

A WORLD WITHOUT MONEY

“Have you ever envisioned a world without money? How would housing, food, work, and health care be different in a world without money?” These were questions raised during a recent ICWP workers’ meeting. We divided into four groups. In every group there was a very lively discussion and struggle about how a communist society without money will function. Everyone helped figure out how we’ll build a communist world.

We discussed how capitalism creates many stressors such as unemployment, poverty and poor health that would be eliminated under communism. Living in constant high stress affects our heart, sleep, and immune system. Capitalism doesn’t provide enough money to fund research to cure diseases. Under communism money will not be a factor in determining whether we can proceed with research on illnesses like AIDS and cancer. Under communism we will eliminate the use of pesticides that seep into our water, hormones in our food, eating unhealthy animals/fish, and pollution. One person talked about how in McFarland, CA they “had classmates that developed cancer due to the pesticides. How my mother would break out in hives almost daily

from working all day in the fields where pesticides were used.” Under communism we will decide what and how to produce using methods of growing food and producing goods in ways that keep our environment and well-being a priority.

We discussed how capitalism feeds the individualistic part of us and how communism will feed our collective side. We discussed how individualism often leads to mental illness. It is said that suicide is the ultimate act of selfishness. A mental health worker talked about how depression is an illness of isolation and that untreated depression is the number one cause of suicide. According to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (2012), one in five Americans experienced mental illness this past year. Things such as unemployment, no mental health care services, and addictions contribute to these high numbers and are completely preventable—but capitalism is unable to meet our needs.

Lastly we discussed how our spirit is slowly destroyed by capitalism. When we are unemployed for months on end, we begin to believe there is something wrong with us. The media’s portrayal of poor people as “irresponsible”,

“lazy”, or “unambitious” is a HUGE lie, but unfortunately many internalize these beliefs. It is difficult to feel good about ourselves when we live with the knowledge of injustice, but often feel powerless to do anything about it. Our new way of living under communism will transform our relationships with others. From food production to community living, every aspect of our lives will be reshaped.

Capitalist propaganda tries to convince us that without money there would be no incentive/motivation to invent or work, but humans have been thinking, creating, discovering and “working” since the beginning of human existence. This occurred prior to the existence of money and will continue as long as humans have functioning brains and bodies. As Sigmund Freud said, “Love and work are the cornerstones of our humanness.” Activation is the antidote to depression. Other than depressed individuals people do not generally isolate themselves from society, unwilling to contribute to some greater good.

In the next issue an article will talk about other aspects of organizing society without money that were discussed during our meeting. Stay tuned.