

Communism Loses Prestige in Europe

Life in Soviet Russia Lacks Utopian Promise

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—As relations between the western world and Russia grow rapidly

more better, many reports are coming in to show that Communism, which reached the peak of its prestige with the end of the war, is losing some of its popularity in Europe. The lack of proof provided in the eating of the Soviet pudding has had its effects, and many a wall of anguish is dimly audible behind the iron curtain which stretches from the Baltic through the Balkans.



Baukhage

This, of course, doesn't prevent our own little family of loyal American "Commies" from screaming the praises of all within the Soviet's gates.

I have been looking over some facts concerning two of the great postwar American problems—housing and union labor demands—with an eye on similar conditions in Russia.

Nobody but an optimist with rose-colored glasses and a five-year lease would say that we have no housing problem in America. But Stalin has one in Russia too. And how, To-varish! (Don't answer me now, there's a plain clothes man behind the samovar.) I know about that letter workers wrote to Uncle Joe, pledging their tireless work and a promise to "liquidate all shortcomings" on the housing industry. That word "liquidate" has an unpleasant sound. And when Russian papers are allowed to criticize production, putting the blame on "local Soviets," it means—the situation needs criticizing!

But what were Russian housing conditions before the war?

According to a recent Library of Congress report, "Communism in Action," even before the devastation of western Russia the average floor space in Moscow was only 45 square feet per head. But the privileged (workers with high records on the speed-up plan) had much more. Hence, the ordinary Russian worker had much less. By way of contrast in Washington, D. C., under the National Capital Housing authority, the smallest housing unit (a one-bedroom apartment) must allot 165 square feet to the living room alone, and the total space must be 230 square feet.

In Russia the usual arrangement is one family per room in a six-room apartment with common use of the kitchen and bathroom.

Figure Out Floor Space Per Person

This was the situation before the war. Today, in the Ukraine, according to an article in Harper's by John Fischer, who spent some months in the Ukraine and Byelo

Russia with UNRRA, conditions are such that the Russian press may well be allowed to criticize—if that will do any good.

In Kiev, says Fischer, a person is supposed to have six square meters of living space, which is a strip of floor about ten feet long and six feet wide. Less than that is available in Kharkov.

If you want to know how a typical family in the Ukraine lives, Fischer tells you to imagine you and your wife and children occupying the smallest room in your house, with the clothing, beds, furniture and possessions that are absolutely indispensable. You'll have a brick stove instead of a radiator or cooking range, a bathroom with no hot water shared by several other families — and probably a few relatives to share all that!

Probably you could stand this if you knew it was temporary. But in Russia, according to Fischer, because of the five-year plan for the expansion of heavy industry (said to be a part of Soviet war preparation), Russians are going to have a bitterly hard life as far as consumer goods and facilities go, for another 10 to 15 years.

I can't verify Fischer's views, but I know that authorities agree that Russia cannot possibly do much to raise the standard of living of the less privileged even if she doesn't continue the present military preparation.

And what has Communism done for the laborer as such?

Under the five-year plan industrial workers' pay is supposed to go up to 500 rubles a month. Fischer estimates the present rate at between 300 and 350, which he says amounts in terms of American purchasing power to about \$30 to \$35.

Labor Unions Under Government Wing

According to "Communism in Action" (the U. S. government document I mentioned earlier) the Russian labor unions started out under Trotsky as independent, fighting organs of labor. But when Trotsky was ousted and made his very hasty departure from the Utopia he helped found, one lap ahead of the liquidators, things changed. As in the case of Nazi Germany the union became a limb of the party.

And no one would say that American unions, like the Russian variety, "are not organized to conduct strikes." This is reported by "Communism in Action," which says that there hasn't been a strike in Russia since 1921. The document further points out that unions in the United States have as their primary purpose the privilege of their members to deal on equal terms with their employers on all matters of mutual interest.

In the U.S.S.R., on the other hand, the unions are a part of the apparatus of the employer (the government) and since the government is supposed to act in the interests of all, the workers can't complain against any of its decisions.

to his congressman, "and it's someone's fault. Regardless of where and how you place the blame, you represent us in our government which has allowed this national disgrace to come about and are, therefore, to a greater or a less degree, personally responsible for it."

Mrs. Elizabeth Gray Vining has been invited to serve as tutor to the crown prince of Japan. He must have seen "Anna and the King of Siam" in the movies.

America must approach every foreign situation with absolutely clean hands—and it's worth risking the price of international soap to get them clean.

BILLIONS IN BACKLOG

Huge Works Program Mapped

WASHINGTON. — Plans for a \$4,107,136,000 public works program are being mapped by states, cities and counties, with projects to be financed by their own funds, according to the Federal Works Agency.

Federal Aid highways, rivers and harbors, flood control projects, federal postoffices and other buildings, and Veterans' Administration hospitals add other billions to the work backlog. These projects will be financed wholly or partially by the national government.

The Federal Works Agency has requests from states, cities and counties for advances to plan 7,560 projects totaling \$2,737,136,599, as of June 30 these local governmental units had completed their own plans for 5,500 projects to cost \$1,350,000,000, according to FWA records.

Of the requests, the agency reported it has approved 4,630 and advanced \$32,258,354 for planning. These alone involve \$1,296,997,051.

Under congressional act, FWA has \$65,000,000 to assist states, cities and counties in planning non-federal public works.

The bulk of advances approved was for planning water mains, paved street and sewer extensions and improvements and for new school buildings and additions.

Applications have been approved for planning 2,083 sewer, water and sanitation projects to cost \$346,353,941 and for 1,317 school expansions or new buildings to cost \$318,415,189.

Variety of Projects.

Other items approved for advances include 300 highway, road

and street projects to cost \$46,820,998; 41 bridges, viaduct and railway overpasses, \$28,426,458; 35 airports, \$19,895,981; 158 hospitals and clinics, \$73,470,874; 392 public buildings, such as courthouses and city halls, \$117,187,172; 178 parks and other recreational facilities, \$29,943,129; 72 miscellaneous projects, \$116,481,309.

Field said the program was not designed primarily to cushion unemployment, but to provide needed public works as soon as possible.

In the event it is turned into an emergency employment creator, Field said "it can give work immediately," pointing out that it took 18 months to get 100,000 working on public construction in 1933-'34 "because there had been no advance planning."



THANKS TO THE YANKS . . . Children of Japan express their thanks for extra rations provided by the U. S. occupation forces through this floral presentation, which is accepted by Col. Harold Wheeler.

NEWS REVIEW

Trade Accord Approved; Meat Crisis Continues

FOREIGN AFFAIRS:

Trade Pact

Pres. Juan Peron and his entire cabinet looked on as British Ambassador Reginald Leeper and Argentine Foreign Minister Juan Bramuglia signed trade accords cementing commercial relations between the two countries. Pleased by the event, Peron announced that he had ordered three shiploads of meat to be sent to Britain before Christmas with the compliments of his government.

Peron might well have been tickled with the agreement, which calls for Britain's purchase of 83 per cent of Argentina's exportable meat surplus in the first year at prices 25 per cent over prevailing levels. During the second year, Britain will take 78 per cent of Argentine supplies. The latest price boost brings the total increase up to 45 per cent over the 1939 level when Britain first went in for large-scale buying.

In another accord, the British relinquished their control of Argentine railways in exchange for shares in a new company including Argentine government and private capital. Under a third agreement, Argentina will be permitted to utilize blocked wartime trade balances

in Britain for retiring sterling debts, buying out British investments, or making cash withdrawals of 25 million dollars annually.

MEAT:

Crisis Widens

No less than 36,000 butcher shops throughout the nation were said to have closed and almost 100,000 clerks and packing house employees were reported idle as the crisis in meat continued.

Receipts of cattle and hogs remained far below the high levels established during the suspension of OPA and ran considerably below last year's runs. As packers awaited the large seasonal fall shipments, they were compelled to bid ceiling prices for lean, grass-fed cattle and inferior grades of hogs. Some of the stock received was said to be suitable for by-product purposes only.

Meanwhile, OPA promised to act upon restaurant operators' protests against imposition of June 30 ceilings on meat dishes. With the restaurateurs claiming that the restoration of old prices in the face of increasing costs would force them to close, OPA said it would modify ceilings to assure adequate earnings if evidence of hardship were offered. Whereas restaurants spent 40 cents of each dollar of revenue for food, they now expend 55 cents, it was said.

YUGOSLAVIA:

Jail Archbishop

Acting upon the testimony of the voluble secretary to Archbishop Alojzije Stepinac, head of the Roman Catholic church in Yugoslavia, Marshal Tito's communist government arrested the high prelate and prepared to try him for "crimes against the people."

With 12 priests already on trial on the same charge, inclusion of the Archbishop would further tend to discredit religion in the Russian-dominated nation, following the pattern of communist hostility to all creeds. While the powerful Croatian peasant leader, Vladimir Macek, was implicated in the Archbishop's alleged machinations, the government hesitated to move firmly against him for fear of political repercussions.

Talking freely against the Archbishop, his former secretary alleged that the prelate's castle in Zagreb was the center of an anti-Tito movement to set up an independent Croatian state. Charging that the Archbishop worked closely with one of Draja Mihailovitch's ex-aids in promoting anti-government bands, the secretary declared that the high churchman planned to finance a terrorist campaign for separation.



CANINE POSTMAN . . . Nearly every morning for two years, Butch, brown and white terrier owned by L. K. Stemen of San Antonio, Tex., has met postman J. F. Kempf to bring in his master's mail. If Kempf starts to put the mail in the box, Butch gets belligerent and tries to take it away from him.

Washington MERRY-GO-ROUND

By DREW PEARSON

BYRNES MAY RESIGN

WASHINGTON.—Friends of Secretary of State Byrnes have received word that he may have to resign shortly after the end of the Paris peace conference—for reasons of health. The news has come as a great blow to President Truman, who has leaned heavily on Byrnes.

Byrnes' doctors have told him that he might be able to continue as secretary of state provided he took long and periodic rests. However, Byrnes does not believe he should do this. Cordell Hull used to spend several months a year away from his office. In 1942, our first year in the war, he was away a total of six months.

Byrnes has told intimates that conducting the foreign affairs of the United States today is a constant, day-to-day job. He does not feel that a secretary of state can be off the job a minute, and he does not believe it would be fair to the American people for him to take a prolonged rest.

For instance, immediately after the Paris conference is the assembly of the United Nations, now already late. After that comes the Pan American security conference and the regular Pan American conference, to say nothing of various meetings of the United Nations security council.

WORKS AT TERRIFIC PACE

Byrnes has been hopping back and forth across the Atlantic ever since he became secretary of state. In 15 months he has made seven round trips. Cordell Hull, in 12 long years, made only one air flight across the Atlantic, plus two leisurely steamship trips to Latin America.

In Paris, Byrnes has worked at a terrific pace. Sitting in the peace conference all day, keeping on the alert to watch the moves of rival delegates, is a grueling job. It would wear out a younger man. But by going to bed every night immediately after dinner, Byrnes has kept going.

However, he is no longer young—68—and when the peace conference closes, he will have to decide whether to follow his doctor's advice and resign, or face eventualities.

MONTY'S POLITICS

Some of those who served in the American command in Europe are lifting their eyebrows over the U. S. visit of dapper, publicity-wise Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

Seared in their minds during those bloody months in Europe are certain events involving the famed Monty which personally they would like to forget, but which nationally they hope won't be forgotten—especially in view of the fear of impending war.

General Patton's officers, for instance, remember Patton's race up the west coast of Sicily, in contrast to Montgomery's snail's pace up the east coast. Nobody can blame a commander for having hard luck or necessarily going slow. But what only a few officers around Patton know, and what has never been published, is the telegram he received from the vaunted Montgomery.

Montgomery actually sent Patton a telegram asking him to halt his offensive and wait until he, Monty, caught up. In other words, American troops were going too fast for Monty. He was afraid Patton would envelope not only the enemy, but also the British army. Inside fact is that Patton pretended he never received the telegram, showed it only to a few top aides, later told Monty it never arrived. Patton's army kept on moving.

Later, in the Normandy offensive, Gen. Omar Bradley's officers recall all too vividly how Monty was supposed to break through at Caen, but sat there day after day, yelling at Eisenhower for more troops (American troops). Finally Bradley, Patton and Joe Collins made the American breakthrough at St. Lo, leaving Monty still sitting at Caen.

British papers all this time were featuring headlines: "Monty Pivots at Caen." Actually all the pivoting he did was to break up a few tanks in the Normandy hedgerows.

Shortly after that Eisenhower made General Bradley top field commander, giving him a higher place than Montgomery—a shift that brought such a roar from the British press and Mr. Churchill that Eisenhower later took two armies away from Bradley and gave them to Montgomery.

MERRY-GO-ROUND

President Truman has told congressional friends he will summon a special session of congress following the November election to deal with skyrocketing prices, the continued housing shortage and other matters, providing the Republican party does not win control of the house of representatives or make material gains in the senate. . . . Truman again has offered the chairmanship of the atomic commission to Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson, but Acheson again declined.

A Closet That Fits Into Waste Space

THIS closet will fit into any waste space because it has a shade-roller door that does not swing out to conflict with other doors and furnishings. Here, a space only nine inches deep is used for a linen closet with shelves.



A handy laundry bag matches the striped material used for the door, which rolls up in back of the attractive frame of wooden scallops used to finish the front.

Pattern 256 gives an actual-size cutting guide for the scalloped frame and step-by-step illustrated directions for making the entire closet and the laundry bag. This pattern may be obtained by sending 15c with name and address direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills, N. Y. Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for Pattern No. 256.
Name _____
Address _____

Found Solitude

Joe and Bill, two steeplejacks, had been commissioned to cover a job in the town. Joe climbed to the top of the stack, and Bill got to work at the bottom.

"Hey, Bill," shouted Joe, "come up here a minute."

After half an hour's laborious climbing, Bill reached the top.

"What do you want?" he asked breathlessly.

"Sh-h-h! Listen!" replied Joe. "But I can't hear anything," said Bill, breaking the silence.

"No. Ain't it nice and quiet up ere?" came the reply.

Relief At Last For Your Cough

Creomulsion relieves promptly because it goes right to the seat of the trouble to help loosen and expel germ laden phlegm, and aid nature to soothe and heal raw, tender, inflamed bronchial mucous membranes. Tell your druggist to sell you a bottle of Creomulsion with the understanding you must like the way it quickly allays the cough or you are to have your money back.

CREOMULSION for Coughs, Chest Colds, Bronchitis

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"Get O'Sullivan SOLES as well as heels next time you have your shoes repaired."

EASY DOES IT

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OR DOWN."



AMERICA'S No. 1 HEEL

BUILD UP RED BLOOD TO GET MORE STRENGTH

If your blood LACKS IRON!

You girls and women who suffer so from simple anemia that you feel pale, weak, "dragged out"—this may be due to lack of blood-iron. So try Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS—one of the best home ways to build up red blood—in such cases. Pinkham's Tablets are one of the greatest blood-iron tonics you can buy! At all drugstores. Worth trying!

WNU-13 40-46

That Nagging Backache

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—throws heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, leg pains, swelling—feel constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful doctors everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

DOAN'S PILLS