

between capitalism and socialism, or between capital and labour, according to your point of view.

WE SHOULD REALISE that every socialist government has created, to a greater or lesser degree, a new class, the bureaucracy. I would far rather attempt to convince a capitalist boss that I am worth more money, than try to convince a bureaucrat who has a vested interest in keeping other people's wages down in order that his may go up. It is all very fine, in theory, to have a minimum wage, but the minimum wage very easily becomes the maximum. If you doubt this, you have only to realise that any community can only consume to the extent that it can produce. If one bricklayer lays one hundred bricks a day, and another bricklayer lays three hundred bricks a day under exactly identical conditions, what earthly reason can there be for paying both men the same wage? Would you be satisfied if you were laying three hundred bricks a day? Not Pygmalion likely! You would either ask for extra privileges or wages, or you would start slacking until you, too, only laid one hundred bricks a day. In the latter event, your community would be two hundred bricks a day poorer in its construction programmes and it would have so much building less to use for the housing, factories, shops and other amenities which we all need and desire. What is wrong with capitalism acknowledging this fact in the manner most appreciated by every human being?

Socialists usually retort that capitalists should not take a profit on the labour of the workers. It is generally agreed that the labourer is worthy of his hire, but socialists do not seem to realise that he actually makes a profit on his labour by selling it to the highest bidder that his own knowledge, skill and efficiency, can muster. If he likes to save some of the money he earns, instead of spending it on unnecessary luxuries, and invest it in stocks or shares, or in a building society, he, too, can earn dividends or interest until he can set up his own business and become a capitalist himself. What is wrong

with that? Does it require too much work, too much self-denial? If so, why begrudge this right to the man who is prepared to work that much harder, to deny himself that much more and, moreover, in the final analysis, to take that extra risk.

Don't imagine that capitalists never lose their money. They are not all that much more infallible than the rest of us, *until* they have learned the hard way. But let us take another look at that heinous crime known as profit-taking. Socialists scornfully quote globular profits earned by mines and industrial undertakings, but they never take the trouble to relate them to the amount of capital outlaid in buildings, plant, raw materials, wages etc., etc. provision for taxation, reserves against future potential losses, and provision for future development. These net profits are often as low as 2½%, and are seldom higher than 12½%, which is surely not exorbitant for the outlay and the risk involved, and the employment created and sustained.

ANOTHER THING SOCIALISTS never seem to stop to do is to examine what happens to these profits. To hear them talk, you would imagine that they are just whisked away into some private hoard never to be seen or heard of again. Sometimes profiteers are sneered at for wasting it in high living. If they do, then surely they create employment for those who cater for their extravagant tastes. It should be remembered that the arts and culture flourish best where there is an aristocracy or a plutocracy. In socialist societies there is a tendency for the state to dictate what the artist may or may not produce, and culture tends to become standardised and it loses its independence and zest.

In actual fact, however, the amount of money "wasted" on high living among "profiteers" is infinitesimal. Most profits are either ploughed back into further development or modernisation, which create further employment and better conditions of employment, or these funds are invested in new projects which create further employment.

## AFRICANA

Send contributions to *Africana*, P.O. Box 2068, Cape Town. One Prize of R1 will be awarded for the best item each month, and two additional prizes of 50c each.

● "Native wages are always in the forefront of our thinking as employers, and except for completely unskilled Bantu in the industry, we are today paying our non-white labour rather more than R2 per working day."—Mr. A. J. G. Rump, President of the Federation of Master Printers of South Africa. Press Release.

● The constitution of Die Broederbond makes it plain that it was founded on a high religious basis. Members are forbidden by the constitution to take

part in party politics.—*Landstem Digest*. [R.M.]

● CAEZAR. Et tu, Brute! Basi, anguka Caesar!  
(*Anakufa. Wajumbe na raia wanatoka wamepigwa bumbuazi*)  
CINNA. Uhuru! Uhuru!  
—Julius Caesar (Swahili translation by Dr. Julius Nyerere, Oxford University Press, Nairobi.)

● Johannesburg.—A White man and an inconspicuously-dressed African spent two hours in the company of a Security Branch detective at the Komati-poort police station on Wednesday after their Cessna aircraft, on a flight from Swaziland, was forced down by

two SAAF Sabre jet fighters.—*Cape Times*. [C.W.]

● The slow erosion in price levels which has been apparent during the past week has been the result of footling local sales motivated by Dr. Verwoerd's "crisis of survival" warning to South Africa, and Mr. Vorster's drastic General Law Amendment Bill. Dr. Verwoerd's acknowledgment of overseas hostility, threats from Russia, and some African states and the attitude of the United Nations may be construed from a purely economic angle as evidence that Exchange Control regulations will not be dismantled for some considerable time . . . Dr. C. R. Louw, chairman of the Trust Bank of Africa said in his annual address. "I am very optimistic regarding the future. All the indications are that South Africa's expansion over the following number of years will at least continue at the present rate."—*Gleanings from the Dealer's Desk, Johannesburg*. [V.J.]