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Statement of W.H. Chamberlain.

In reply to the inquiry in your letter of the 1st, I regret to say that I cannot verify the statement attributed to Stalin and strongly doubt whether it was ever made. The same or similar statement has also been attributed to Lenin, but never, so far as I know, with any documentation as to the time and place where it was said or written.

I cannot claim to have read every line Lenin and Stalin wrote. But I am convinced that if either communist leader had made such a striking statement this would have been established with precise reference to chapter and verse, as is the case with some of their statements about the inevitability of world revolution and of conflict between the Soviet Union and the non-communist world.

Lenin died in 1924, before the problem of "deficit spending" had become acute. As a fanatical Marxist he believed that capitalism was doomed to perish, but his idea was that this would come about by wars and economic depressions, not by inflation. Stalin, of course, lived much longer. But he was so much in the public eye that any such statements would almost certainly have been reported and could be documented. To the best of my belief and knowledge there is no such documentation.