



PUERTO RICO:

61 Yrs. of US Imperialist Oppression

(Continued from page 1) hide this horrible reality of national oppression by painting the facade of its "model colony" and adorning it with the title of "Associate Commonwealth State".

Puerto Rico which asked for the liberation of Puerto Rican patriots now in jail and national independence for the island. Many expected that the U. S. N. S. A. would be the first to take up the cudgels in support of such a motion.

It is both shameful and tragic that in the U. S. there is hardly any voice that is raised in condemnation of the crimes of American imperialism, especially around the Latin American and Puerto Rican questions, and this is certainly tragic not only to the oppressed Latin American peoples, but also to the American people and first of all to the American working class.

ACCESSORIES TO THE CRIME

In the magazine "World Student News" organ of the I.U.S. Issue No. 6, we read the following:

"The first case against U. S. imperialism was a motion tabled by Latin American delegates on

This scathing, but just criticism is directed against the "liberal" U.S.N.A.S., a student organization which claims to be progressive. But it is not only this organism which spews their pro-imperialist propaganda on the Latin American question as a whole.

We of the POC, and in the name of the American working class take our stand against Yankee imperialism and in support of all the Latin American peoples in

cluding the Puerto Rican peoples.

For the full freedom of all Latin American countries from the clutch of Yankee imperialism!

For the immediate independence of Puerto Rico!

For the exposure of the imperialist farce of the Puerto Rican Associate Free State!

For the freedom of Pedro Albizu Campos, Oscar Collazo, Mrs. Lolita Lebron and all the Puerto Rican patriots now in jail!

For the lifting of all military bases in Puerto Rico!

On Theory

(Continued from page 2)

the case, it is not hard to see why capitalists prefer to produce guns that society does not need for a high profit rather than roads and schools and hospitals that society needs badly, but whose construction does not return so great a profit.

You frequently hear it said that "the United States is the richest country in the world." As in many popular sayings, there is a great deal of truth in this. The wealth of a country depends in the long run on the level of development of its productive forces — its machines and technology and a working class that has developed the skills to use them. But at the same time one has only to look around to see unemployment and poverty. This is because of the lag of the development of the relations of production behind the development of the forces of production in our country, because the wealth that is produced socially is appropriated privately, because the end result of the social process of production becomes the private property of the bosses.

The important political conclusion from the Marxist analysis of basis and superstructure is that there is no such thing as "automatic socialism" evolving naturally out of capitalism. People who are careless with the categories of social science often picture the development of monopolies as a form of social progress which somehow or other will necessarily lead to socialism. The truth is that the development of monopolies does re-

SUPREME COURT

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was established in the United States as the result of a revolution. The masses of the young nation had been moved to fight the revolution on the strength of democratic promises. As in most such cases, they did not get all they expected and had every right to expect, but substantial liberties were established for the American people in our Constitution.

The framers of the Constitution were for the most part sincere democrats, and more realistic than present day liberals both in and outside of the CPUSA. In Article III of the Constitution, which is the Article dealing with the judicial powers, there is no word said about making the Supreme Court the guardian of American democracy. But in 9th Amendment (part of the Bill of Rights) it clearly states that: "The enumeration in the Constitution of certain rights shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people."

POPULAR STRUGGLES ARE THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF DEMOCRACY

The bourgeoisie, late in their history when they are fearful that the period of their rule is ending, attempt to destroy even bourgeois democracy. They seek to limit and undermine rights and liberties won by the masses of the people long ago in the great bourgeois revolutions. This is precisely what is happening today in the United States, and has been happening for more than the last decade. This pro-

cess is not the creation of a McCarthy — it began before he came prominent and continues after he is gone. While McCarthy did not invent this process of the whittling away of democratic rights, this process provides an atmosphere in which a McCarthy can flourish.

It should not be thought that only Communists will suffer from this destruction of democratic rights. Because they are the most consistent defenders of the rights of the American people, they are the first to feel the brunt of this attack, but not the only ones. If the Smith Bill should pass the Senate an immediate victim would be the NAACP, already classified as "subversive" in many Southern States. They way would be opened for drives under state "sedition" act against many organizations that are presently engaged in progressive struggles.

The preservation of democratic rights in the United States is the business of the American people. Only mass political action led by the potentially strongest sector of the American masses, the working class, can guarantee our existing liberties and extend them to those like the Negro people who enjoy them only on paper. The masses in motion, not legal briefs, will be the guarantee of liberty.

Literature Of the POC

- Against Opportunism 35c
For a Revolution... 35c
Question 35c
Two Roads 35c
Resolution on the Jewish Question 15c
Marxism-Leninism vs Revisionism 35c
Marxism, Humanism and Hyman Levy 35c
On the Question Of Youth 10c
Report on Labor 25c
Report on Housing 25c

The Economic Situation

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produce with less socially necessary labor time than is represented in the newly imported items — that would lead to a general rise in prices. But to call such a situation "inflation" would mean to say that inflation is the same as exchange at equivalent values, an obvious absurdity.

In short: while every inflationary situation results in a general rise in prices; yet not every general rise in prices is the token ("the essence", as MR would have it) of inflation.

Inflation is the relative rise in the money and credit supply beyond the supply of goods to be circulated and debts to be paid by them. If the value of the money remains unchanged under such a condition, it merely means that money is being exchanged at below its value and that in a relatively short time balance will be restored by an increase in the supplies of goods. Under such conditions, it would indeed be inconceivable that large proportions of productive capacity would remain idle; the demand for goods would guarantee that. The editors of MR clearly imply that this is the extent of their concept of "classical" inflation.

Here is where we discover the fatal ambiguity of their use of the term "demand". If the value of the money remains unchanged — it will be able to call unused capacity into action, if there arises a situation of a relative excess of money-supply. But, if the value of the money actually declines in relation to the supply of goods—then the money loses, to that degree, its power to "demand" — regardless of how many pieces of paper with large numbers on them may be called

money. And this is precisely what has happened to the American dollar. There is no excess of demand— but there is an excess of money. This, too, is inflation, just as "classical" as any. It is pure inflation, not merely a cyclical imbalance of supply and demand of money and commodities. And, contrary to the view of Monthly Review, the unused productive capacity, in such a situation, is not a contradiction, but the most irrefutable confirmation of the existence of this form of "classical" inflation!

At this point we digress to make two points to avoid possible misconstructions of the remarks we have just made:

First: Every worker, of course, knows that he doesn't have any "excess of money" — the inflated kind or any other. All that this proves however, is that the workers' position is not improved by inflation. The excess of the money is poured into the economy through the banks and other capitalist enterprises. By the time the goods and services reach the workers, the inflated prices are already there. The workers have to struggle for wage increases just to try to catch up.

Second: Just because, under the present circumstances, the excess productive capacity confirms the existence of inflation — this is not at all to suggest that it is caused by inflation. The cause of the underutilization of productive capacity lies outside the sphere of circulation; it lies in the sphere of production, in the capitalist relation of production itself. "The real barrier of capitalist production is capital, itself." (Marx, Capital, Volume III, p. 293).

(Continued next month)

THE STREETS

These are the workers' streets—no trees here. No leaves drift to the gutter, only orange peels and the smell of dead cats. Here, under the smoking factories, The workers live. Forced, like the harlot who sleeps on the bed she works in, to gaze up at The bed of their oppression, to smell the Waste air of their exploiters. The tenements rise up, like Mountains around a hidden valley. Turning away the fresh wind, keeping out the new sound. Shadows meet and merge in the narrow street, Flooded with blinding darkness. But "light breaks where no sun shines." The cinders of protest are scattered with the crumbling masonry. Glowing red, the bricks hint of the future. "Phil Youngman"

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