

September 10, 1938

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## International Big Stuff Discussed by **Leon Trotsky**

**QUESTION:** What do you think of President Roosevelt as a *man*?

**ANSWER:** Even his most bitter opponents do not venture to deny his exceptional personality. Without doubt he possesses more outstanding personal qualities than the modern dictators, Mussolini, Hitler, not to speak of Stalin. I admit it the more readily since an abyss separates my program from the program of Mr. Roosevelt.

**QUESTION:** What is your opinion of Mr. Roosevelt's measures to alleviate the social and economic ills in the United States? How would you handle the self-same situation?

**ANSWER:** These measures have a purely palliative nature. Private property paralyzes further economic development of the United States. Under these conditions social reforms are but the expenditure of accumulations for the amelioration of the most glaring social ills. It is clear that this method does not open up wide perspectives. A program which wishes to maintain the foundations of capitalism untouched cannot offer a way out of the crisis.

You ask me how I should have acted in the place of Mr. Roosevelt. But I could not be in his place—we express opposing historical interests. Mr. Roosevelt desires to ameliorate the situation of the toilers in so far as it is necessary to *save* the capitalist system. I see the only way out through liquidating it once and for all.

August 18, 1938, Coyoacan, D. F., Mex.

### **Script Again Scoops**

*With scores of reporters hanging around to interview Leon Trotsky and unable to get by even one of the guards, in prances Gladys Robinson, SCRIPT's charming and beautiful reporter, guided by her palsy-walsies, the Diego Riveras, and nails the world's most famous refugee for an interview in which he does not talk about the birds and the flowers, or even motion pictures (!), but "says things" that square off a lot of misconceptions. Read it and weep, or cheer, or sumthin!*

*Rob Wagner*