

'I TAKE A FRESH LOOK' (7)

The Problem of Markets

By ALEXANDER BITTELMAN

I shall discuss the problem of foreign markets first even though the home market is infinitely more important.

The American national economy, as a capitalist economy, needs foreign markets for the products of its industries and agriculture. It needs markets for the free and equal exchange of these products with the products of other nations, for normal commerce in peacetime goods.

But this is not how the monopolies see the problem. Their main interest lies in the establishment of dominance over the economies of other nations and peoples. They export capital for the purpose of acquiring monopoly positions over sources of raw materials (oil, metals, rubber, etc.) and cheap labor, to gain economic and political power in foreign lands, to extract from the labor and wealth of other peoples super and maximum profits.

In the olden days, these monopoly interests were not always or altogether incompatible with the acquisition of new markets for the home industries and agriculture and for normal capitalist commerce in general. But

in the period now emerging there is bound to develop an increasing incompatibility and contradiction between the imperialist interests of the monopolies and the winning of new foreign markets for American industry and agriculture and for the development of normal world commerce.

The monopolies of the United States, in accord with their inherent inclinations, display a consistently hostile attitude to the building up of native modern industry in the underdeveloped countries, and particularly to the industrialization of those countries along non-capitalist lines. Since the export of monopoly capital into many of these lands in the old-style imperialist way is becoming more and more restricted by the spread of national independence, and because native capital there is relatively weak, capital export to most of these countries by Wall Street monopolies is negligible. The result is that few significant new opportunities are being opened up for foreign markets so badly needed by American industry and agriculture.

VIRTUALLY THE same

thing results from the so-called foreign economic aid of Washington. This is no economic aid for the industrialization of underdeveloped countries but economic weapons of the "cold war" whose policies are dictated by the monopolies. These policies have tended to isolate the United States from the major and most important underdeveloped countries because "cold war" economics and politics do not go together with the peaceful and rapid industrialization of these countries. Consequently, few chances arise for new markets for the peacetime products of the American economy.

Where American capital does play a part in the life of an underdeveloped country, in Latin America, parts of the Middle East, etc., its effect is to perpetuate reactionary feudal regimes which obstruct the economic growth and industrialization of their countries. This too creates no new foreign markets for the economy of the United States.

Capital exports from the United States since the end of the war by government and monopolies have gone overwhelm-

(Continued on Page 7)

'I TAKE A FRESH LOOK,'

(Continued from Page 5)

ingly to Canada, Latin America, the Marshall Plan and NATO countries and to certain parts of the Middle East. Naturally, this has stimulated the export of American goods to those parts of the world. The American economy has been expanding its foreign trade considerably.

But United States capital investments in highly developed capitalist countries, especially the growing proportion of direct investments, also tends to build up effective competition for the products of American industry and agriculture. This competition is already serious on the world market and is beginning to reach the home market.

The fact is that the opportunities are quite limited for expanding significantly American foreign trade with highly developed capitalist countries. These lands are themselves facing acutely the problem of foreign markets and at a time in the world's history when imperialist penetrations are being successfully resisted at many turns.

BUT THE situation is entirely different in the underdeveloped countries. There the outlook for economic growth is practically unlimited, especially in the countries seeking non-capitalist roads of development. This is especially true, for many different reasons, for the countries building socialism. Therefore, it is in those lands that unprecedented opportunities exist for large scale and expanding markets for American foreign trade. But these markets cannot and will not be gained by the imperialist economic drives of the monopolies and by the cold war policies which they dictate.

The monopolies stand in the way of the expansion of American trade, as they are also the main obstacle to the expansion of the home market. A serious conflict and contradiction on the problem of markets is coming to expression between the interests of the monopolies and the national interests of the country. This is in fact a new form of the more basic contradiction between monopoly as such and the general capitalist environment of free competition.

The United States can successfully pursue the aim of ex-

panding significantly American foreign trade only by adopting a non-monopoly and non-imperialist course. The principles of such a course have been stated most impressively by the historic Bandung Conference of the Asian and African nations. These are the principles of non-aggression, non-interference in internal affairs, peaceful coexistence, equality and mutual benefit.

THE CHIEF enemies of and main obstacle to the adoption of such a course by the United States are again the monopolies. But it lies in the power of the American people to check and constrain the monopolies. It lies in the hands of the people to impose upon the government a foreign policy orientation based upon the Bandung principles.

The monopolies are also the main obstacle to a significant and continuing expansion of the home market. For the key here is a curtailment of monopoly profit and a steady increase and expansion of the purchasing power of the masses of the people.

After all, it is the American people themselves who can provide the best and largest market for American industry and agriculture. The growing peace time needs of the people, accompanied by a consistent rise in living standards, would not only compensate the American economy for the annual loss of 50 billion dollars in armament production when reduction of armaments is completed. It would also create conditions for an unlimited expansion of the economy which, of course, only a socialist society could fully realize.

To curtail monopoly profits and raise consistently mass purchasing power is the key to the expansion of the home market. This will require democratic fiscal policies, heavy taxation of monopoly wealth and profits, an expansion and enlargement of the social security system, a guaranteed annual wage backed by the government, increases in the minimum wage, effective government backing for the security of farm income and that of self-employed persons and of small business. It will also require major programs of public construction: low rent housing, hospitals, schools, roads and

similar peace time public projects.

It will require the public development of atomic power for peaceful uses, free of monopoly domination, under democratic controls, and for the welfare of the American people.

ALONG THIS road American labor and the people as a whole will find the right solution to the crucial economic and political problems which the rising age of automation is already presenting to the U. S.

This is the way to reconvert the American economy to a peacetime basis. It is the only way of realizing one of the major tasks facing the American people in the period of peaceful coexistence and competition now being born. It is the way of struggle for keeping the monopolies in check, for curbing their economic and political power, for expanding the social welfare and democratic liberties of the masses of the people.

It is finally the way which leads in this historical period to the establishment of what is popularly known as the Welfare State.

(Tomorrow: The Welfare State.)

Likes Yanks

(Continued from Page 8)

Schoendienst and maybe Spahn, and baseball is not a one-man game.)

Actually, as they take the field today, the Braves, outside of pitching, possess the obviously 'more potent' ball club. Without Skowron and Mantle, the Yanks do not present a very frightening array of batsmen. Without all the pitching help, they get from the rest of the league—Turley, Larsen, Ditmar, Shantz—they'd be just another ball club, Mantle and all. The Giants have Mays, don't forget, the Cubs have Banks . . . The "secret" of the Yanks' continued reign is that they get the pitchers they need but never give the real good youngsters, the Kubeks and Lumpes, to get them.

Oh, yes, about the Braves' psychological lift in coming from virtual extinction with a thrilling finish. Cookie Lavagetto's blow heard round the world in the '47 Series similarly awarded on a 3-1 Yankee deficit and brought about a 2-2 Series tie. Joe Page still won that Series out on the mound when every Brooklyn pitching arm had given out.