

Socialist hopes to tilt government's fall to left

By CARL STODDARD



HARRY JACKSON

SOUTHFIELD—Internist in socialism rose dramatically during the last year of the Great Depression in the 1930s.

Unemployed workers united. Pete Seeger and Woody Guthrie rallied to the cause with songs. Novelist John Steinbeck wrote the *Grapes of Wrath*, a powerful novel considered by many to be an example of how capitalism had failed. But World War II intervened, prosperity returned and belief in the free enterprise system was reaffirmed.

Now a new generation socialist says the time is ripe for another socialist movement.

Harry Jackson, in Southfield to drum up support for an unemployed workers' rally in Detroit, predicted the capitalist system will crumble within the next four or five years. It will be replaced, he said, by either a fascist government or a socialist system. Jackson is working to see that when the government falls, it falls to the left.

"We're in a period now where unemployed persons are very responsive," Jackson said during an interview Monday. "What we need to do is organize the unemployed people and move toward a socialist economy—which is critical."

JACKSON IS A MEMBER of the central committee of the International Workers' Party (IWP) and the chief

organizer of the Detroit region. This weekend, his and other socialist groups are staging a two-day rally at the Detroit Institute of Arts.

The rally is intended to help build a nationwide league of the unemployed, although employed workers, and left, labor and other progressive organizations are being asked to attend.

The rally is sponsored by the National Labor Federation, the IWP, the Revolutionary Communist League, the American Allied Workers Social and Civic Committee and other peace and labor groups.

SURPRISINGLY, he said, the traditionally Republican conservatives have been receptive to the idea of forming an unemployed league. Several years ago, Jackson said, socialists would have been bounced out on their ears if they attempted to talk to auto workers.

"Unemployed workers are going to be organized—the question is: Who's going to do the organizing?"

Unemployed people rallying around the socialist flag would fight for extended unemployment compensation and secure housing for the unemployed. They would fight against "profits at the expense of the people," war, military production and "slave labor," conditions.

Conditions for the switch to socialism are the same now as in the 1930s, he said. Already in existence, or proposed are:

- Massive government deficit spending
- Massive government intervention
- Public works projects
- Credit allocations to floundering businesses
- Military spending
- Bourgeois political leaders organizing the people behind unemployment programs

Like other socialists, Jackson sprinkles his contentions with the classic phraseology: bourgeois capitalists, workers of the world, slave labor, united front, reorganization of production, massive economic crisis and class restructuring.

AND AS WITH OTHER socialists, he sees the revolution as necessary, imminent and the product of worker dissatisfaction. Just how the revolution will be accomplished and what life will be like afterwards is never made clear. Part of the reason for the vagueness, he said, is because of the differing goals of the various groups that comprise the new left.

"We're at the crossroads right now," he said. "We're going to have to decide which way we're going to go. We're either going to more government control, fascism, or another war."

"Or we're going to socialism and a reorganization of production to provide the things people need."

In his opinion, the next three or four years are the "critical periods" in which it is necessary and possible to intervene.

Jackson, a tangle-haired man in his late 30s, is from New York and a graduate of Columbia. He also has a degree in law and still practices on occasions. Because he works as a lawyer, he said, he has assumed a "party name": Harry Jackson. He did not say what his real name is.

Martha Griffiths talks with students

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she told the students, but she encouraged them to pursue it if interested.

"There are opportunities beyond measure," she said. "I hope some of you have some feeling for being in public office."

"It will not make you rich but it will be as rewarding as anything you can do," Mrs. Griffiths continued.

She told the students that they would have to rely on themselves if they were interested in a political career, "because political parties are not really hunting people to run for offices."

"You have to seek these positions yourself, don't wait for someone else," she added.

EQUAL RIGHTS and the Equal Rights Amendment frequently came

into both Mrs. Griffiths' talk to the students and in their questions to her afterwards.

"In my opinion, it will be ratified," she predicted. "Both major political parties have approved this for 30 years. If there is anything we need before we celebrate our 200th birthday it is that amendment."

"The arguments that have been made against it play on ignorance, fear, superstition and an ancient tradition," she continued.

"Equal rights or rights for women will not go away in your lifetime," she told the students. "The world will become vastly different from the one you were brought into."

Mrs. Griffiths said she had "never really" been discriminated against because she was a woman, adding, "If I had been a man I possibly could have

become the house majority leader but I didn't put my name in because I thought they probably wouldn't elect a woman."

SHE WAS ASKED how she could explain the current simultaneous conditions of inflation and unemployment.

"No one has ever seen this before," she replied. "Economics books are not written to deal with this problem. No economists are prepared for the world we are in today. All our lives we have dealt with surplus, we have to do something different."

Mrs. Griffiths predicted that congress will produce an energy act within six weeks and that there will be tax on gasoline with some rebate provisions.

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