

Socialist 'Successes' Fail to Prosper

CAPITALISM and free enterprise are under attack everywhere by communists, socialists and other "reformers." No real campaign is being carried on around the world for free enterprise.

Probably the best available promotion is the example of success in such countries as the United States and West Germany, but in many nations information about them does not reach the public. Millions do not know how deprived they may be.

A special section promoting Argentina appeared in Nation's Business magazine recently. One page listed the "social charges" collected from all wages paid. It concluded 48.1 per cent of workers' earnings are spent by the government.

An article in the same issue told how Great Britain is getting along with its brand of socialism.

"Britain is now plagued with incredibly low productivity in the majority of her plants and businesses," the article stated. "High unemploy-

ment and high inflation plague the economy."

Some time earlier, an editorial in the London Daily Telegraph noted that "by recruiting more and more middle-class or potentially middle-class people into a monstrosly swelling bureaucracy, socialism removes from them their natural preference for economical government and makes their very livelihood dependent on public profligacy."

Sixty years ago, the Communist revolution in Russia promised a peaceful world in which the common people would share the world's wealth. It hasn't lived up to those promises.

The Soviet Union is twice as large in area as the United States and it has one-fifth more people. Yet its national output is little more than half that of this country. In purchasing power, income per person is less than half that of the Americans.

The government of China decides what is best for her 900 million citi-

zens, and almost everything is in short supply. "Even basic necessities, such as grain, cotton cloth, meat, cooking oil and soap are rationed most of the time," says a report in the Dec. 12 issue of U.S. News and World Report.

Sweden has been cited by reformers as an example of success of socialism, but Forbes magazine reports: "In Swedish factories the absentee rate currently runs from 20 to 40 per cent on some occasions. Warehouses are jammed with inventory, a result of the government's policy of keeping production high despite the worldwide recession. Inflation is at an annual rate of 13 per cent. A full one-fourth of all Swedish businesses are running in the red."

If those are successes, we don't need them. Yet we are being pushed at a rapid pace into a form of socialism that is stifling free enterprise.

We are being lulled by inflationary prosperity as centralizers and regulators assume more and more power.