

A LIVING WAGE

"To each according to his labour, from each according to his ability." This is supposed to be the slogan in the first stage of socialism. But there is another. "To each according to his need, from each according to his ability." This is the slogan of the second stage of socialism. Note the difference.

The fundamental difference between the two stages is the supply of goods and services. In most under-developed countries, standard of living is generally low. Why?

Because (1) the imperialists drain out the wealth of the country, (2) the economy is so arranged and patterned, chained with so many strings, that it is almost impossible to have a rapid economic growth, (3) labour productivity is low (because of lack of skill, know-how and adequate tools—machinery, equipment and power.)

Now supposing socialists come to power in an under-developed territory. What happens? Obviously in a colony the position is even worse, because as in B.G. the PPP is in office but not in power.

No Exploitation

Now the aim of socialists is to so re-organise society

that there will be no opportunity for man to exploit man. In other words, one man must not live at the expense of another man or other men.

This may be the aim of socialists. But when they come into power by the electoral process they have to face certain realities. These realities—economic and social—they may not like. For instance, they may be producers of primary products, like sugar, coffee, bauxite, tin, etc. over whose sale and price they have little control.

They may want to set up their own industries, but may experience difficulties

in raising money from the banks which in many cases have connections with the imperialist companies.

Social Realities

Then there are the social realities—a low cultural level, a great portion of the population addicted to alcoholism, farmers reluctant to adopt the latest techniques, etc.

What does all this mean? It means that when the socialists first take office, they are bound by so many restrictions that they cannot immediately achieve their aim; that is, to raise the standard of living.

This is why the slogan in this first period is "To each according to his labour, from each according to his ability." In other words, each man or woman will do what he or she can and be paid according to what he or she produces or contributes.

Free

But the socialists do not stop there. Their goal is to give each man all he needs, all that he requires to live. It's just like air and water. You need both to live. You breathe so much air and drink so much water. After you have had your fill, you stop. And note—these things are free.

So, the socialists believe,

the time will come when a person will take as much food and clothes as he needs—just like air and water. And this will have no relation to the amount he produces. He will produce according to his ability; some men more, others less.

More Production

Now this stage—to each according to his needs, from each according to his ability—will come about by more and more production. The land must produce two times and more than it is now producing.

Man must aim at increasing his output in factory and field. This means applying scientific knowledge—use of fertilisers, new inventions, etc. It also means more power. What is now done laboriously by muscle power should be done more easily by electrical power.

Now let's stop here a minute. Lots of you have been hearing this tune of increased production for a long time. Many of you know from experience that increased production does not necessarily mean increased standard of living. Well this is the fundamental difference between capitalism and socialism.

The Difference

Increased production under capitalism does not necessarily mean increased living standards. It may mean, in fact just the opposite. The capi-

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DRINK FERRAZ'S

PEANUT PUNCH

For Goodness Sake


A REAL NUT AND MILK DRINK

Non-Alcoholic!

Yes, Strictly non-Alcoholic

That's

WHITEWAVE



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talist pockets the surplus. For socialism, increased production is a means to an end — the end of improved living standards. But this must take time.

Let's take Cuba to illustrate. Under the dictatorship of Batista, the workers suffered many privations. Fidel Castro landed in Cuba with 11 men. With the support of the people, the revolution was successful. Today, in support of the Government, the

workers have decided to have strikes for one year and pay 4 percent of their wages to the Government for buying factories to industrialise and guns to defend their country and their revolution.

Likewise

In other words, the hard-pressed people are willing to support their anti-imperialist Government; to make present sacrifices for a better future

Will the Guianese working class follow suit?