

Opposition to Reds in East Reich Growing, May Prelude Purge

Editor's Note: The Sovietization of East Germany is running into snags, both inside and outside the Communist Party. This appraisal of the situation by William L. Ryan, AP foreign news analyst, is the last of a series of articles on Communism in Germany.

By WILLIAM L. RYAN

BERLIN (AP)—Moscow, apparently irritated at the continued stubbornness of the population of the Soviet Zone, is snapping the whip on East German Communists. While the communists have been making headway with their propaganda drive in West Germany, they have been losing ground steadily in the Soviet Zone. The Socialist Unity Party, the ruling Communist Party, is undergoing a wave of "criticism and self-criticism" and much whip snapping under Moscow prodding. A new purge appears to be in the offing.

The party boss, Deputy Premier Walthor Ulbricht, is laying down the law in menacing tones. A hatchet man like Czechoslovakia's now purged Rudolf Slansky, he is making himself daily more hated.

Opposition Heard

The year 1951 was not a good one for the Communists, either in the factories or on the farms. Opposition was open and pronounced.

Factory production is lagging. Soviet administrators are feverishly trying to catch up on steel, optical and electrical production but can not cope with a growing shortage of skilled labor. Many skilled persons have fled to the West.

Soviet propaganda claims everybody in East Germany is employed. But actually there is much unemployment due to shutdown and lack of materials. The German workers in many cases deliberately contribute to these shutdowns.

Remembers Union Days

The German worker, once a fervent trade unionist, is tough and stubborn. He bitterly resents "collective contracts" which he says rob him of gains made by his grandfather in trade union days. He is extremely skilled and the Communists can not do without him, much as they would like to. It is dangerous to oppose the Communists in East Germany, but there are slowdowns and even an occasional demonstration. Opposition is expressed in many ways, more in words and looks than actions.

A Communist leader in Saxony made an admission at a meeting of Communists, which in substance went like this:

"When I go to a large meeting I have only to look into the eyes of the audience to know the people are against us. This means we Communists must win the confidence of the people by cooperating rather than commanding."

Deductions End

One striking instance of the will to resist was given by East Berlin workers. Their resentment at a "voluntary" 3 per cent pay deduction for the reconstruction program was so strong the regime was compelled to end the pay deductions.

The farmers laugh at reports of successes of collective farms in the USSR. The German is an excellent farmer and has forgotten more than most Soviet collective farm officials have learned. But East German farmers live in dread of the day they will be collectivized. They are being harshly criti-

those either already purged or about to be.

Oelsner, who has been party theoretician, also is among those snarled in the mass of criticism and self-criticism.

He was accused recently by Ulbricht of "Talmudism." That is a sin invented by Stalinists to cover the defects of Marx and Lenin. When the party wants to depart from their teachings it departs. Those who want to follow the dogma out the window are "Talmudists."

Oelsner said recently the comrades lower down the scale were afraid to criticize higher ups and this should be corrected.

LOG CRUSHES WORKER

COITAGE GROVE (AP)—A log fatally crushed Benton G. Stulken, about 45, Cottage Grove, at the Bohemia Lumber Company, where he worked, here Wednesday.

ized for failure to meet quotas of deliveries to the state. If collectivization is decided upon it probably would have to be accomplished by force against a huge farm population.

Full Sovietization

If the purge develops it would seem to mean the Communists are about to drop the sham and proceed with outright Sovietization of the East Zone, long held off because of its political effect on West Germany. Outright Sovietization would seem to mean the Soviet Union considers permanent the split between East and West Germany.

There are some hints that dissension is developing in the Socialist Unity Party. This talk centers about Wilhelm Zaisser, minister of state security and Ulbricht's only serious rival.

American sources in Berlin say Zaisser would have support from such politburo members as Franz Dahlem, Heinrich Rau and even Hermann Matern. Other members of the politburo are East German President Wilhelm Pieck and Premier Otto Grotewohl, both regarded as figureheads; East Berlin Mayor Friedrich Ebert and Fred Oelsner.

Ulbricht Favorite

It is not safe to project Communist fortunes far into the future, but it appears that at present Ulbricht is the favorite of Moscow.

Paul Wandel, minister of education, recently felt safe enough to extend his enthusiastic criticism and self-criticism all the way up to Ulbricht himself. He criticized the politburo and Ulbricht for not giving definite orders to produce new history books. Wandel may pay for his temerity. He appears to be high on the list of

Sutton's Pal Ready to Help Convict Robber

NEW YORK (AP)—An old pal of Willie (The Actor) Sutton turned against the master bank robber Tuesday as his trial opened.

The state announced that a star witness against Sutton will be one of the men who allegedly helped him loot a Queens bank of \$64,000 in 1950—John de Venuta.

The 37-year-old Venuta reportedly has made a clean breast of his part in the Manufacturers Trust Co. holdup and is ready to help the state convict Sutton.

The room was guarded to the very hilt against any gun-toting

friends or admirers of the 64-year-old Sutton, whose crimes won him a sort of glamor in the eyes of some perverted hero-worshippers.

On trial with him is Thomas Kling, 45, a tough jail breaker, accused as the third man on the Manufacturers Trust job.

The heavy guard—one of the most extraordinary in local court history — was an outgrowth of the assassination of Arnold Schuster, the young pants salesman who pointed out Sutton to his police captors.

SEWING BOYS

NEW YORK (INS) — Sewing classes for boys only—first of their kind ever conducted—have been inaugurated at the Madison Square Boy's Club. Purpose of the novel sewing course is to have boys help their mothers by doing their own sewing of rips and tears.

Maj. Johnson Wins Medal

Maj. Paul C. Johnson, formerly of Salem and now in command of an engineering battalion at Fort Lewis, has been awarded a Bronze Star medal for meritorious service in Korea.

Friends here learned Wednesday

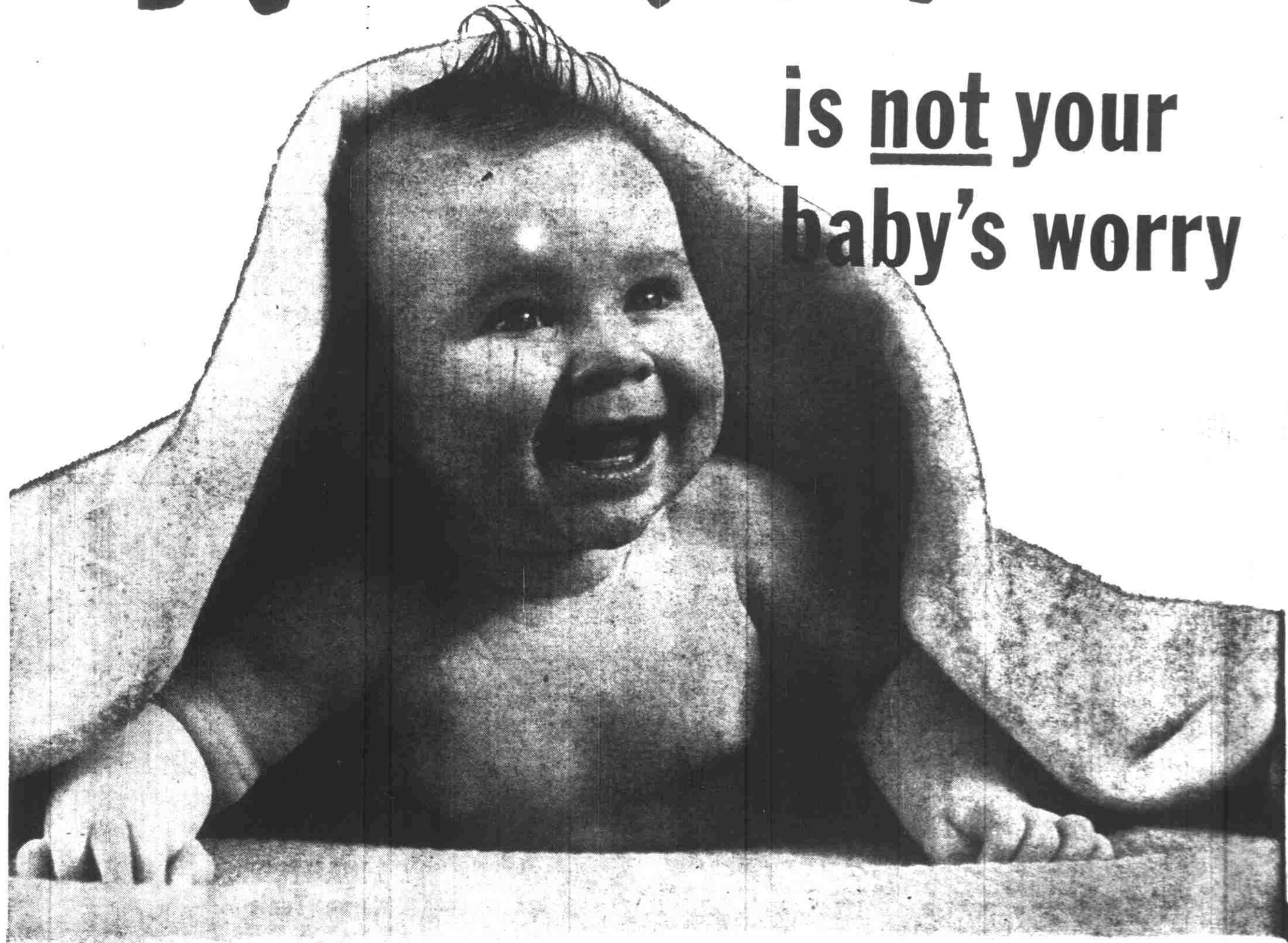
The Statesman, Salem, Oregon, Friday, March 23, 1951

of the award which cited Johnson for "tact, skill and judgment" as an adviser to Korean Army engineers. He served in Korea from October, 1950, to August, 1951. Johnson commands the 9th Engineer Battalion of the 354th Engineer Group. His wife and son are with him at Fort Lewis. In Salem he was an army reservist and was employed by Burroughs Adding Machine Co.

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