

A1929

'Futile Fright Talk'

To the Editor:

In your editorial, "Futile Fright Talk," you tell of the head of a Chicago automation firm who says "rising population and living standards will create more demand for goods in 20 years than the workers then available can produce." He claims automation must therefore destroy 8,000,000 jobs. This is, or should be, chilling news for certain experts on labor who, not knowing how to fix things so automation can lift all, seek to control business and industry men and labor who wish only to give us more goods and services with less effort to our mutual profit.

We ought to make up our minds. Is it work or the products of work, wealth and services, we want? Are we to make social heroes of men who seek ways to make more (and harder) work and to "give" jobs when God Almighty has set the stage for man so that there are always more jobs than men to fill them?

Man's wants, quantity, variety and quality considered, and for both goods and services, and for leisure as well, are without limit. We never had mass unemployment due to lack of human wants, lack of land space and resources, or of capital. Man has fouled things up—not the "little" or the "ignorant" or the "mean" man—but our most literate, most highly educated, most looked-up-to men in all walks of life—as citizens. Why? The answer is faulty education, specifically in economics and social studies.

The Marxist analysis, Socialist or Communist types makes no difference, says private ownership of the "implements of production" or capitalism is to blame. To blame "capitalism" is like saying people get drunk on "hi-balls." Chemical

(scientific) or medical analysis, for example, might reveal in a "hi-ball," soda or water, lemon juice, a touch of bitters, a dash of salt, and whisky; and all know the one ingredient in this highball mixture which cause staggers, blind or otherwise, is the alcohol in the whisky. Capitalism consists of the ingredients land, labor and capital. Is it the mixture, or is it the land element, the labor element, or the capital element or our treatment of these, that cause our economic and social troubles—and our political troubles as well for the most part?

Can Marxist analysis reveal scientific truth? Marxists deny private ownership of capital and, like most capitalists, give a sloppy meaning to the term, whereas the scientific mind is precise. Most of our "capitalists," at least higher bracket capitalists, want capital to mean what the legal word property means in common usage; and in this they are practically as one with the Marxists who use the phrase "implements of production" as capitalists commonly and unscientifically use the word capital or property.

No Marxist ever proved that the private ownership of capital ever exploited labor—they count on repetition of the idea that it does to do their job; and, in view of the lack of competition of more scientific ideas on the part of capitalists they are likely to win the battle. NOAH D. ALPER.

About Leap Year

To the Editor:

We see by the calendar that 1956 is leap year. It may be interesting to note a few things regarding when and how this appears in our calendar about every four years.

It may be observed that when the numbers for the year,

