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Tito's Real Sin Is Failure To Communize Yugoslavia

By JAMES THRASHER

There have been some amusing as well as puzzling aspects to the Tito-Cominform fight since the first big blow-off. Communist parties in the other puppet states have been following the Moscow line and dutifully throwing bricks through Tito's windows. Tito's Communists have been bravely throwing them back—but always careful not to aim them in Moscow's direction.

It has been something like a fight among the kids of one family, with all contestants keeping a wary eye on mother for fear she'll move in and whale the whole bunch of them.

Behind all the window dressing, however, the fundamental problem has not been solved. And that problem, according to Bogdan Raditsa, is Tito's failure to communize Yugoslavia. Since he formerly was Tito's information director, Mr. Raditsa knows the situation. Probably no writer in this country who can speak freely and honestly knows it any better.

But it is not necessary to agree with him without thinking. Even when one discounts the great distance that makes all issues seem clear-cut, his opinion still seems logical.

Tito's assignment apparently has been to industrialize as well as communize his country. Yugoslavia is a vulnerable outer bastion of the Communist empire. It is poor and backward, sadly lacking in the strength and self-sufficiency that would be needed if war threatened.

But since the Kremlin has rung down the iron curtain between its step-children and the west, Yugoslavia has had to turn to Russia for the help she must have in her start toward strength, self-sufficiency and industrialization. She has needed money, machinery, transportation and other essential materials, not only for factories but for farms.

No country's industry can be great or even adequate without a big labor force. And as this country's history shows, it cannot have that labor force until less and less people are raising more and more food with the help of machinery and scientific farming, thus releasing workers to industry. Nor can a country be industrially powerful if it is not able to trade freely.

Yugoslavia's farms are ill-equipped and her farmers are stubbornly unco-operative. And if reports out of Russia are true, the Soviets don't have enough of anything but land and labor themselves. They can't give their backward satellites like Yugoslavia the help that they need, and they won't let the puppet dictators look elsewhere for help.

It seems small wonder, then, that Tito was giving the Kremlin gospel a rather free translation in his effort to put his country on her feet. His vain and pompous way of going about it may have irritated the Kremlin almost as much as his boldness. But the Soviet leaders seem to have little cause to doubt that Tito still professes their own ruthless, tyrannical faith.

His methods must be the galling things.

For, by departing from their instructions, he has suggested that they don't have the infallible answers. It looks as if the real failure can be blamed on Soviet planning, not Tito's disobedience. And it isn't likely that any Marxist scoldings or trials and purges can remove that appearance.

Police too often don't believe that a public park is the public's.

WASHINGTON LETTER

BY PETER EDSON
NEA Washington Correspondent

U. S. Steel's Price Cut Good, But People Can't Eat Steel

WASHINGTON (NEA)—Big U. S. Steel Corporation is having public relations trouble again. This time it's over the announcement it will cut prices by \$25,000,000 a year.

Last February, the corporation was in trouble because it raised prices by \$28,000,000 a year. President Truman, his Council of Economic Advisers, the Departments of Justice and Commerce all jumped on that. The steel industry as a whole was told that raising prices was bound to lead to new wage demands which, if granted, would lead to another round on the inflationary spiral.

So the steel masters went home to lick their burns. And now, two months later, when they are right in the middle of negotiating demands from the CIO Steelworkers' Union, they say they'll cut prices, but they won't raise wages.

The consuming public is caught right in the middle between rival claims and statements of steel makers and steel workers. In such circumstances, one way out is to turn to supposedly neutral sources such as Bureau of Labor Statistics and Department of Commerce surveys.

Strange as it may seem, BLS figures indicate the steel industry may have a case. But, through either poor public relations or poorer public understanding, this story has not been put over. Composite Finished Steel Prices Up 40%.

Steel prices cover many things, from semi-finished slabs and billets to tinplate. A fair gauge is the composite finished steel price. Since August, 1939—start of the preparedness drive—this composite finished steel price has gone up in three or four principal raises by \$18.57 a ton. This raised the price from an average of \$46.22 a ton in 1939 to \$64.79, or 40 per cent.

In this same period, the wholesale cost of food has gone up 145 per cent, of farm products 180 per cent, and of all products in the BLS wholesale price index 110 per cent. Steel, with a 40 per cent rise, has had less increase than other products.

In this same period, scrap for steel making has gone up from \$16 a ton to \$40, or 150 per cent. Coking coal has gone up from \$2.62 to \$6.17 a ton, or 135 per cent. Labor has gone up from 85 cents an hour to \$1.52, or 80 per cent. The entire cost of living has gone up 70 per cent in the same period.

There is another angle to this thing, too. One reason steel prices haven't gone down is the steel shortage. The principal reason steel capacity has not been increased is that investors are reluctant to put their money into great expansion. Here's the way one government economist sees it: U. S. steel industry investment is \$4,500,000,000. Last year it made profits of \$390,000,000 after taxes, or over 8 per cent. Producing 85,000,000 tons, that is a profit of \$4.50 a ton. At present construction costs, it would take \$3,000,000,000 to enlarge U. S. steel capacity by 10,000,000 tons a year. If the industry could earn the same \$4.50 a ton on this new production, it would amount to \$45,000,000. On a \$3,000,000,000 investment, that would amount to only 1.5 per cent. No capitalist will bother with that.

Other Price Cuts May Be More Essential Than Steel

ESSENTIAL THAN STEEL
The real difficulty in trying to understand this steel wage-price issue, however, is that it gets all mixed up with psychological factors. Steel is considered the number one barometer of industry. If it sets a pattern for price reductions that other industries follow, that's all to the good. But what's needed may be not so much a cut in steel prices as in clothing, furniture and, above all, foods. Wage increase demands can't be waved away until the cost of things people wear and eat is brought down.

Timing psychology also enters the picture. General Electric, having cut prices twice, is in a good bargaining position to resist demands for wage increases.

U. S. Steel and the rest of the industry that follows its leadership are in a bad position. They raised prices when there was a demand for cuts. When they cut, the reduction was \$3,000,000 less than the previous raise.

Furthermore, the steel industry cut when it was right in the middle of negotiating demands for "substantial wage increases." The steel industry as a whole can argue its head off that the time has come to stop rising costs—meaning wages. It can claim—as has been claimed for U. S. Steel Corporation—that its present price cuts are equivalent to five cents an hour for all of its employees. The trouble with that argument is that people don't eat steel.

Atomic Bomb Hard to Detect

LOS ANGELES (AP)—If Russia has an atomic bomb it's going to be difficult to detect radiation from any tests, says Commander J. T. Hayward, Navy atomic expert.

Commander Hayward, plans and operations director of the armed forces special weapons project at Sandia, N.M., told interviewers that a Russian atomic test might be reflected from radiation impact on the moon "if we trained a spectrometer on the moon; but the moon would have to be in the right phase."

Radiation, he said, couldn't be detected here from Siberia.

"Let's assume the Russians have the A bomb," he continued. "It would be silly of them to fly it over. Under international law their ships are not searched in our harbors. They could easily deliver it that way."

"Water is a spreader of radioactive contamination. With an offshore wind, you would be enveloped in a death mist. So, frankly, we're worried, very worried. All I can say now is that we're prosecuting the problem."

Cleanup of Testimony Urged by Doctors

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—A move has been started in Wisconsin to improve doctors' testimony in court cases.

The Wisconsin Medical Society and the state bar association are trying to eliminate "flimsy, fraudulent testimony" by physicians summoned as expert witnesses.

The proposal to eliminate non-factual testimony was suggested by a Madison attorney at a state bar gathering.

Some doctors become "advocates" of the side on which they are engaged, and others are swayed by witness fees.



Maybe this three-wheeled runabout built by Frank Mayes, Fayetteville, Ark., farmer-mechanic, will revolutionize the auto industry and maybe it won't. Anyway, it runs 55 miles an hour. Front wheels control steering and braking, while the single back wheel rolls along free. Mayes, shown at the wheel, built the car in his spare time from scrap parts.

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MADRID, Sunday (AP)—Generalissimo Francisco Franco today bestowed titles of nobility for the first time since he became premier nine years ago.

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Lion Missing In California

SANTA PAULA, Cal. (AP)—A six-month-old lion cub, more than five feet long and weighing 163 pounds, was believed wandering in the hills near here Monday while his owner tried to get him back by describing him as "very friendly" and offering a \$500 reward.

The pet African lion, which likes to ride in cars, belongs to Henry George, a painter and mid-gate auto race driver. He bought the animal as a baby and taught him to ride in his mid-gate car as a publicity stunt.

The sheriff's office said the lion, named Frank, chewed a rope with which he was tied more than a week ago and wandered off into the hills between here and Ojai.

Several motorists and hill-country residents have seen him, but none wanted to try for the reward.

"All they'd have to do is pet him and let him in the car," George says. "He's a very friendly fellow."

George is afraid someone will mistake Frank for a mountain lion and shoot him for the \$500 bounty.

"He's just beginning to grow a mane, and it would be easy for someone to make a mistake like that," he said.

In an advertisement in newspaper lost-and-found columns, he described Frank as "5 ft. 3 in. long, 2 ft. high. Very friendly and can be petted."

WALTERVILLE REBEKAHS
WALTERVILLE.—Rebekahs met Thursday Mrs. Dorothy Ashley was appointed on a committee to repair the broken window in the hall. Mrs. Myrtle Rickman is to see about getting a cabinet for the new robes.

Mrs. Lillian Mecum, the new drill team captain has announced drill team practice for Thursday

Hunters Told Send No Dough

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP)—Oregon hunters Tuesday were asked not to send money with applications for special hunting season tags to the Oregon State Game Commission.

F. C. Baker, commission controller, said the seasons announced were only tentative and that final regulations would not be adopted until July 24. At that time, if special seasons are listed, applications should be mailed to the commission office without fees, Baker said.

He added that if more applications were received than the number of specified permits, a drawing would be held. Those drawing tags should then send in the specified fee.

Obituary Collection Fills 36 Volumes

CLINTON, N. Y. (AP)—A Hamilton College freshman, Alfred K. Hammer, Jr., collects obituaries. His dormitory room is filled with 36 volumes.

But Hammer isn't morbid. He says the obituaries serve a purpose. He believes they are the most concise and cheapest biographical and reference material on famous people available.

His prize item is a George Washington burial notice which appeared in the Ulster County Gazette in 1800, shortly after Washington's death the preceding December.

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