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THE ROAD TO SERFDOM

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The ~~v~~ ⁱested interests with the help of their so-called freedom of the press are once again fanning the flames of another world conflagration. The "Guiana Graphic" speaking of strike action says "the time is surely ~~app~~roaching when the Government of British Guiana may be forced to step in and outlaw such action. To corroborate this opinion, we are told such is also the "wise" opinion of Mr. Alfred Edwards, who is a Socialist M.P. of East Middlebrough, and therefore a champion of the people. It is hardly necessary to point out that Mussolini started out ^{as} a socialist, that Hitler started out with National Socialism ^{ism}, and that both of them, having secured power, first began their attack against the trade union movement, an attack ~~wich~~ which finally ended in war. Mr. Edwards, an employer of labour is only one of the many Labour Party men of Great Britain who today frankly preach socialsim, but actually practice capitalism and imperialsim. 11

The usual argument is that strikes hold up production, and therefore, as long as production is low our standard of living will necessarily be low. This is, however, a ~~very~~ insignificant part of the whole truth. It is relevant that during the war, strikes in the U.S. although apparently numerous, were responsible for a very small percentage decrease of war output, whereas Big Business through their cartel agreements with Germany and Japan ^{o a} sabotaged the early war effort. By ^{misrepresenting the true economic situation and} ~~telling a big lie and exaggerating the~~ ^{exaggerating the actual harm done by strikes,} ~~role that strikes~~ Big Buisness was successful in passing the anti-labour Hartley-Taft Bill, which CIO President Philip Murray calls "the real step to fascism in this country". It abolished the closed shop. The union shop, under which employees are required to join a union after a specified time of employment is only permitted ^{the} if employer desires it. Industry-wide bargaining is out-lawed, Negotiations are only permitted on a company and plant basis; anti-strike injunctions are to be given freely; employers can sue the unions for damages.

What we are not told ^{by the "Guiana Graphic"} is the fact that strike action is the inevitable weapon which the contradictions of capitalism place in the hands of the working class. It strikes not because it wants to stop production, but rather because it wants full employment,

better wages, and an increased standard of living. The ~~money~~ wages which it receives cannot purchase all the goods produced, therefore production is curtailed and unemployment results. It is inherent in capitalism that this struggle between ^{the} capitalist and ^{the} worker must continue. As long as the worker is working to put profits, no matter how small, into the hands of coupon-clipping capitalists, so long will ~~there~~ be strikes. Only under a changed political-economic system, as in socialism, where the means of production ^{are} owned by society, where profits for individuals ^{and} are eliminated, ⁱⁿ where there is no contradiction between production and distribution will there be ^{an} ~~the~~ end ~~to~~ all strikes. ~~to outlaw strikes is to outlaw capitalism.~~ If we are to outlaw strikes we must outlaw capitalism first.

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