

A Municipal Wage Floor

Editor, Gazette: 9-3-62

Quote - - - "The shockingly low wages earned by many workers in this city have long been a disgrace. Now Mayor Wagner is under intense labor pressure to eliminate such wages through a municipal law establishing a minimum wage of \$1.50 an hour for all workers in the five boroughs. The only thing wrong with the 'remedy' is that it would eliminate jobs as well as low wages. The apparel trades lost 70,000 manufacturing jobs in the last decade."

What is wages?

Wages are the return for mental and physical exertion in the production of wealth and services. If a person goes on a fishing or hunting trip, the game taken is his wages. What one produces in any endeavor is his wages. Neither city, state nor nation can legislate wages, wealth. Money is not wealth, it is a medium of exchange and (supposed to be) a measure of value.

Adam Smith (often called the father of political economy) tells us that there are two forms of value--value in use and value in exchange. The sun has excellent value in use but no value in exchange. A one hundred dollar

bill has no value in use but it has a hundred dollars worth of value in exchange.

The newspapers tell us that a gang of robbers took \$1,551,277 from a mail truck, but that money has no value for them until they can exchange it for food, shelter, clothing, transportation or some other product of labor.

Mayor Wagner may establish a municipal wage floor but what relation will that have to wealth produced? The things we live by are produced by labor, mental and physical, not legislation. Let us hope that in the near future our officials will provide ways and means for our people to produce and enjoy the necessities of life instead of inflationary money.

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your criticism, please?

Ending Strikes 7-11-7-10-62.

To the Editor: President Kennedy established an emergency board to try to settle a dispute between 10,000 ground employees and American Airlines. The action barred a strike for a least 60 days.

Newspapers are still writing about the U.S. Steel six-dollar-a-ton increase and withdrawal. Scarcely a week passes without some strike, lockout, or industrial dispute. At present and recently we have the telephone company, Ford, as well as the American Airlines and others.

In our Declaration of Independence we speak of the laws of nature and nature's God. If we would treat our labor relations according to natural law we would eliminate practically all of our labor industrial troubles.

There are three factors in the production of wealth: Land, capital, and labor (mental and physical). Rent is the return for the use of land; interest is the return for the use of capital, and after making all payments for rent and interest, the unpaid balance belongs to labor (mental and physical) from the highest executive to the lowest worker, each receiving according to their contribution to production. And you have a just distribution of wealth. They have received all they have produced. I believe this method much better than government control!

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As Union-Star Readers See It 8-13-62.

Capitalism And Communism : Misused Word

Editor Union-Star:

Recently I received a paper which read as follows: "During the last few decades, people are beginning to apologize for capitalism. Some time back, Dean Manion interviewed Sen. Strom Thurmond on his weekly broadcast. Manion pointed out that our troubles with communism, throughout Latin America, and all over the world are seriously aggravated "by our own very obvious guilt complex concerning capitalism."

What is capitalism?

Capital is that part of wealth used in the production of more wealth, such as tools of any kind, machine shops, factories. Ism means a system or theory,

and ism has the same effect when attached to the word capital as it has when attached to the word Catholicism, Protestantism or any other word.

When Karl Marx used the word capitalism he was condemning the use of machines in the spinning and weaving industry in England because it displaced workers. But, do Communists employ capitalism machines? Then why should Americans have a guilt complex?

Or why should Dean Manion (who I believe teaches law at the college of Notre Dame) consider our troubles with communism here, Latin America and all over the world as

having anything to do with capitalism?

A few years ago an educational institution conducted a course of lectures on the subject--capitalism versus communism. What is communism? Communism is a system of human beings, while capitalism is a system of machines. How can human beings be compared to machines?

No, Mr. Manion, our troubles with communism is not capitalism. One of our greatest troubles is the misuse of words, and another our inhumanity to man. If we would correct these troubles then we could "be proud of capitalism."

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