HASSLE OVER RESOURCES

EASTERN WEALTH
 Versus

WESTERN OIL WEALTH

Marriage, Housing and Class.
Women's Working Conditions In The Third World

What's In Store?
Incentive And Initiative
Socialism — the efficient society

In a world in which we can solve so many technological problems, and achieve to an extent which would have been regarded as miraculous only a short time ago, there is waste of wealth, restriction of production, unused working capacity and sub-standard production. And this mess is sold to us by what is called an industry — an army of advertising men whose job is to tell lies about things which they need know nothing about. And the whole thing is costed and accounted for by a further army — of accountants, bank clerks, invoice checkers — millions and millions of people simply wasting their lives away doing something which does not produce an ounce of wealth. By no standards of acceptable judgement can capitalism be described, then, as an efficient system of society. But we have not yet mentioned its supreme waste: the poverty to which it condemns its people. Commodity production means the vast majority are unable to adapt to the demands of commodity production, that profit ensures we make goods which are needed (otherwise no one would buy them) and that those goods are turned out to the highest standards (otherwise they would not sell).

This fallacy sees the profit motive acting as a kind of agent of natural selection, in which anything unwanted to adapt to the demands of commodity production simply does not survive. And the logical development of this argument is that we are surrounded with the very best of goods, produced in just the quantities we need and carried to wherever there is a demand for them.

It takes very little thought or experience, to see that this is not true. To begin at the basis, capitalism produces wealth in the form of commodities — wealth which is turned out with the motive of selling it to realise a profit and to amass further wealth in the form of capital.

The first consequence of this is that, if there is no chance of a profit being realised, there is no production. In this situation it is of absolutely no consequence that there may be a need for the wealth — people may be starving or homeless, but if the production of food or houses is not profitable they will not be made.

One result of this is unemployment, in which the normal everyday poverty of workers descends into outright destitution. Again, when this happens capitalism takes no account of people's needs: there may be millions desperate for the little extra income which a job would bring them but if it is not profitable to employ them they will stand — and perhaps starve — on the dole queue.

The drive to produce for profit means that capitalism is always under pressure to turn out goods as cheaply as possible, since the lower a commodity's cost of production the more scope there is for under-cuting a rival's commodities on the market and, if the market allows, the higher the profit which can be realised.

But producing things cheaply usually means that they are shoddy, sub-standard, jerry-built or even dangerous. It also means that human beings, who may be highly trained and knowledgeable, have used their skills and knowledge in ways which have demanded of them less than they are capable of; they have been forced to prostitute themselves in the cause of commodity production.

There have been many cases of this, which have been spectacular enough in their consequences to make them classic scandals of capitalism — buildings which have collapsed beneath their inhabitants or people needlessly diseased or killed, like the workers in the asbestos industry or the tragic victims of thalidomide.
What's In Store?

The relatively insecure, unfulfilled lives of wage and salary earners will persist, because of the present social arrangement of private/state ownership and control of the means of life with its production for sale/profit and its periodic fluctuations between supply and demand. In such a system the producing majority puts up with normal hardship when trade is good and aggravated hardship during trade depressions. A depression exists, with unemployment around the million mark or more. And since the work force is not expanding, the government wage subsidies that have been cut back. Among which are hospital services, with long waiting lists of elective surgery patients and some elderly workers succumbing to their ailments before they reach the front of the line. If there are more nursing home fires, like the one in Mississauga where 21 invalids died, there will be more deaths, because as indicated in a union publication for B.C., in many long term care facilities fire safety is non-existent.

Extended care chains have mushroomed in the last few years, responding to the "dramatic" profits to be made on the worker circuit between the last exit from the factory gates to the cemetery gate. One of these, a Toronto based empire comprising 49 homes here and in the U.S., worth more than $77 million with a "94, after tax profit of $3.3 million (Maclean's, "everybody's Nightmare", 28/7/80). Naturally, what is left of workers after a lifetime of producing jobs for the rich comes under the blanket of this system's priority. The whole population is organized for it. Other irritations are announced or forecast.

A feature of the last federal budget, as at the press termed it, "no break for the poor." What the minority controlled media misrepresents as poverty are those workers on welfare. UIC or on aid row. The idea is to convince the working Joes and Janes in general that they are well off. It is a matter of skillfully using relativity to mask reality. But amid the vast throngs of what the media calls the "ordinary" people, who can't pay cash for new cars, homes, deep freezes, etc., are poor, in comparison to the chauffeured limousines, country homes, private resorts, walled estates and the private jets of the wealthy elite.

Of course the poor majority have been around since Sir John A. MacDon-

ald promised breaks for them in an election campaign more than a century ago. When the present Finance Minister speaks of a break or of no break for the destitute, such as one parent families, he has two things in mind, running the finances of Canadian capitalism, and votes. The majority are materially (and mentally) insecure because the only command they have over goods and services is their pay cheques, which are mere ration cards, limiting them to enough consumption on the average to renew their productive energies, and raise another generation of their class. With or without "breaks."

Happy New Year

The government has promised 10 per cent more inflation for '81. The Retail Council of Canada however has forecast, without being to harsh on the government, that food prices will rise by 15 per cent. It would seem that while trying to keep pace with government watering of currency and rising prices, the workers' struggle in unions and elsewhere to maintain real wages was not a roaring success. In addition to other available statistics, indicating deterioration, Finance Department figures show that personal disposable income per person employed — which includes all sources of income and payments, dropped 1.2 per cent after accounting for inflation in 1979.

This happened while they were trying, Alan MacEachern has asked them to stop trying, to tighten their belts. He said "living standards must fall to foot higher energy bills." (Toronto Star, 21/11/80). The particular myth he used is one of many in the bag of ruling class ideological tricks, used in good times and bad to reduce the worker's share of what he produces. He said high wages have been causing inflation and lower productivity (profitability). He implied that the insecure majority should rally round the flag and country, which is owned by the rich, so that the Canadian capitalist class as a whole can get control of oil and other energy resources away from those wicked foreign oil corporations. Canadian independence in energy is the slogan, in reality meaning a reliable source of energy to keep the country's industries in profitable operation. Lower real wages is intended to mean higher profits so the rich can pay more taxes for their government to use to buy out the conglomerates. A neat little arrangement where a different section of the affluent will own the energy resources and the workers will have to pay higher prices out of lower wages for gas and heating oil, etc.

Yes, More Pollution

Of the acid rain which is now killing between 2,000 and 4,000 eastern Canadian lakes, an increase has been forecast, because the insecurity of oil supplies is forcing U.S. and Canadian industries toward coal power. And if Victoria, (B.C.) is an example, the workers will have to endure more fouled beaches because in the words of a student, dumping raw sewage is a case of committing suicide to save money.

Misery Tabulated

An NDP Ottawa report (25/6/80) notes that no major study of the social effects of the last decade was as the press termed it, "no break for the poor." What the minority controlled media misrepresents as poverty are those workers on welfare, UIC or on aid row. The idea is to convince the working Joes and Janes in general that they are well off. It is a matter of skillfully using relativity to mask reality. But amid the vast throngs of what the media calls the "ordinary" people, who can't pay cash for new cars, homes, deep freezes, etc., are poor, in comparison to the chauffeured limousines, country homes, private resorts, walled estates and the private jets of the wealthy elite.

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or unemployment has been conducted in Canada but that...a U.S. study has calculated significant increases in death and disease admissions to mental hospitals and prisons, and family breakdowns for every rise in unemployment. It unconsciously notes that these afflictions persist only in lesser degree in periods of high employment. Sadly, the NDP refuses to recognize that the employer-employee relationship is a division between owners and non-owners of the means of life. That antagonism and inequality are built into this class divided system The NDP will carry on being basically the same as all the other capitalist parties, from left to right, by treating mere ekeffects.

Crime, i.e., attacks against property will be with us as usual. As will child abuse, by frustrated, overwhelmed parents. The steep rise in youth suicides is bothering authorities, but what else can be expected?

Maclean's, for last January, said that by 1987, 40 countries will possess atomic bombs and described "a wild smoke screens) by referring to this instance, as a U.S. columnist put it. "sleepwalking into the decade ahead." And as a soothing syrup will insist "Maybe to placate many who have penetrated the smoke screens) by referring to this instance, as a U.S. columnist put it. "sleepwalking into the decade ahead." As a political tool of the elite, Maclean's is expected to do its best to keep the employed class politically "sleepwalking." And as a soothing syrup will insist this is natural human behavior. As an instance, as a U.S. columnist put it, if you're afraid to fly on DC 10's, consult your shrink, find out what's wrong with your attitude.

Maclean's merged its dark predictions with a realistic note, (maybe to placate many who have penetrated the smoke screens) by referring to this instance, as a U.S. columnist put it. "sleepwalking into the decade ahead." As a political tool of the elite, Maclean's is expected to do its best to keep the employed class politically "sleepwalking."

The pragmatic foundation of the real Socialist parties indicates that the decade ahead will see an expansion of class consciousness by the 90 per cent of workers who occupy the boondocks of this exploitive system. This is the direction of hope i.e., progress toward dumping this system in favor of the one that will function for all.

On this theme of increased awareness, Strome Galloway of Ottawa, a contestant for a prize in poetry summing up the '70s decade said:

"HERE lie the Seventies, Ten rotten years
Of tensions and turmoil.
Follies and fears.
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Made worse by the press.
This started off bad
And turned into a mess.
Pause, friend, and remember
This decade of rot
You helped to produce it.
Makes you proud, does it not?"

J.G.J.

AEROFLOT, apart from being the only national airline in the Soviet Union, also acts as a propaganda channel for the State. In the departure lounge at one of Moscow's International Airports, literature stands have on display a selection of pamphlets (translated into many languages) by Lenin, Marx, Engels etc. They are available with the compliments of Aeroflot, although not perhaps your first choice in reading matter to while away time waiting for your flight call. Although the pamphlets are free, there was no mad rush to stuff cases to the point of overflow. Why don't greedy people (as we are told) act as if they were expected of them?

ONE pamphlet, "How Socialism was built in the USSR," gives a brief history of the experiences of the Communist Party for the period 1933-37. The authors are Y. Khmlov and A. Ugryumov and editing was completed in November 1977. It is a real mixture. Misleading statements and examples of Socialism in practice so naive as to be beyond belief. However, positive statements are made that at least will enable various Communist parties throughout the world to know where they stand in relation to some aspects of the Soviet Union.

THE Socialist Party of Canada have always claimed that Socialism entails the common ownership of the means of wealth production and distribution; these means geared to satisfy human needs. We also contend that Socialism is a world wide concept and cannot operate in one country. But, of crucial importance, the establishment of this new form of society needs Socialists. In short, it will be achieved when a majority of the working class understands and desires it. They will then take conscious political action for its establishment.

EXTRAVAGANT claims by the Russian Communist Party and its allies in other countries have been restated time and time again, since the early days of the revolution. An article in The Red Star in Russia—"The Revolutionary Situation in Russia—From the Rough to the Smooth" in our Companion journal The Socialist Standard, August 1918 states: "The justification is there, then, for terming upheaval in Russia as a Socialism Revolution? None whatever beyond the fact that the leaders in the November movements claim to be Marxist Socialists." And yet the Moscow pamphlet trouts the same old arguments and some new ones.

"By 1932 when the country's five-year plan was successfully fulfilled the economic foundation of socialism had been built in the Soviet Union. The triumph of socialism in all economic sectors...page 7. The year 1933 marked the beginning of the period in which the socialist reconstruction of the Soviet national economy was completed..." (page 12) "By the end of the first five-year plan period (1932) the private capitalist sector in the economy was abolished..." (page 13).

YOU couldn't have it plainer than that, but before we admit that perhaps the Socialist Party of Canada have been wrong about Russia all this time, let us dig a little deeper into this pamphlet. What does its author mean by Socialism? On page 69 they tell us:

"The continuing existence of class distinctions under socialism is due much to the difference in levels of development of the productive forces in industry and agriculture and also to the presence of two forms of social property. Whilst state or national property with which the working class is directly associated belongs to the whole people co-operative and collective farm property, with which farmers are associated, belongs to the collective farms and co-operatives."

YOU will notice that a word is mentioned about socialism having a basis common ownership of the means of life. In fact, the whole concept of..."
SOCIALISM & TRADE UNIONS

The appeal for the straight issue

Circumnavigation of reality—like the C.C.F. for instance—should really pay serious attention to the lesson of the times. On air and street and platform, the reformists have reiterated their needs to weariness. Their constant speaking, that some change must be shortlly affected, that the social situation is too serious to be neglected; or collapse is surely inevitable, etc. would be comic opera, were it not laden with the tragedy of utter failure.

Recently, British Columbia has pushed the radical reformers aside, with no uncertain gesture—preferably undiluted Liberalism to its travesty. Rightly enough. Once again, Liberalism has four years or so to distort societies on the old rack of Capitalist exploitation. Likely there will be much activity. But it will be to the further detriment of the working class. Unemployment may decrease. But only if the master class can find a market for the goods their slaves produce. Dole and social services may be more broadly distributed. But surely no even a C.C.F. artist will advance that as beneficial to the wealth producers. And so on through the whole gamut of this pernicious opportunism. And no matter what party forms the government.

Consequently, things will go on as before. That is to say, the Capitalist system will continue, which means, briefly, there will be a plethora of talk of unemployment of privilege and misery. and a fantastic lack, amidst teeming abundance of the needs and comforts for life and living. in a world, the ghastly failure of anything new.
FROM ENGLAND

"Sixties: Where we fail for causes forest is not love's noblest temple is the free man's cot."

(Edenester Elliot, d. 1849)

Karl Marx reminded us that the first division of labour was between Men and Women in producing offspring. At that historical period in evolution NO Marriage laws, Monogamy, Money or Divorce complicated the biological process.

But let's take a look at modern marriage in our class divided society, where a major problem for working class 'Newly Weds' is their housing difficulties. The basic cause of same being the fact that their housing costs are determined by the price of their labour power, their wages or salaries. Hence their choice is restricted to slum skyscraper, suburban 'box' or in some cases kipping in with in-laws. Not for them a town and country mansion with appropriate acres and "breathtaking town and country mansion with views;" to use the vernacular of the scraper. suburban 'box' or in some cases

The Love Life of many working class 'Newly Weds' can be off to a bad start through being forced to accept cramped living space, with or without relatives on the scene, whilst the effects on their offspring is highlighted by Dr. Arnold Sorsby in his scientific book, "Medicine & Mankind," (1942 edition) wherein statistics for Glasgow show that the smallest children come from the smallest houses! Here is a quote from that book:- page 190. "In Scotland the 1931 census showed that 44 per cent of the population were living in houses of one and two apartments and 15 percent were living in rooms housing four or more persons. On official standards of overcrowding, working class families in 1936 showed a rate of 40.4 per cent at Motherwell, 40.9 per cent at Coatbridge, 42.1 per cent at Part Glasgow, 44.9 per cent at Clydebank, many mining towns and villages throughout Scotland were little better."

That was in 1936, now here is an example from 1965, this time from Manchester where a citizen of that city wrote as follows:- "occupy one of the oldest houses in Gorton, Manchester. It is a 2up and 2down house with no bathroom and I have eleven children". (M/C Evening News, 10/1/63).

But surely that sort of thing doesn't happen in 1980? Lets take a short glance at 1980. On 23th Sept '80 the "Daily Telegraph" reported that a young man of 22 had received eight years jail for throwing another man from a fourth floor balcony on a White City, London housing estate. Even the prosecuting Counsel admitted that, "the overcrowding in the flat caused tension." Which was putting it mildly as it was stated that the flat was occupied by the accused, his girl friend and baby, his brother and his family and a lodger who was the victim of a fight and thrown to his death from the balcony. Another example of working class 'accommodation' from the "Eighties" is given by the "Sun" of 5th Sept which ran a full page article complete with photograph of a Garden Shed size 10ft by 6ft in which a man of 59 and his wife were existing and who pleaded. "We cannot face the thought of staying here in winter."

Mr. Leo Abse, a British M.P. on BBC Radio, 25th Sept '80 stated many divorce cases "There was tough bargaining over money, even back to the 1930's."

But why should Mr. Abse a noted supporter of the Money system, be plain about that? Under capitalism haggling over money is the norm. Only a few years ago an organisation was set up known as "The Maidsfield & Saltford Telephone Samaritans" in order to "help those in despair" and the first year of their operation on majority of the calls received were from husbands and wives about broken marriages. In view of the long run is it any wonder that women sometimes aim at the higher paid jobs for a mate?

Here is a quote from the "Curtain Courant" of 6th Sept '80: "Many Bureaux in Germany say that Civil Servants go like hot cakes and women are keen on them because they can look forward to a good pension."

So, for the working class. "Love and Romance is fraught with the dual business of housing, doe quotes and pensions. So, lets take a look at Tom Hood's, "very rich people" :-

"For to that interesting rub The hunger of Jack, or Bill or Bob, There's nothing a London mob. At the monster, very rich people." (Thos. Hood) "To Kilmansg"
In contrast to the housing and other difficulties of young wage slaves, the glittering Town & Country Mansions of the Elite of capitalist society are glaring evidence that lack of a spacious matrimonial home never afflicts the ruling class. Young Buxes like Prince Charles by instance, who recently bought "Highgrove House" in the Cotswolds for £300,000, admitted there is a little matter of RE-decorating same, which the "Daily Mirror" of 2nd Sept. '80 reported as follows: "Experts believe that with just the £300,000 this spick-and-span Young Bux costs he will have to drop the "country Retreat eight miles down the road."

"Seems like Maggie Thatcher overspent..."

Another example of those who possess but do not produce is the 28 year old Duke of Westminster, who, according to the "Daily Mirror" of 19th May '80, "owns 300 acres of prime property in Mayfair and Belgravia as well as in all over Britain, the U.S., Canada and Australia," whilst Lord Newport, "described as 'Peer to an Earlom and is that Stranchise acres.'"

Still easier. And with what for the Abolition of their Wage slavery after which they may look forward to new and higher relationships between the sexes as free and dignified citizens of the socialist world.

But what of the institution of Monogamous marriage itself? About which, what Wilde quipped, "The one charm about marriage is that it makes a life of suspense absolutely necessary to both parties."

Some writer who came close to the socialist view of marriage under capitalism was Edward Carpenter and we now quote a passage from his fine work, "Love's Coming of Age":

"When the products of our human mechanical forces have become a common heritage and no man owns woman, the property slave of another, then, some of the cases where compulsion and property—marriage and other perfections of affection, will have disappeared and in such economies: 'free social human unions vary in last tale place according to their own inner and true laws.' The words we have bracketed are ones we would not have used but otherwise it is a fair enough comment.

To sum up, the way ahead for the working class is to organise with us for the Abolition of their Wage slavery after which they may look forward to new and higher relationships between the sexes as free and dignified citizens of the socialist world.

But "Serious" people never sold, nor fell and had a few hows who realise ideai of marriage was sexual companionship and not ownership of the property—marriage and other perfections of affection, will have disappeared and in such economies: 'free social human unions vary in last tale place according to their own inner and true laws.'

We finally will gallantly allow a woman to have the last word! And a powerful one it is: "We have in the midst of a womanhood that was never bought and never sold, and wore no Veil and had no foot bound: whose realised ideas of marriage was sexual companionship and equality in duty and labour." (from "Woman and Labor" 1911, by Olive Schreiner)
Hassle Over Resources

The media has not been able to conceal the fact that the present East versus West conflict is one between the upper echelons of the oil industry against the owning class as a whole in Canada.

The so-called energy shortage has forced the Canadian capitalist class generally, through its federal state executive, to seek a guaranteed supply of cheap oil and gas energy to fuel its economy. Or as a west coast MEP said in a report to his constituents as he calls them: "Not to preserve a competitive advantage for Canadian industry."

Unfortunately the media has helped to preserve the myth among millions, that the wage and salary working class has a common interest with the empoying minority class that exploits them. Unconscioius loyalty to a ruling class did not exist in past civilizations.

The fiction of a common citizenship is as prevalent as the development of industrial capitalism, where the dispossessed had to be literate and educated enough to produce with the aid of computerized machinery, where the dispossessed could not have functioned were it not for the labor of the alienated. It is also of interest that there is no more need for those who are than there is for those who aren't. There is nothing for workers who support their masters' quarrels either within a nation or between nations. No worthy wage increases, no meaningful increase in employment. And continue to take orders. What else of relevance do workers have? The important thing is that such allegiance will not change their social status. It will merely cement their bonds as a servant class, subservient to employers for marginal lives.

The four western provincial governments, fronting the share and bondholding interests of the multi-national oil and gas firms, small manufacturers, retail businesses and large farmers, have been aware that generally they existed and operated without any state power. Today, many of the four western provincial governments are against what Trudeau perceives for Western Canada (Gordie Hunter, 3/12/80).

The point here is not whether some of the alienated class are behind the Western oil faction. Socialist insist that reality shows that there is more in it for those who are than there is for those who aren't. There is nothing for workers who support their masters' quarrels either within a nation or between nations. No worthy wage increases, no meaningful increase in employment. And continue to take orders. What else of relevance do workers have? The important thing is that such allegiance will not change their social status. It will merely cement their bonds as a servant class, subservient to employers for marginal lives.

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And when one of the loyal politicians unintentionally lets a near-fact slip out as Trudeau recently did when he said that "right wing" men are behind the western problem, the media immediately covers up, and rights the ideological wrong. In the local case a Times-Colonist columnist claimed Trudeau was "irrational," that "many little people, many ordinary workers, many union men and women, many far removed from the big money boys," that "the best thing that could happen is to bring it out in the open, against what Trudeau perceives for Western Canada."

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Increased revenues would help pay interest on government loans required to keep the explosive economy at a whole, healthy.

Some of the hard feelings among the dispossessed of the West are old demons. Big farmers, victimized by unfair freight rates for the grain, wholesalers and retailers, stung by tariff protected eastern industries which keep the costs up too high on wares they buy for resale. The Liberal governments want federal patronization of the Canadian constitution from Britain with a list of amendments that will usurp many of the powers of provincial legislatures. Which means depriving many of the disenfranchised section in the West (including oil shareholders who live in the US) of a big portion of their contributable.

It could be an overstatement to insist that, to the vast majority of people, the wage and salary earners, it doesn't matter whether the Canadian constitution stays in England, comes to Canada, or goes to Mars. Everything in it pertains to the top segment of society. Trudeau's proposed alterations of it merely mean transferrance of ill-gotten gains from the welfare of all employers, tending to depress wages and increase profits. The federal government gets 10 per cent of oil taxes now while the provincial arms of the state reap over 45 per cent. Trudeau would like to see this approximately reversed.
Womens' Working Conditions in the Third World

A recent United Nations conference on matters specifically pertaining to women, held in Copenhagen, various disturbing events were brought to worldwide attention.

Some of these were: A typical female Filipino garment worker must produce 50 pairs of gloves each day — a quota impossible to meet without working unpaid overtime. Each pair sells in the U.S. for 20 times her daily wage. She is shouted out, forbidden to rest and to talk even during breaks, and allowed to use the toilet only at certain times.

Her colleague in an electronics factory is no better off. She is likely to develop migraine headaches and eye strain from detailed microscopic work, and may be exposed to dangerous chemicals.

RESOURCES

One section of the high and mighty to another. Those who depend on their sweat, who speak the two main languages of the country, who produce everything, and administer society, are merely a part of the cost of production. "Human resources." The little people do not have thousands of tons of beef or grain, or hundreds of thousands of barrels of oil, etc. for sale or export. And the new prosperity in the West has not benefited the majority. There is more murder, attempted murder, assault, rape, robbery, divorce and alcoholism in the West than in the East. (Victoria Times, 21/2/80) These social problems do not generally afflict the "real Albertans." These people are the minority who own the means of life, and many of these do not live there, having the option to live in gentler climates if they so desire. The oil rig workers on the other hand have no choice. Many were compelled to migrate from Ontario's inhospitable weather to that of Alberta to seek survival. It has always been thus.

Other aspects of Western separation need to be covered in next issue: Trudeau's refusal to serve his country in the second world war, self-sufficiency in oil, the U.S. role, and nationalism/fascism in the state and more on the provinces.

Neither of these workers are unionized. For only one third of the working class in the Philippines are in unions, and fewer than 5 percent are organized effectively or covered by collective bargaining agreements.

Furthermore, women form only 13 percent of the country's union membership. They cannot strike for better conditions; strikes are banned in the Philippines. Documentation of these circumstances has been collected by the Association of New Filipinos, an organization with 18,000 members, mostly among rural Filipina women.

These situations were presented to a seminar on exploitation of women by multinational corporations at a forum taking place concurrently with the U.N. Conference on Women.

The association stated that while the consumer price index rose by 115 percent from 1972-78, wages increased by 50 percent. Men emplained in manufacturing earn twice as much as women. Rural Filipina women are usually paid on a piece rate. They provide a source of cheap labour when demand for the product is high, or when urban factory workers make trouble by attempting to unionize. They can be laid off without separation pay when demand is low.

Women working in Turkey often have difficulty getting maternity leave. It is common for them to give birth in the factory, because although maternity leave is guaranteed by law, in practice, it is difficult to obtain.

Speakers from Guatemala and South Africa said it is not unusual for women to have to pay bribes, or have sexual relations with their employers in order to get or keep jobs.

Several speakers said the presence of multinational corporations sometimes leads to the closing of local competing enterprises. For example — a Greek woman said 5000 of her countrywomen have lost jobs in the garment industry in the past 3 years because of foreign competition. Workers in one foreign factory wear roller skates to move more quickly from one machine to the next. She said, however, concerned one may feel about the intensity of the exploitation of women in these countries, it must not be assumed that they were not for multinational corporations they would be wage-workers with men. This is evidenced in the struggle for wage parity by women in developed countries working in companies whose head offices are there. Multi-national corporations are extremely happy to set up branches in countries that have a stagnant and poorly paid working class, therefore keeping their labour costs low. Profits high whilst encouraging the workers back home (many of whom are unemployed) to be patriotic, work harder, produce more and buy "home made" products. The fact that women are paid so much less than even in their under-developed countries gives foreign capitalists a much cheaper source of labour power.

Because in some countries political democracy does not yet exist, socialist activity is very difficult. The workers, besides trying to organize into a socialist party should also struggle to organize into labour unions to fight against these appalling conditions. They should also struggle to win elementary political rights.

In the more developed countries the situation is different, inasmuch as the working class has the right to organize industrially and politically. As soon as Socialism is established in the advanced countries the men and women in these countries will all the help needed to fight against these appalling conditions. They might present Socialism with a problem if they do not constitute a barrier to the immediate establishment of Socialism as a world system.

In a world wide Socialist society there will be no need of national frontiers (an anachronism foisted upon us by private property leased society). All men and women in every part of the globe will stand equal in relation to the tools of production and there will be nothing to prevent anyone contributing to the common pool from the best of his or her abilities and taking from it all he or she needs for a full and happy life.

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INCENTIVE AND INITIATIVE

You’ve got to have incentive, they tell us again and again. Without incentive to better oneself life would not be worth living. Capitalism, they argue, offers real incentive and opportunities for initiative whereas socialism would kill any ambition to get ahead. If we knew we had our needs taken care of, who would want to work? We’d all become lazy and good for nothing off from the job. General living conditions would deteriorate fast. Why they go on, even in Communist countries they have discovered, this truth and offer the workers all sorts of incentive plans.

Now the most surprising thing about this sort of philosophy is that it has stood up so well through the decades despite its obvious glaring limitations. One could ask some embarrassing questions, such as: You say that once you knew that your needs and wants were taken care of, you would lose all incentive to work? Then why try to become wealthy? Surely that if true then it would have to follow that your statistical chances of becoming a bum would rise in direct proportion to your acquisition of wealth. Think of the harm one would do to his own future character by becoming wealthy? And what of your children? By making it possible for them to live a life free from financial pressures and burdens you would be robbing them of their initiative, their incentive, their very birthright. They would most probably wind up as bums even if wealthy bums.

Nonsense? Poppycock! Of course it is. It is that old argument, so beloved by the theologians, about the camel and the eye of the needle: dressed up in secular clothing. We would suggest that those who believe that yarn tell it to the capitalist class, as well as to Sweeney and to the Marines!

Actually, it is the other way around. It is capitalism that robs most of incentive and initiative. Have you ever wondered why there are so few outstanding performers in any field one can think of? Certainly there must be a large number who live in obscurity and even poverty because there can be room for but a few at the top in capitalist society. But far beyond those in numbers are the potential artists, writers, musicians, scientists, who never got off the ground because they are compelled, first of all, to earn a living for self and family. Nor let us forget the potential greats whose lives have been snuffed out in capitalism’s wars.

But now let us look for a moment at that hook that is so frequently thrown at us about the so-called Communist countries discovering the value of incentive and initiative. The trouble with that argument is that it is nothing new with them. As far back as Lenin’s times the Soviet Union had an incentive system known as the New Economic Policy in which private enterprise was encouraged. Later, in Stalin’s times, in the build-up of heavy industry, an incentive plan known as Stakhanovism was introduced. Workers received financial rewards and national recognition by improving their performances and output on the job. In this way the expected output could be raised and the degree of exploitation of all the workers increased. Today, in Russia and throughout the world of state-capitalist, so-called Communism, all sorts of incentive, or carrot-on-the-end-of-a-stick plans are offered the workers, just as in the avowedly capitalist West. Under capitalism—whatever the variety—a few stand to get ahead and it is the few who are touted and whose praises are sung. The millions, however, remain in poverty because there is nowhere for anybody who wants to become great to go but up.

From Perspective for World Socialism

IN THE NEWS

THE XMAS SPIRIT VS. THE HUMAN GREED THEORY

The winter solstice is one of those times when the “powers that be” show they don’t believe one of their favorite anti-Communist theories, the supposed innate greed, laziness and aggressiveness of human beings. This time a manufactured and distributed, free of charge, solely for working class consumption.

The number of charities that solicits workers are asked to contribute usually escalates at this time of year. It is also Dr. Lotta Hitzchmanova now again. Another of her cross country tours is in progress. Her Unitarian Service Committee helps starving children in third world countries, according to she and her sponsors. But the best never diminishes, decade after decade, bringing into question the success of her efforts. Actually, there is success but not among the destitute people allegedly aided. The results are to be seen in the business enterprises who hire the destitute to produce profits.

This year the emphasis seems to be certain ventures in Bangladesh that require the unskilled labor of people who “regularly work 12 hours a day but eat only once every two days and virtually no protein.” (Times/Column Dec 80). The powered skim milk, milk by the USC will improve the profitability of the labor-power bought by the concerns, with no increase in wages paid by them. There will benefit through a wage subsidy paid to Bangladesh peasants by the USC via donations for Canadian workers who think they are helping peasants only. If there were strings attached, we can be sure the Bank of Nova Scotia would not be there like a bird dog, sponsoring the Unitarian Service Committee.

The Las Vegas MGM Fire—ONLY HUMAN CASUALTIES

The second-worst hotel fire in US history, with 84 known deaths was in part to the money-saving neglect of legal fire safety devices. The 2,000 passengers who died in the hotel-room complex were fire proof. All the survivors.
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winnipeg, man.: p.o. box 115, 
Winnipeg, Manitoba.

COMPANION PARTIES

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socialist party 
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p.o. box 324, postal centre, wellington

world socialist party 
of the united states
36 huntington ave (room 212)
bennington mass 02134

socialist party of great britain
12 clapham high st., london
sw4. 7 un

the general executive committee meets 
as the first and third wed. of each month. 8:00 a.m. at 1090 lodge ave., victoria, b.c.

ENQUIRY FORM

to the socialist party of canada, 
p.o. box 4280, station a, victoria, b.c.

please provide the following: 
fulcrum (socialist party of canada) 8 issues $3.00
socialisme mondial (french, parti socialiste du canada) 4 issues 1.00
western socialist 12 issues (world socialist party of u.s.) 4.00
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subscriptions to libraries at double rate.

i would also like to donate toward socialist activities

further information about the policies and publications of the socialist party of canada

i am interested in becoming a member.

name ________________________________

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not be overemphasized are the fact that we have a society in which the workers are not off. A worker's wage is determined by the market forces of supply and demand, not by political or social considerations. The recent profit losses of the U.S. auto manufacturing giants, after decades of being pampered by high profits, has led to a reevaluation of the needs of the working class. The recent profit losses have led to a reevaluation of the needs of the working class.

Workers own nothing in the major production and distribution, and the more the middle and lower classes are able to change the ways of life, the better for all. The recent profit losses have led to a reevaluation of the needs of the working class.

And a Letter That Made It

Autos That Make Cash Registers Jingle

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Highways For The People

Workers own nothing in the major production and distribution, and the more the middle and lower classes are able to change the ways of life, the better for all. The recent profit losses have led to a reevaluation of the needs of the working class.

THE SCHOOLDING SYSTEM

On a pre-election tour of northern B.C. Premier Bennett spoke to a "rural Credit" convention, during which one man asked the convention meeting in government-owned specialized areas to tax that government not only to ease out of the north where incentives to the south were most economic for the owners of the means of life.