

Monopoly Control Means Artificial Prices, Excess Profits

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The popular television show "Marketplace" taped one of its programs in Charlottetown last winter. During the course of the program it was observed that at the time, a 10 lb. bag of P.E.I. potatoes cost 59¢ on the Island and 49¢ in Toronto - 1100 miles away.

They were unable to explain why produce cost more at the point of production than in a distant metropolitan centre. The old theories, regrading, transportation costs, production costs, and middle man, as the reason for this, were unable to account. But the reason is simple: monopoly control of the goods produced.

The huge food chains: Food City, Dominion, Loblaws, IGA, and Steinbergs, possess a monopoly on food sales in Canada. By virtue of their size, capital investment, and international connections, they command considerable political and economic influence. Being able to buy in huge bulk shipments which allow them to sell at competitive prices, they are able to stamp out smaller competitors, thereby seizing control of the market on a wide scale and forming a monopoly. Their monopoly control enables them to set prices among themselves.

Furthermore their control of the market is not limited to certain sections of the country; it is nation-wide.

Competition remains, however, among themselves. In the large metropolitan centres, Montreal, Toronto, and Vancouver, where these chains have the greatest concentration of outlets, they can afford to sell cheaper, due, in part, to a more or less guaranteed volume of sales. In the countryside, on the other hand, they have no similar guarantee as to the volume of sales - so, to compensate, they raise their prices accordingly.

Thus, P.E.I., being in the Canadian countryside and offering relatively poor returns to these giant concerns must pay a greater price for commodities - even those we produce ourselves!

You must remember that

control of the market by these monopolies is of the whole nation - including the place of production.

What determines prices is profit - and only profit. When the president of Exxon (Esso), the largest oil com-

The Continuing Saga of Mr. Guidance

In this essay I would like to deal with the guidance services of my old university, more commonly known in our institution as Student Services. My main interest lies with the dept. head, "Mr. Guidance", who manages the residences with such effectiveness that it is a wonder he has not been gunned down in the streets yet.

The rest of the Guidance dept. consists of ministers and religion teachers (I hope they excuse my inability to comment on them, as I am not religiously inclined as were not most of my companions at that time), that tried to fill the gap created by the head of the dept.

As students with serious concerns over our positions and welfare in the university, we would often go directly to his office to voice our complaints, only to be lulled to sleep by his never ending speeches (mesmerized until the next kick in the balls). Such were his oratory abilities - Mr. Guidance was also one who controlled the residences (unofficially), by the manipulation of floor monitors in the residences and by making various rules that we always tried to escape from.

To exist in this residence, the males (it was not co-ed as the university reserved this for upper classmen) concentrated their efforts on a series of demands that would raise the standard of living of the men to that of the girls (a great improvement over the existing facilities). There were a few concessions made along the lines of negotiations, but our major emphasis was in producing a bill similar

pany in the world, was asked what determined the price of gasoline, he replied, "What the market will bear". What this answer means simply is this: no matter what the people need, no matter how destitute they may be, if they have \$5.00 to their name, we will take that, if they have \$5000.00 we'll take that too! And we must pay what they ask because we are dependant upon them for our livelihood. Monopolizing the resources puts the people at the disposal of these monopolies - regulated by a few. The majority are, hence, forced to subordinate themselves to the minority.

The state political machine is but the organization to execute and protect the affairs of the state monopoly class. It makes policies in their interests, its laws are promulgated in their interests. The people? Organized, they are the greatest might on Earth against the minority who rule. Disorganized, though, they are helpless.

Organization of the working class, of women, of farmers, of fishermen, of students, and of intellectuals is the key to the people's defense against the moribund rut of state monopoly capitalism in Canada.

to a Tenants Act. If we were ever to leave the residence for any holidays or an extended period of time we were warned to lock all valuables away. Pass keys to the floors or individual rooms could be obtained from the inept security dept. or were in access to all the janitors, so we assumed that we were protecting our private interests as well as establishing ourselves as equals to other universities. The majestic power of persuasion this man had, soon disunited our interests and little was done, especially concerning this act.

Among his many outside interests, Mr. Guidance also refused any "House Parties" in the male residence, maintained stringent visiting hours in the Girl's Residence and developed a form of vigilante committee that seriously impeded any truly free intellectual growth. The first of these groups was the Student Judiciary something or other, that acted as a "go-between" the courts downtown and his own precious time. At any time he could have dismissed the committee chairman or the committee rulings, usurping the decision to more eloquent and competent puppets. I don't believe he ever did this, as there were a few who would stand up against him.

Of the hundreds of residents one year, two wrote letters to him complaining about the noise. This was an exciting example of his control as he decided to preserve the residence for these two. Our hall monitors were told to fine, while Mr. Guidance prepared a list of undesirables. This could never be published

for fear of legal action, (although I'd like to see him try) but it produced increasing fear among residents. How long would this power of his last? Wanton vandalism occurred and re-occurred to the dismay of administration. Slogans were written everywhere, leaving us with a nickname we enjoyed and maintained. This was controlled to an extent by invoking an "honor system" which confused and diffused the unifying spirit of defiance, leaving assholes with the respectable job of keeping the peace.

I doubt that this university would ever throw aside this "divide and conquer" practice when dealing with university students and their attempts at reform. I'm glad I left that "institution of higher learning".

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