

# The Oregon Statesman

"No Favor Sways Us, No Fear Shall Awe"  
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THE STATESMAN PUBLISHING COMPANY

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### Bolshevik Anniversary—II

The passage of 30 years gives a fairly long period for the appraisal of the communist regime in Russia. Perhaps the most significant fact is the abandonment of the Marx formula: "From every man according to his ability; to every man according to his needs." The USSR does not operate under true communism but under a system of state capitalism. Rewards are various. Bureaucrats and army officers get the large salaries and perquisites (house, automobile). Among workers a system of incentive pay was inaugurated to speed production.

The cardinal principle of socialism, that all values should accrue to the workers, has consistently been violated. In Russia "surplus value," the object of Marxian scorn, accrues to the state which is the "capitalist."

The frequent apology for communism in Russia is that conditions are better than they were under the Czars. That is a matter of grave doubt. There is even less political liberty than under the old regime, cruel and corrupt as it was. Schwartzschild, whose article we are reviewing, after noting the limitations of Russian production and the exploitation of workers "more ruthless than anywhere under the conditions of free enterprise," concludes:

"Hence the fact, confirmed by every honest statistical analysis, that the Russian masses not only live incomparably worse than those in capitalist countries, but also that their 'real wages' are lower even than those of the Russian industrial workers of 1913."

For lack of adequate factual data it may be hard to prove that the standard of living among Russians, both peasants and workers and other classes, is lower today than under czarist rule, but the poverty compared with other peoples of Europe was abundantly demonstrated in the late war when invading Russians found even in the villages of Poland and Hungary goods far more abundant than in their own stores. The hunger of Russian soldiers for watches illustrated the destitution in their own land.

Comparison with other countries leads to the conclusion that Russia would have done much better under a system of regulated capitalism with its tolerance of private profits than under the system of state capitalism. Russia was making progress both politically and economically under the czars. Lenin himself in 1899 noted the "rapid development of industry in Russia." If the moderates had been able to control the revolution it is reasonable to believe that there would have been more rapid development of the rich resources of Russia than occurred under the communists, and that goods would have been shared in far more abundant measure among the people.

The Russian system of the police state, with an all-powerful bureaucracy, with the individual broken to the wheel of the system, denies those freedoms in which men work creatively. As a consequence in spite of all the fanfare over five-year plans accomplishment has been slow and painful. The late war of course, destroyed much of the productive capacity of Russia, but even before the war life was hard in Russia.

We do ourselves no good to look at Russia through eyes of bitter prejudice, but the testimony of Schwarzschild, author of a biography of Karl Marx, a German economist and editor who was driven into exile by the nazis, merits our consideration. He says of Russia: "Nothing in the whole picture suggests any superiority of communism in the realm of economic achievements." If American businessmen, workers, political leaders labor constantly make our own system succeed in producing and distributing goods we need have no fear of Russian communism.

### Trade Agreement Signed

The world trade conference at Geneva did not break up with nothing accomplished. A pact was agreed to by 23 nations looking to reducing some of the barriers to world trade. In all 107 agreements were entered into, of which the United States was a direct party in 15. The consolidated agreement covers 45,000 items in world trade. Besides a lowering of tariffs provisions of the agreements prevent invoking other restrictions on trade such as import quotas, internal taxes and exchange control. Our government has signed the general agreement and it will be published November 18 if other signatures are reported. The effective date of the agreement is January 1 next. However lack of exportable surpluses in many countries makes the date of less importance.

Also considered at Geneva was a charter for an International Trade organization, subsidiary of the U. N. It will be studied further at a conference due to be held in Havana starting November 21.

We shall not know until the agreements are published just how local interests are affected (wool, nuts, cherries, eggs), but there is general recognition of the need for revival of world trade on an economic basis.

### War Prisoners

The reason for holding axis prisoners more than two years after the end of the fighting is that countries want their labor. Britain and France hold around 300,000 German POWs each. Russia has over 1,600,000 Germans and Japs. The United States has repatriated all but a few held as war criminals.

The excuse for using these prisoners for labor is that the Germans destroyed so much property it is justified to have these prisoners work in partial recompense. But forced labor is highly objectionable. The demand is growing that prisoners be released.

France and Germany have set repatriation schedules, but the rate is so slow that it will take most of next year before the men are back home. Under the terms of the agreement at the Moscow conference in 1946 all countries are to repatriate German prisoners by December 31, 1948. As for the Japs, General MacArthur has never been able to get a firm commitment from Russia for their return to Japan. Repatriation is in progress but at a slow rate. Russia however was not a signatory to the Geneva convention which provided for the repatriation of prisoners as soon as possible after the actual fighting. Our government is justified however in pressing for completion of this return on grounds of common humanity.

Congressman Walter Norblad gave an excellent talk at the chamber of commerce luncheon Monday. His report of his observations on his global tour was necessarily condensed but it showed he was alert to facts and conditions. His general position of support of aid to Europe (despite evidences of good food in hotels of the capitals) attended with proper safeguards as to distribution seemed to meet with general approval.

The fat man is not the "jolly good fellow" he is conventionally pictured, says a Michigan doctor. Ailments of the obese make him quite unhappy. If this diagnosis is correct the fat people we have known have been good actors for they generally are in rollicking good humor.

The ex-dictator of Siam made a comeback Sunday in a "bloodless coup." While he collaborated with the Japs in the late unpleasantness he hasn't announced any restoration of the name Thailand for his country.

## IT SEEMS TO ME

(Continued from page one)

to most authorities, is not prepared for war. That in itself gives basis for hope. For it is hard to keep a war fever hot for a decade. The hurrying of adjectives and oburgations slackens after a time, for the epithets grow stale and hackneyed. In that period there is always the chance that new diplomats may resolve old disputes. Even if they are not resolved their points grow dull with time and peoples become adjusted to conditions. If we can hold a peace for a decade, why not for two and more?

We should not regard today as the anniversary of a failure. The first world war was not a failure; nor was the second. They did serve to protect essential human freedoms. They did spread the democratic idea round the globe until now the leaders of Russia appropriate that term to describe their course of organization.

What we must realize is that freedoms are not automatic, that we must work hard to preserve them in peace, and be ready to defend them in war. Our preparedness must include equipment against the latter eventuality. It must also embrace strong moral defenses; that our example as internal government is worthy of respect, that our conduct in international affairs accords with high standards of decency.

### The Safety Valve

LETTERS FROM STATESMAN READERS

PRaise FOR GEORGE FLAGG

To the Editor:  
May I commend, through your columns, the efficient supervision by Mr. George Flagg, public utilities commissioner, for the state of Oregon, of those many public services rendered to the people?

A well considered appointee of the late Governor Earl Snell, Mr. Flagg has administered the affairs of his department in a manner that has soundly confirmed the wisdom of his appointment.

The commissioner of public utilities is not an easy office. He is under constant pressure from interests who would urge increasing service costs; of others who would like to discontinue and slow to extend those services of great public convenience but small profit margins.

Mr. Flagg has not hesitated in taking a firm and decided position in the defense of the public interests. Continued monopoly of public passenger service has, during this past year, been sternly criticized and denied. Increased service costs have been determined and allowed only upon a full showing of factual evidence to establish their economic necessity. He has accepted squarely the responsibility that his department is a front line defense, both in enlarging and safeguarding public services to the people of this state.

Now—being one individual part of that general public and recognizing our very human tendency to criticize quickly and praise slowly—I do express my sincere appreciation to Mr. Flagg and his staff for their efficient administration of my interests as a citizen.

HARLEY LIBBY,  
Jefferson, Ore.

### Local Reservists Gain Colors Today

The joint Armistice day observance and presentation of colors to organized reserve units of Oregon and Vancouver, Wash., at 10:15 a.m. today in Portland public auditorium will symbolize the nation's determination to be prepared in case of war. Col. George D. Wahl, senior instructor of Oregon ORC, said Monday.

Salem's 368th engineer boat and shore regiment, under command of Col. George Spaur, will receive wartime combat colors at ceremonies open to the public. The colors to be awarded Salem and 19 other units entitle them to histories and battle honors of famed World War II outfits.

### Shrine Chorus To Sing Here

Two musical organizations of Al Kader Shrine temple, the Chanters, composed of 35 trained voices, and the Al Kader band of 50 pieces, will appear in a concert in Salem high school Saturday at 8:30 p.m. sponsored by the Salem Shrine club.

As a special feature the Northwest Shrine quartet will sing several numbers.

The program will include classical, religious and humorous numbers. A parade in which the visiting musical organizations and members of the Salem Shrine club will participate will be held on the downtown streets under the direction of Chief of Police Frank Minto. The parade will be prior to the concert.

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### GRIN AND BEAR IT

By Lichty



"Personally, my diagnosis is any kind of operation that would make interesting bridge conversation."

### Matter of Fact

By Joseph Alsop and Stewart Alsop

Headquarters: Washington, D. C.

(Editor's note—Following is the first column reprinted exclusively to The Oregon Statesman in this area by the New York Herald Tribune's outstanding writers. The initial column is written by Joseph Alsop, now in Czechoslovakia. "Matter of Fact," prepared four times weekly, will be a regular feature hereafter in Your Home Newspaper.)

#### THE STRUGGLE AHEAD

PRAGUE, Nov. 10—If the growing communist terror succeeds in reducing this country to the state of any other Soviet satellite, what will be the lot of the Czechs? The most important factor bearing on this vital question is neither ethical nor moral, but sternly practical. Even before attaining absolute mastery, the Soviets have already given proof that in their hands, the highly developed and specialized Czechoslovak industrial economy will be like an expensive and delicate watch in the hands of an energetic child.

This is crucial. The Soviet organization of eastern and central Europe cannot be maintained forever by force alone. In this area, more advanced than the Soviet Union, populated by women with memories of better times, it will not always be enough for the machine to be merely strong; it must also be productive. And Czechoslovakia, as the most progressive of all the nations within the Soviet sphere, is likely to become the first test case.

Appearance Deceiving  
First of all, it must be noted that the present appearance of Czech prosperity is partly delusive and ingenuously of the public as well as looted by the Nazis. Much new industrial plant was built here during the war years, and the Nazis actually increased Czech industrial output by more than 20 per cent. Old and new industrial plant survived the conflict with relatively little damage, and large stocks of industrial raw materials were also left behind by the defeated Germans.

These advantages, plus huge UNRRA aid, plus the industry and ingenuity of the people, are counted for the wonderfully rapid postwar revival here. Now, however, the war-time stocks of raw materials are exhausted. The national industrial plant is beginning to suffer severely from being operated full blast for two years with no repair or replacement. And a severe dollar shortage is restricting imports of vital materials.

These causes, combined with the sudden search for hard currency by Czechs preparing to flee the country, already have produced an ominous result. Since the Marshall plan crisis, the Czech crown has almost halved in value on the Prague black market. Crowns can now be bought at the rate of more than 200 to the dollar.

Material from West  
The Czech communists promise that trade with the east will extricate the country from its difficulties. But the most important Czech raw materials come from the west. The greatest efforts have not increased Czech trade with the Soviet sphere beyond 25 per cent of the total. And what makes the outlook all the more grim is the experience the Czechs have already had with the Soviets as raiders.

At this moment, Czechoslovakia is acutely threatened by a bad harvest. As a reward for non-participation in the Marshall plan, the Kremlin has promised to cover the deficit with 200,000 tons of grain. A little more than 12,000 tons of grain have been delivered, and shipments have ceased. The Soviets want to be paid, and paid

well for their kindness. Furthermore, they do not want the highly finished products in which Czech industry has always specialized. Their main demand is for 200,000 tons of crude cast iron pipe. To meet the demand, the Czechs would virtually have to dismantle their iron and steel industry.

Or Ruins Furnaces  
Nor is this fundamental industry of Czech specialized industry to meet crude Soviet requirements the only difficulty. Czech blast furnaces are built to consume high quality ore. The Soviets for a long time persistently offered their own iron ore, high in sulphur content. Finally, after the most desperate pleas, the Czechs received a Soviet promise of 100 cars of Swedish ore. On arrival the shipment was subjected to spot check, passed as meeting specification, and sent to the blast furnaces. The furnaces were instantly ruined.

From ignorance to fraud, the Soviet bureaucrats had included eight tons of low-quality, high-sulphur content ore, which the spot check had not disclosed.

Again, Soviet cotton was promised—a certain number of thousands of bales of four different grades, suited to the Czech textile factories. But all grades were found to be of the same grade on delivery. Or, again, the Czechs hoped to sell the Soviets plain gray goods, to meet the need for textiles of the Soviet people, and to reserve their high-quality output to get dollars from the West. But the Soviets insisted on getting the high-quality product, in order to sell it themselves for hard currency which they also need.

Little Interest Shown  
For these reasons, suppliant delegations of Czech officials are constantly on the road to Moscow, where they find that Soviet Trade Commissar Mokoyan is even less interested in broad national foreign policy than our own surlous secretary of agriculture.

For these reasons also, the future is fairly predictable. If the growing Communist terror is successful, Czechoslovakia's western level of life is doomed.

All the combined difficulties and pressures will bring the Czech people, now the most fortunate in Europe, near to the dreadful state of the masses in most areas of Soviet rule. For us, this has a powerful meaning. For the present, the United States should make some gesture—some indication of sympathy and interest—to prove that Czechoslovakia has not been utterly abandoned by the west. This will help the non-communist Czech leaders. Even so, however, their struggle against the communists will be unequal.

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JOINS COMPANY  
The name of John P. Crockett is added to the Crockett Co., local advertising firm, in filings with the Marion county clerk Monday. Other members of the firm are Ernest L. Crockett and Therese S. Crockett, all of Salem.

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## Norblad Calls for Supervision, Self Help in Aid to Europe

Support of an aid program for Europe and Asia, provided the aided countries lay economic plans for help among themselves and the United States supervises distribution of food and other aid, was pledged in Salem Monday by U. S. Rep. Walter A. Norblad.

Norblad is en route today for Washington, D. C., to attend the special congressional session. He returned last week from a plane tour of the world with a six-man committee inspecting military installations for the armed services committee of the house of representatives.

"I shall insist in any aid program considered," said Norblad in an address before Salem Chamber of Commerce at its noon luncheon, "that the program call for receiving nations to exchange goods among themselves where possible and to otherwise help themselves."

Norblad said he had seen and heard enough on his recent world trip to convince him of the necessity for supervising any aid to needy nations. He said trained observers estimated, for example, that only 20 per cent of UNRRA supplies actually reached needy people, the remainder going to the black market or the war lords.

Norblad also noted that elaborate meals were available in ordinary restaurants in Rome, Vienna and Athens, despite the wide publicity given to hunger in European countries. He said his observations abroad led him to believe "only Germany is as bad off as reports from Europe have indicated."

The representative said he favored U. S. aid for needy countries because it is a humanitarian

mandate and because it would help stem the world spread of communism.

Norblad spoke before an overflow crowd of approximately 250 at the Salem chamber's dining hall. He was introduced by Charles A. Sprague, who asserted "It is fortunate for Oregon, with its exposed position on the Pacific, to be represented by Norblad on the armed services committee."

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