

A Report on Inside Russia—

Is There Any Chance Russ Will Turn Against Kremlin?

Editor's note: How does it feel to live in Russia? What kind of people are the Russians? Is there any chance that Russians one day will turn against their police state?

Edmund Stevens, staff correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor, has observed Soviet affairs for 10 years and only recently left Moscow after a three-year assignment in the Russian capital.

This is the second of four articles digesting his reports on the Soviet Union, as published by the Christian Science Monitor in 40 installments, and giving his answers to many questions being asked outside Russia.

New York, Feb. 8 — (AP) — In Russia today there are "legions of thinking, intelligent people who chafe under the omnipotent police state and long with their whole beings for freedom," reports a trained American observer who recently left the Soviet Union.

"In coming years, the strongest, most determined foes of the police state are likely to develop east of the iron curtain, where not even forcible indoctrination can neutralize the lessons of immediate knowledge and experience," writes Edmund Stevens, who has just completed a three-year assignment as Moscow correspondent of the Christian Science Monitor.

"It is essential that the west learn to distinguish between the police state and the Soviet people, for if the former are implacable foes, the latter, unless stupidly antagonized, are potential friends and allies, and it is they who eventually will decide their country's destiny."

Only a relatively small number of Russians are members of the communist party which rules with iron discipline.

From among the masses, says Stevens: "Thousands upon thousands of people in all walks of life have at some time sustained some deep personal hurt from the police regime. Each new purge or 'ideological campaign' adds new contingents of malcontent."

"While all open criticism of the regime is effectively prevented and the ears and eyes of the MVD (secret police) are omnipresent, such is human nature that every individual has at least one person he fully trusts, and thus an endless chain of trust extends, even though it lacks organized form."

Stevens divides today's Russians into three groups: Those man, about 25 or under, youngsters whom he says show gradual frustration in the police state, and those over 35, whose disillusionment breeds either cynical resignation or intense inner rebellion.

The cycles are among the party staff. The majority of the citizenry are apathetic, "but many at the least sign of hope would gravitate toward the third (rebellellion)," the writer reports.

There are two kinds of Soviet citizen. The elite are the select group of party members, risen from 12,000,000 after the purge of the thirties to more than 5,000,000 now, with the recruitment of many youngsters who grew up under Stalin. The other Soviet citizen is a member of the great conglomerate mass of Russian peoples.

Of the elite, the upper crust includes the ruling politburo, the military leaders, factory directors, celebrities of letters and the stage and screen and the

This upper crust is well fed, well housed, they live well, they are constantly vigilant of the secret police who watch both them and those who would dare approach them.

Now, how about the other side; Stevens describes it thus: So far as the peasant is concerned, the Soviet government has evolved techniques of squeezing him far more thoroughly than czarist landlords could. Save in a few pampered estates, "the peasant has yet to escape most of the benefits enjoyed by the urban intellectual and the working class."

And what of labor? "The serflike bondage of the Soviet citizen to his job is an element of an unrelaxing economic stranglehold upon the masses. Equally important is the despotic state control of the production process."

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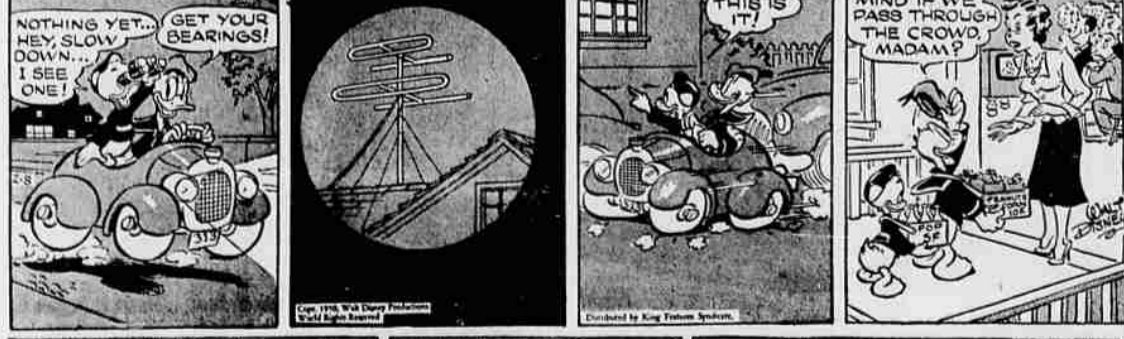
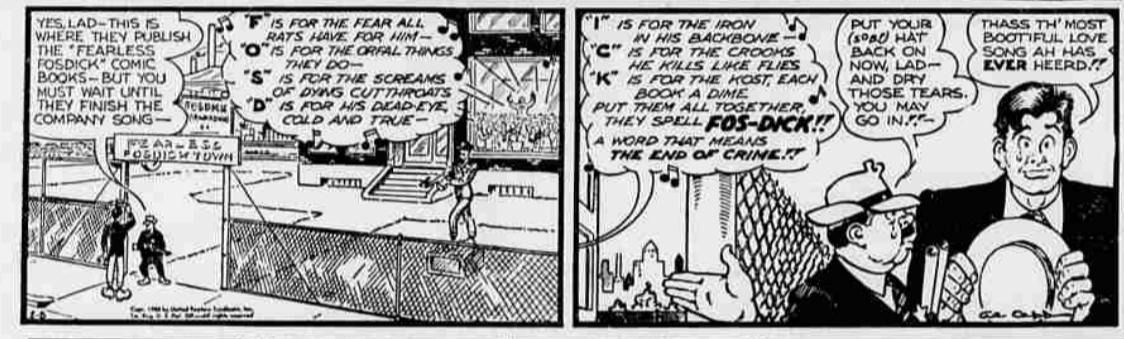
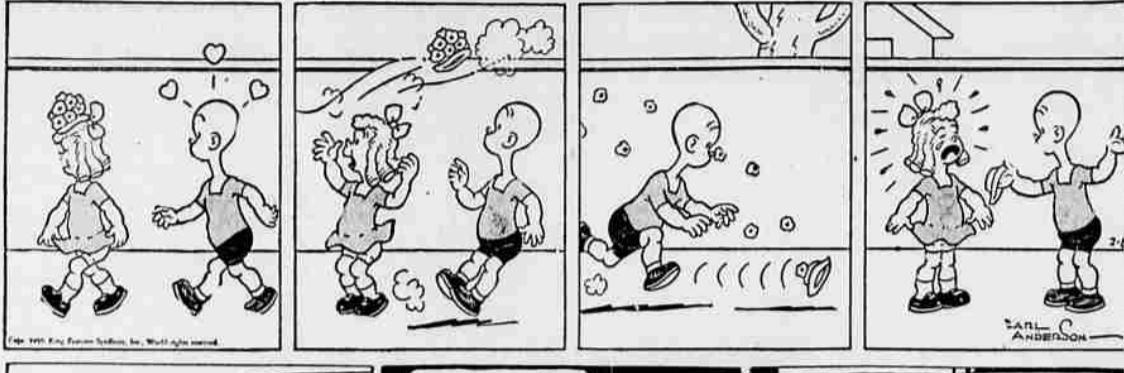


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