

STRAIGHT TALK

This century has seen a blossoming of support for socialist ideology by third world nations; socialism however, has come to have different applications to individual nations.

In Guyana a type of socialism is being promoted by leaders who suppress the masses and are now turning the clock forward telling the masses to sacrifice for the socialist revolution. These leaders live in a world created by themselves but they do not abide by the very principles which they set forth as guidelines for this world. No extensive public criticism is made about this nor any other Governmental short coming. This is due mainly to the fact that the Government does not tolerate criticism. Moreover, certain sectors of the society are not given to criticism. These sectors include the people in mobility. Mobility emphasizes success and the people who can achieve mobility in the society refuse to criticize but instead praise the system. They also forget their former level in the society. There are executives, managers, and workers who occupy separate categories and the degree of mobility varies within each group. The working people who are placed in this context as an informal organization which has power the full potential of which even the worker is not aware come together to analyze their grievances. This informal organization can be found in all working environments whether Governmental or private. The strongest work forces in Guyana are the sugar workers and workers at Guybau. Let's look closely at the informal organization at Guybau where there is a situation of great complexity because the employees work under management by crises. The working people at Guybau recognize certain failures in their relationship to management. For instance, management, as is the practice, cannot be its own watch dog. Moreover, the workers do not contribute to making the laws that govern them. They also recognize the collective power that brings them together. They are aware though of what should be done to improve existing conditions. They also understand the separation that exists on all levels with management and executives and the workers. They recognize a difference in their existing living conditions as compared with the executives and

managers who they call “flower gardeners”. Frustrating working conditions have been exemplified in the high alcohol consumption by workers. In spite of all these facts executives and managers are perpetuating self glorification as they operate in a vacuum. The informal organization at Guybau is ready to share leadership responsibilities but the Government is busy promoting schemes of factionalism.

On a national basis the working people spend most of their waking hours on their jobs, and little time with their families. One suggestion is for working people to dictate their own working schedules. The eight-hour working day should be reduced. This will promote better human relations on the job and at home as well as increased production. New technological advancements should be employed as far as possible to relieve the drudgery at all levels. The failure of Government to provide adequate working conditions is also reflected in large-scale migration and the necessity for a call home drive. People are developing more strategies to leave the country. Besides the working conditions this drive to hold and attract skilled people is failing because the government does not promote freedom in the society. This takes us back again to the intolerance of criticism. The general attitude of workers to qualified personnel also contributes to a reluctance to return home. Sometimes these workers think that qualified personnel will take their positions and as a result they either destroy applications or suppress information or if such an individual is hired he is not given the necessary cooperation. The situation is further complicated by the practice of obtaining jobs through governmental influence, that is, an individual who has certain contacts will obtain a suitable position and an individual who comes into the society without any lip service, or the use of national contacts is doomed.

In Guyana students, like workers, are exposed to a socialism that is more theoretical than practical. Can a university be socialist in a bourgeois society? One speaks about a socialist university which reflects the ideas and objectives of the nation, but who practices socialism in Guyana where there is no respect for the old or elderly? Ah! Young people do not get old nor does the human “bird” god general? The objectives of the university must be clarified. Lecturers must know the patterns and

ways of the people, because intellectuals and working people all make up the population. Instead, there is marked distinction between the intellectuals and working people whose taxes pay them. This shows the backwardness of intellectuals who look at the working people as those who always have to be trained. Sending intellectuals or students to developer's courses or National Service does not give them an ideology, because an ideology must be based on reality. Working at Kimbia or Papaya does not qualify the individual to be a spokesman for the masses. What the intellectual does is to put forward what he thinks is right instead of views evolved from an examination of the needs of the masses. His training prepares him for a position in the middle class if he does not already hold such a position. Usually he ends up either serving the interest of money and property or spending a great deal of time in their acquisition. It was said by a minister that National Service is not a correction camp, but if certain attitudes remain unchanged by National Service then no purpose is served. In order to attempt to work towards true socialism there needs to be firstly a recognition in the society of the equal worth of all individuals as human beings and secondly, there should be free communication among all the people.

The Government with its revolutionary stunt continues to build distinct classes with its housing projects and return to the land schemes while the masses are continuing to struggle for survival.

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

Guyana has enough building material and land for each Guyanese to receive equal amounts. All that is necessary is for the statisticians and economists to work out a formula where unborn and existing people can have an equal share of the country's possessions. That is, declare all Guyanese millionaires according to Guyanese standards.

The USA has celebrated in 1976 its Bicentennial. One has to keep a watchful eye for social and democratic changes and also new technological developments and their tendency to ideological dominance.

Why does the Brazilian embassy offer Portuguese classes over National Radio in Guyana? Moreover, why does Guyana have a diplomatic relationship and trading agreements with Venezuela when there is a border dispute?

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