

Analyst Sees Another Gain In Cold War Fight By West

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AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The failure of the communist instigated general strike in Italy is another forceful indication that the western democracies have contained the red offensive and are gaining in Europe's cold war. This was the second serious defeat of its kind the Bolsheviks had suffered in a week, the other being the flop of a communist-supported general strike in France. The two setbacks are particularly significant in that Italy and France have been the chief communist strongholds in western Europe. Moscow has leaned heavily on the red organizations of these two important countries.

The Italian strike was called by communist leaders ostensibly to protest the death of two peasants in fights with police growing out of invasions of farmlands by squatters. However, the proclaimed purpose of the move was of small moment.

The real importance rested in the demonstration that the Italian public no longer runs for cover when the reds crack the whip. This transformation has taken place under Premier De Gasperi since his Christian Democrats defeated the Communists in the 1948 election.

Coincidence with this course has been the development of the grave conflict between the Kremlin and Marshal Tito of Yugoslavia. That fiery Balkan state had been another stronghold of communism, and Tito was one of Moscow's pets.

So we find the Communist offensive held along a line from north to south through central Europe. But that isn't the whole

story by a long shot, for there is bitter discontent among the Russian satellite states. Wholesale purges and liquidations are being carried out in most of these eastern European countries. The situation is particularly tense in Poland and Czechoslovakia, but Hungary, Romania and Bulgaria also are having their troubles with disaffection.

As a complement to these developments the defense ministers and chiefs of staff of the 12 Atlantic-pact nations have met in Paris and without fuss or feathers have agreed to a general defense plan involving western Europe and America. This plan still has to be approved by the Atlantic council. After that a billion dollars worth of American armaments will be released for defensive purposes in Europe, provided President Truman certifies that the plan is acceptable to the United States. Definitely the tide has turned in the European cold war. However, while that is a matter of extreme gratification it needn't encourage complacency. One of Moscow's chief aims has been to produce economic chaos among the democratic nations, and she has succeeded to an extent which likely far exceeds her expectations.

Still Bolshevism hasn't profited politically. For while the reds theoretically thrive on economic distress, the peoples of the western world have recognized Moscow's scheme with the result that they have turned even more firmly against communism in most cases. Possibly Bolshevism has gained some time which we shall see reflected in the far eastern offensive.

But democracy is doing well in the west.

Paul Robeson Film Plan Of Russians

MOSCOW—(AP)—The Soviet union is going to make a motion picture about Paul Robeson.

An official announcement said the scenario is being written by Anatole Surov, author of the currently popular play, "The Mad Haberdasher," which satirizes President Truman.

The announcement said the film will be titled "Paul Robeson," but gave no other details. "The American Negro singer is a very popular figure in the Soviet union. A mountain peak recently was named after him in Central Asia and mountain climbers placed his bust in bronze, on top of it. His portrait hangs in the window of a photographic studio on Revolution square here in Moscow. His records are frequently played.

Robeson visited Russia recently as a delegate to the Proponents of Peace congress. His wife last month attended a women's congress here. Robeson, his wife and son lived in Moscow several years before the war.

Teak, a valuable timber tree, is a member of the verbena family.



NEWS-REVIEW VISITORS Saturday morning were these 7th and 8th grade students of Scotts Valley school. Led by their teacher, Mrs. Bessie Mulkey, the group was conducted on a personal tour—from the reporters' typewriters to the press and newspaper mailing room. As shown above, the students are watching in fascination as Harold Taylor, pressman, rolls a mat of Saturday's paper. (Staff photo)

Reserve Board Indicates Intention To Crack Down On Consumer Credit

By BRUCE BLOSSAT

By the end of 1949 consumer credit is expected to pass the \$17,000,000,000 mark. Measured in dollars, the private debt of the American people is twice as great as in prewar days and three times its level at the end of World War II.

Economists of the Federal Reserve Board don't like to see this continuing growth of credit. But the men who are actually lending the money aren't yet worried. They believe buyer credit can be expanded safely another \$3,000,000,000 to \$5,000,000,000.

The lenders argue that consumer debt is running only a little more than 8 percent of personal incomes left after payment of taxes. In 1939 such credit amounted to 11 percent.

So long as incomes remain fat enough to keep that ratio below its previous high, the lenders apparently will be satisfied to go on putting consumers on the cuff for all kinds of goods and services.

Reserve Board experts feel that today's high incomes ought to mean a higher proportion of straight cash payments instead of bigger and bigger credit allowances. If people have the money, they should use it to pay for things instead of going into debt.

There economists are perturbed about the easier and easier credit terms being offered in many places on sales of automobiles, radio and television sets, refrigerators and other home appliances.

Some car dealers are asking as little as \$100 down with three years to pay on brand-new vehicles. Nothing down and years to pay on are the terms frequently dangled before prospective appliance purchasers.

Incidentally, about \$18 of every \$100 in consumer credit is owed on cars. Buying of appliances and radio and television sets accounts for another \$15 of each \$100. These are the chief categories of installment buying credit. Money repaid in installments to small loan firms, banks and credit unions comes to \$25 more.

The experts like to distinguish between installment loans and other credit, including charge accounts, some loans from banks, service credit from doctors, lawyers, garages, laundries and the like. Repayment in lump sums is the feature of this type.

Such credit is now about \$125,000,000 below the level of a year ago. Yet it still bulks very large, with charge accounts representing \$19 of each \$100 in consumer debt, single payment loans \$17 and service credit totting up to \$6.

The installment allowances, however, produce the furrowed brows among Reserve Board members. They think they should have power to restrict these loans, as they did until Congress let the authority lapse last June 30.

But the figures show that the former restrictions had little re-

have the income to make their payments. For that seems to be the only economic measuring rod they're interested in.

In the radio broadcasting trade any daytime dramatic story in serial form is labeled a "soap opera" largely because the original sponsors were soap companies and some still are.

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Squaw Of Taxi Ride Fame Back In Toils Of Law

KLAMATH FALLS, (AP)—Imogene Fisher, 43-year old Indian woman who achieved a measure of notoriety last May by taking a \$102 taxi ride from the state prison in Salem to Klamath Falls, is held in the Beatty jail in connection with the stabbing of another Indian, Bobby George, 40.

George was knifed on the head and back of the left arm Sunday morning during what state police termed a drinking party at Beatty. He is held in a Klamath Falls hospital.

State police said Mrs. Fisher and several other Indians were sitting in a car at the Furnore Crane ranchhouse at Beatty when they became involved in an argument and Mrs. Fisher swung at George twice with a knife.

The first blow hit him back of the head and the second inflicted a deep gash on his arm.

The Indian woman was booked on a drunk charge while investigation of the knifing was being made.

Mrs. Fisher was released from the state pen last May 25 after serving four and one half years of a seven-year term imposed in 1944 for manslaughter.

Prince's Income Slashed When India Grabs Domain

LONDON—(AP)—The 26-year-old Maharajah of Jodhpur, who has a 100-room, air-conditioned palace in his native land, is going to live in a \$10 a week flat here.

Even Indian princes, a friend explained, have money troubles these days.

The maharajah's income has been cut from 1,500,000 pounds (\$4,200,000) a year to a pension of 75,000 pounds (\$210,000) a year because of the annexation of his state to India.

Worse still, the Indian government allowed him only 1,600

pounds (\$4,480) when he set out to visit England last summer with his Scottish wife. The move from fashionable Claridge's hotel to the seven-room flat is an attempt to make it last.

The potentate's wife, now known as Sandra Devi, was Miss Alexandria McBride before their marriage in 1948. She was a nursing supervisor in a hospital. She is his wife number 2. His other wife remains in India.

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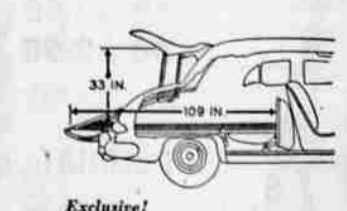
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