



Employment Socialist vs. Capitalist

The senior students of UPEI will be graduating in just a few months. One of the questions foremost on their minds right now is whether or not they will find employment afterward.

The recent figures on unemployment put out by Statistics Canada reveal that unemployment is now 889,000. And these are not the real figures. Statistics Canada does not take into consideration those who have given up looking for work' those whose benefits have run out; or those working part time. When these are considered, the real figure is well in excess of 1,000,000. A sobering thought.

Moreover, if the graduate is lucky enough to find something it will not, in all likelihood, be that for which he is trained; indeed, there are thousands of university graduates in Canada (including M.A.'s & P.H.D.'s) who are forced to settle for boring and uncreative jobs so they may eat. And th're the lucky ones! Many are unemployed. The old promise that a higher education will guarantee a good job has been blown to smithereens. Instead, the university student is full of fears and anxiety about his/her future. And then they've got that loan to pay back!

In the Soviet Union, on the other hand, the situation is quite the opposite. The U.S.S.R. Central Statistical Board reported that last year alone 735,000 institute graduates began economy. Most people realize today that the Soviet society is planned which means therefore that the training of specialists is determined by the needs of the economy. If it looks like fewer people will be needed in a certain field, then the courses will be cut back accordingly; if more are needed then the courses will be provided. How unlike Canada, which has an unplanned economy, where students are allowed to specialize in fields which may offer no job opportunities at all! Ask any philosophy major. Due to the fact that there is an overall manpower shortage in the

Soviet Union (there usually is because development is so broad, rapid, and utilizing the most modern science and technology) the graduate need never fear unemployment. Indeed, if he doesn't like his present job he can leave it at any time without fear of not finding another one. Can we say the same for Canada/?

Consider: the Soviet Union is the largest country (geographically) on Earth-covering 1/6 of the earth's land mass; is tremendously rich in natural resources; has a population in excess of 257,000,000 yet there is almost 1,000,000 jobs for which there are no workers. Now that's full employment!

Canada, by contrast, is only slightly smaller (geographically) is just as rich in natural resources has less than 1/10 the population of the U.S.S.R., yet there are over 1,000,000 people for whom there are no jobs! It makes you wonder doesn't it? Under socialism the job literally hunts the man; under capitalism, as we in Canada are painfully aware, the man hunts the job-with less and less success!

But those responsible for unemployment-the capitalists and their governments as well as their mass media-never cease to spew forth their anti-socialist venom to scare the people, away from considering socialism as our inevitable path of development for fear they will lose their grip on us. They create high unemployment because it effectively brings wages down which lifts profits up. It also serves to divide the working class and their allies in the attempt to weaken the labor movement so as to exploit it that much easier-for the same reason: to get maximum profits. They don't care a whit the suffering they bring to hear upon us, just so long as they profit handsomely. But that's capitalism for you: production for profit, not for people. Under socialism production is for people, the people run the economy in their own interests, and everyone is looked after. That's what the Canadian and American capitalist class is afraid of, and that's

why they are recently digging up their old cold war anti-sovietism and anti-socialism as well as continuing their attack on Canada's working class.

The students in their struggles are part of the fightback on a must join ranks with labor, farming, etc. to defeat the anti-worker, anti-student, anti-farmer policies of the Trudeau and Campbell governments. A step in the right direction would be to vote in favor of joining the Atlantic Federation of Students, as well as establish fraternal ties with the P.E.I. Federation of Labor and the National Farmers Union. Each

student will eventually join the labor force which is why the UPEI student union should support the Federation of Labor. Labor will be bringing graduates into its ranks which will, in many ways, influence the nature of the labor movement, which is why labor should in turn support students in their struggles. This is the kind of broad unity we need if we are to successfully carry on our struggle against capital. It is only when the people stand together do they constitute a force. When divided they are weak, too weak to win success. We can't afford not to join hands.

USSR: People 1st Canada: Profits first, People 2nd

Among the many worries burdening our youth is the problem of establishing the necessary security to found a family. With the future appearing ever bleaker many are forced to defer marriage or, where they do marry, to indefinitely postpone having children. The cost of day care (where it exists) often consumes the entire earnings of one of the parents. Moreover, many parents are anxious about the quality of care their children do receive if they are lucky to find a place at all. Inadequate day care facilities is one of the many sore spots in Canadian society. The problem is more complex if the mother happens to be unwed since the laws (meagre as they are) tend to favor state-sanctioned marriages.

By contract we'll take a look at the situations in a socialist country. In this case, the Soviet Union.

In the Soviet Union the state looks after four-fifths of the expenses for the childrens upkeep in kindergardens and 85 percent in nurseries. It costs the state between 400 and 500 roubles a year to keep a child in a pre-school establishment. Moreover, the state's keep to the mother in taking care of and bringing up children starts when the mother is still expecting. There is a broad network of women's consultation centres throughout the

country. If a future mother forgets to go and see a doctor there she will be reminded. If necessary, the doctor will call at home. (Incidentally, 25% of all the doctors in the world are in the Soviet Union!) Visitors to the U.S. S. R. especially women, are amazed to learn that there child delivery doesn't cost the parents anything. The services at the women's consultation centres or special clinics are also free. The state bears all the enormous expenses involved.

Here are some facts showing what progress the medical care system has made for expectant and nursing mothers and their children during the years of Soviet power. A women's average life span has more than doubled as compared with the pre-revolutionary period and is now 74 years. Before, the Revolution 43% of all children died before they were five; today the child mortality rate is slightly over three percent. Maternity homes now have more than 225,000 beds. Before the revolution there were only 7,500 and in 1940, before world war II, 147,00. The number of women's consultations centres, children's polyclinics and out-patient clinics have almost tripled since 1940-up from 8,600 to 22,000.