great goal---peace, plenty and human brotherhood.

Clip and mail to Socialist Monthly

G.P.O. Box 770 New York 1, N.Y.

- The enclosed contribution is to help build the socialist press.
- Send me more information about the Libertarian Socialist League.
- Please mail me Socialist Monthly regularly. (\$1 per year)
- Send a copy of Socialist Views to me (15¢)

Name _____

Address _____