

DR. KING WAS A RADICAL

"Where Do We Go From Here," 1967

True compassion is more than flinging a coin to a beggar; it understands that an edifice which produces beggars needs restructuring.

"Where Do We Go From Here," 1967

When machines and computers, profit motives and property rights are considered more important than people, the giant triplets of racism, materialism and militarism are incapable of being conquered.

"Where Do We Go From Here," 1967

I am now convinced that the simplest approach will prove to be the most effective—the solution to poverty is to abolish it directly by a now widely discussed measure: the guaranteed income.

"Can a Christian be a communist?" 1962

I'm not concerned about five percent of the Negroes living all right. ... I will never be content as long as somebody over here can make five hundred thousand dollars a year, and I've met Black men and women down in Mississippi who make less than five hundred dollars a year.

Speech to staff, 1966

[W]e are saying that something is wrong ... with capitalism.... There must be better distribution of wealth and maybe America must move toward a democratic socialism.

"Can a Christian be a communist?" 1962

We must admit that [communism] arose as a protest against the hardships of the underprivileged. ... Communism seeks to transcend the superficialities of race and color, and you are able to join the Communist party whatever the color of your skin or the quality of the blood in your veins. With this passionate concern for social justice Christians are bound to be in accord.

"Where Do We Go From Here," 1967

Depressed living standards for Negroes are not simply the consequence of neglect. Nor can they be explained by the myth of the Negro's innate incapacities, or by the more sophisticated rationalization of his acquired infirmities (family disorganization, poor education, etc.). They are a structural part of the economic system in the United States.

“ I am much more socialistic in my economic theory than capitalistic. ...
Today capitalism has outlived its usefulness. ”

-A letter to Coretta Scott, 1952

"Where Do We Go From Here," 1967

One day we must ask the question, "Why are there forty million poor people in America?" ... When you ask that question, you begin to question the capitalistic economy.

"Can a Christian be a communist?" 1962

Marx reveals the danger of the profit motive as the sole basis for an economic system. We must heed this challenge. I'm afraid that there are too many people in America concerned about making a living rather than making a life.

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