

The American Way Is the Best

By Robert Minor

THE Vice-President of the United States spoke well on his return from Siberia and China, saying:

"The more I examine other countries, the more convinced I am that the American way of life is the best for us."

We agree fully with this. The American way is the best for us. But we want to develop the subject further.

Ever since the discovery of America four and a half centuries ago created the world market—opening up commercial and military intercourse between all countries—there has existed such a thing as society on a world scale. With the development of economic production for the world market there has come about the necessity of a choice between the ways of life (in economic production) of the different peoples.

Of course, each people has its own priceless national heritage of culture rooted in its past. In this sense its own way of life, unique to itself and irreplaceable, is a thing to be defended and given freedom to flower, and it will make its contribution with those of all other peoples to the enrichment of universal human culture.

But within the one great world system of economic relations that way of life in production that reaches the highest technical development, the highest productivity of labor per man-hour, the highest production in absolute volume and per capita—becomes the best "way of life" for the whole world. Whatever country it may be that excels in this respect, will in this respect become "the image of the future" of each of the other countries and peoples of the world—if these have the vitality to preserve their existence and therefore their capacity to develop their historical and cultural ways of life.

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THE United States excels in this respect.

All that the Russians are fight-

ing for in the world's greatest classic of war heroism and patriotic national defense has behind it a socialist fatherland that depends upon the achievement of the highest productivity of labor, the greatest magnitude of production in total volume and per capita. One has but to know what the Russians mean by "Amerikansky" to get the enormous import of our production methods to them.

We already know that Socialist Russia has released within her a boundless force which will leap ahead at a speed in peace comparable to their deeds in war that have astonished us. All of Europe will forge ahead at a rapid rate, released of chains. Asia will quit starving and make its start toward becoming in modern economy what it is in numbers—half the world.

But the American way with the big machines and mass production and productivity of labor has a big lead over all, and can keep it. The great quality of Mr. Wallace's speech lies in the fact that he knows all this—that he sees the infinite possibilities for the American way of life if we have both peace and a sound world market for our now greatly expanded plant capacity.

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WILL we have that peace and market?

The good German Jew, Karl Marx, once said: "A historical development can remain 'peaceful' only so long as no violent hindrances, on the part of the holder of social power at the time, come in its path."

The unprecedentedly violent struggle in Europe and Asia is

removing from the path of historical development the "violent hindrances" that have for several centuries made impossible on those continents a peaceful solution of any important political question within or between nations. Civil wars and international wars were inevitable. Civil wars and wars between nations are being removed from the agenda by the extermination of Nazism and of the Japanese structure of conquest, and by the position of Soviet Russia in the two old-world continents. This and the extension of the alliance of the United States, Russia and Great Britain into the postwar period for maintenance of peace and assurance of the world market—validated as it will be by the American people in this election—give an unprecedented impulse to the American way of life.

The American way of life is leading to where every child born in the United States in the next or even this generation will be secure in as high material well-being and education as in the past generation could supposedly be had by the sons and daughters of millionaires.

True, a disciple of the great apple-engineer is on the rampage to turn the nation backward, but each day it becomes clearer that the people will validate the American way of life in November.

Russia, China, all nations have their own ways of life rooted in the rich soil of the past. And we have ours, that is unique. But the way of life in the making of things for the enrichment of life in giant quantities with giant machines—which all nations will seek—is the American way.

Worth Repeating

SENATOR JAMES MURRAY of Montana in the current July 10 issue of the *New Republic*: In my opinion it is the duty of every liberal physician to make up his mind that since the problem of better and more widespread medical care must be solved, there should be no shirking of responsibility by any segment of our people, and least of all by members of the medical profession. All of us should, I believe, contribute generously and sincerely to solving the problem of our national health needs. In his recent message to the Congress on the State of the Union, President Roosevelt included "the right to adequate medical care and the opportunity to achieve and enjoy good health" as an essential for an Economic Bill of Rights for the American people. It is now up to the Congress to translate into reality this wish and need of the vast majority of the American people.