

Washington Digest

Czech Refugee Confirms Crack in Iron Curtain

By BAUKHAGE
News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—Is the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics cracking? That's an idea which is being toyed with by some wishful thinkers in Washington while others consider it one of the most dangerous playthings that ever got into the hands of unwary diplomats.

In any case, the theory is worth examining. It appears to have been encouraged by some members of the little group of highly intelligent but also highly prejudiced people who form a constantly growing segment of Washington society—the political refugees from the countries on the Soviet borders. One can, however, trust this group for certain basic facts.

Recently, I learned one of these facts which may surprise you.



BAUKHAGE

Of course, you recall that Soviet diplomacy always has explained what we call its aggression as simply a desire to surround itself with what it describes as "friendly" countries. The refugees of whom I spoke are living proof that not all of the inhabitants of Russia's satellites are friendly. However, most of us have been led to assume that at least the governments and the controlling Communist minorities which support them have been able to produce a degree of mutual affection which satisfies the Kremlin. After Tito's action we wondered.

What about the frontiers between these countries and Russia?

The answer came from an anti-Communist, recently arrived from Czechoslovakia—one of the many persons who are seeping out of that and other satellite countries every day. He was asked in his presence if the frontier between his country and Russia was open, in the sense that travel was permitted under the same conditions that obtain between normally friendly nations.

The Czech laughed. He said: "The border between my country and Russia is no tighter than a dam would have to be to keep a drop of water from getting through."

I have heard the Russian frontiers of other satellite nations similarly described.

My informant also outlined other significant conditions in Czechoslovakia, first reminding us of three important facts:

1. Czechoslovakia is the most industrialized of all the satellites.

2. It is also the most democratic in the realistic sense we view democracy. In other words the country is thoroughly indoctrinated with the kind of democratic methods we know. This is due in part, of course, to the fact that so many of the men responsible for formation of the Czech republic spent many years in the United States and were made thoroughly familiar with American methods. It is also due to the fact that they had a long period of practical experience in putting these methods into effect in their own country.

3. The Czechs had a very high standard of living compared to the other satellites.

These factors, taken together, made the Czechs particularly vulnerable to a Communist coup. When it came, because of their democratic training and high standard of living, the Czechs were particularly unhappy as an aftermath of Communist methods and Russian domination. In other words, the Czechs had more to lose than any of the other countries within the Red orbit.

Greater Problems Are in Prospect

Czechoslovakia is not yet thoroughly communized. There is still a certain amount of open criticism. There have been no wholesale purges. Undoubtedly, these will come, but when they do—and herein those who believe that the Soviet position is weakening are encouraged—the prospects are that the harder the Russians crack down, the greater problem Czechoslovakia will present to her Kremlin overseers.

Before the coup that ended in the death of Masaryk took place, it was estimated that perhaps 20 per cent of the people had been indoctrinated with communism. Another 10 per cent were sympathetic, chiefly from a theoretical point of view. My Czech informant declares that it can be reliably estimated that the taste of practical communism which the people have had now has reduced that communist score to 15 per cent.

He also confirmed the recent statements about the army—though he gave no figures—made by Gen. Antonin Hasal who escaped to the American zone of Germany in the middle of July. Hasal said that 70 per cent of the enlisted men and non-commissioned officers in the Czech army was anti-Communist. My informant put it this way: "The air force, many of whose members fought with the R. A. F., is almost entirely pro-Western. If the Reds hadn't drained the tanks of all the planes before the coup,

most of them would have flown away." Many did anyway and Czech planes are turning up continually in Western controlled areas of Europe. This occurs in civil aviation too because many of the pilots are former members of the air corps.

But if the Red government cannot trust the air corps, it has even less confidence in the Czech armored force. It has been necessary to immobilize it.

But the greatest friction caused by partial communization is felt in the nation's economy. Everyone suffers, at least indirectly, because of this, but it can be seen most clearly among workers. Recent figures, which were made available to the public, indicate that there is a sharp falling-off in the man-hour productivity. This could be attributed either to conscious sabotage or to a feeling of indifference and resentment caused by reduced pay and restrictions on the union labor movement.

Before the Russians moved in, 75 to 80 per cent of Czechoslovakia's foreign trade was with non-Communist countries. This has been considerably reduced under pressure from Russia, but even now some 60 to 70 per cent of her exports go to Western Europe.

Virtually the entire output of the great Skoda arms factory goes to Russia. The output is largely heavy artillery. Production of small arms for Russia also has been stepped up greatly.

Chance of Revolt Termed Small

Objective observers admit that there is small chance of an open revolt. That isn't the Czech method. They are great underground workers, but they haven't the enthusiasm for blood-letting that people like the Yugoslavs have. If, however, the Soviets became involved in war, undoubtedly the Czechs would join heartily with those they consider their liberators.

Those persons who predict a crack in the iron curtain base part of their argument on an attitude among Czech leaders which is said to parallel that of Tito's supporters in Yugoslavia. That is this question of nationalism. There have been recent reports from Europe that Czech Premier Gottwald, who always has been considered Moscow's right-hand man in Czechoslovakia, is about to fall from Soviet grace for the same reason Tito fell. Gottwald is a lifelong Communist who was won over to the Marxian philosophy before he had an opportunity to see it put into effect in his own country. He was an apt and willing student in Moscow, but he apparently cherished the illusion that his own country could accept the communist form of government and still maintain its identity and its independence. The utter domination by Russia has become not only distasteful to Gottwald but also to at least two other members of his cabinet, including the minister of justice.

Gottwald is not the leader that Tito is and he probably can be brushed aside. But the viewpoint he has come to represent is pointed out as one of the weaknesses of the Russian system.

There is one other fact which cannot be hidden from the eyes of any careful observer with some military knowledge of Czechoslovakia. That is that the military preparations in the country which the Russians have carried out are almost 100 per cent defensive. Apparently, the Russian fear of invasion from the West is greater than their desire or ability to prepare for offensive warfare.

As proof of this, my informant told me that although one of the scarcest consumer products in Czechoslovakia is paper, two of the biggest mills manufacturing it were limiting their output to blackout paper only.

These are some of the reasons back of the theory which the people who believe in the old military axiom that you mustn't underestimate the enemy say is dangerous.

Britain's labor government of Attlee and Bevin declared the dockers' strike a national emergency, the first such proclamation since 1926 when Bevin himself was a strike leader. Proves how you can make the shoe fit, even when it's on the other foot.

If you keep on your toes you're not likely to get down at the heel.



Elevator Will Serve Many Uses on Farm

Conveyors Eliminate 'Back-Breaking' Chores

Elevators are becoming as common on farms as they are in city department stores. They are, however, of a different kind—and not used for the same purposes. Unless, of course, city stores have started conveying farm produce from the sidewalk into ninth or tenth story "mows."

Farmers began to think seriously about elevators and conveyors during the last war, and they've been doing something about them ever since. Many built their own equipment. Others bought commercial models. The source matters little—it's what they can do that counts most.

All-purpose elevators, either portable or stationary, are capable of elevating to desired heights baled, chopped or loose hay, ear corn,



root crops, shelled corn, ground grain and forage. Chopped hay is being elevated in the accompanying illustration.

They do these "back-breaking" chores easily, and all day long without complaining. However, before you build or buy an elevator be sure you know for what it is to be used. That knowledge will determine the size and type best suited for your needs.

Costs of operation vary somewhat, but, in general, farmers can figure on it taking from 1/10 to five kilowatt hours of power to elevate 1,000 bushels of grain with an elevator, run by a five horsepower motor

Small Farm Units Are Big Implement Buyers

Two-thirds of the one and one-half billion dollars being spent for agricultural implements this year is being expended for small one-family farms, according to a recent survey of the Anti-Friction Bearing Manufacturers association.

For the first time the small farm operator, who owns 6 per cent of the country's total farm acreage, will be the biggest customer for automatic labor-saving implements.

The low ebb of farm labor as well as the increase in farm savings has been responsible for the mechanization of the smaller farms.

One outstanding result is that by 1950, it is estimated that four million farms will produce 33 per cent more than the total production of six million farms before the war.

Plastic Lily Pond



Koroseal or plastic lily ponds make it possible for the farmer as well as the city dweller to have a lily pool without the expense of building a stone or concrete basin. The plastic pond may be emptied, folded up and brought indoors and stored during the winter months. The pond also may be used as a wading pool for children or as a duck pond.

Weevil Damage in Grain Traced to Unclean Bins

Prevention of weevil damage to the new crop is possible if the granary is cleaned and sprayed with DDT. Nearly all cases of "weevily" grain can be traced to unclean bins, according to Purdue university entomologists. Any infestation which occurs likely will come from insects which remain from year to year in the grain and can be prevented by proper cleaning.



IS THERE a limit to speed for a man or a horse? Can the human or the equine frame carry just so much drive before it starts to crack? We put this query to Hirsch Jacobs, one of the finest conditioners in any sport, one of the best horse trainers of any given decade.



Grantland Rice

"To set a record," Jacobs said, "one must have a fast track. That means a hard track. Setting records on a fast track is dangerous. It has wrecked many fine horses. I would say there is a limit to how fast a horse can run before he cracks up. Especially if he is after records over a hard, fast track."

This reminded me of a story that Charley Paddock once told.

"Just at the time," the World's Fastest Human said, "I was at my peak. I had just tied the world's record at 9 3/5. I knew I could do better. I was set that day at Los Angeles in a Southern California meet. I broke in front. I was flying at the 50."

"Around the 80-yard mark I knew I was headed for at least a 9.1 for the 100 yards. I knew the record was mine. Then the calves of both legs began to shiver. I felt all my leg muscles pulling apart. The thought suddenly hit me that I was on my way to being a cripple. I felt my legs were breaking up over this hard, fast track. I pulled up—and still finished in 9 3/5."

"I couldn't run again for weeks. The calves of both legs were extremely sore and strained." And don't forget that Paddock had two of the strongest looking legs anyone ever saw on a track star.

Limit on Speed

"I realized then," Paddock told me, "that as we are developed today, we are capable of handling only so much speed. I mean our muscles and our ligaments. In the course of evolution and development someone will run the 100 yards in 9 flat. But not now."

This was proved when Mel Patton ran 100 yards in 9.3 and wound up later with cramps. Patton was moving into the danger zone, due entirely to excessive speed over a hard, fast track. He was finding out what Paddock had discovered years before.

"How does this sound?" I asked Jacobs. "It sounds 100 per cent sensible," Jacobs said. "You can't drive either horses or humans over fast, hard tracks into records without paying the penalty. Which is a breakdown. What do the owners want—a record or a sound horse?"

Jacobs claimed Stymie for something like \$1,500 and turned him into a million-dollar probability.

The racing game is packed with fine trainers. We could start with Ben and Jimmy Jones. We could bring you Maxie Hirsch, certainly one of the greatest.

We could call on Sunny Jim Fitzsimmons who knows horses better than horses know themselves. A great trainer. There is Honest John Partridge, who has been a fine trainer for 50 years. Most of these are veterans. Ben Jones, Fitzsimmons, Hirsch, John Partridge—able, smart, can take you back more years than you can remember.

Young Trainers Are Good

There are any number of younger trainers on the job—Johnny Gaver of Greentree; S. E. Veitch of C. V. Whitney, one of the best, and several more. But I also like the training methods of Jacobs, who wins his share of races without any \$50,000 or \$60,000 investments in young talent.

Jacobs is a condition man. Condition to me means so much more than anything else. A champion must have many things. But above all he must have condition. Joe Louis had little condition in either his first or second Joe Walcott fight. Walcott kept in condition. But he was a second-rate fighter.

As a result, Louis, rated one of the best of all the heavyweights, was far behind Walcott after 25 consecutive rounds.

When Louis' legs began to put on weight you knew what happened. He was far over the top.

"Condition," Jacobs tells me, "isn't a matter of pigeons, horses or human beings. I've trained pigeons and horses. Human beings would be just the same."

"What are the main qualities?" I asked.

"Too many things," Jacobs said. "The amount of work they need. Food. Rest. I'll take up horses. You watch a horse. You watch the way he runs. He may be overworked. He may need more work. These are the things to look for. "No one is ever quite alike," Jacobs said. "I mean a human being, pigeon or horse. Each case must be accorded individual attention."

BRIGHT BIRDS IN CROSS-STITCH



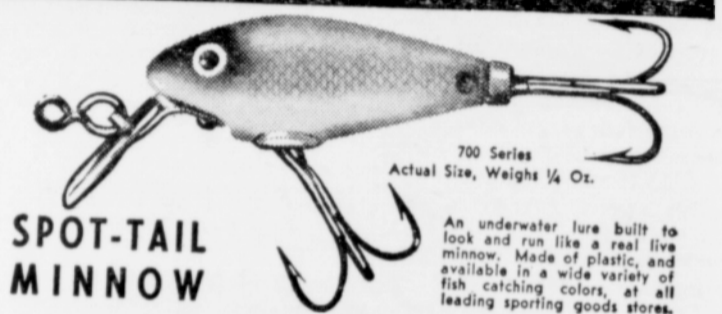
To obtain seven transfer designs for Bird Designs (Pattern No. 5404) Send 20-cents in coin. YOUR NAME, ADDRESS and PATTERN NUMBER.

SEWING CIRCLE NEEDLEWORK 539 South Wells St. Chicago 7, Ill. Enclose 20 cents for Pattern. No. Name Address

Things Are Rough in Peru While the U. S. price index rose 8.9 per cent last year, living costs in Peru soared as high as the Andes—increasing 46.1 per cent. Between August, 1939, and December, 1947, living costs rose 69 per cent in the U. S. compared to 207 per cent in Peru, according to the Municipal Finance officers association. Among 11 nations for which comparable statistics are available, Canadian living costs have increased the least since before the war. Though the Canadian price index rose 14.9 per cent in 1947, it is only 45 per cent above the 1939 level of that country.



BEST for BASS

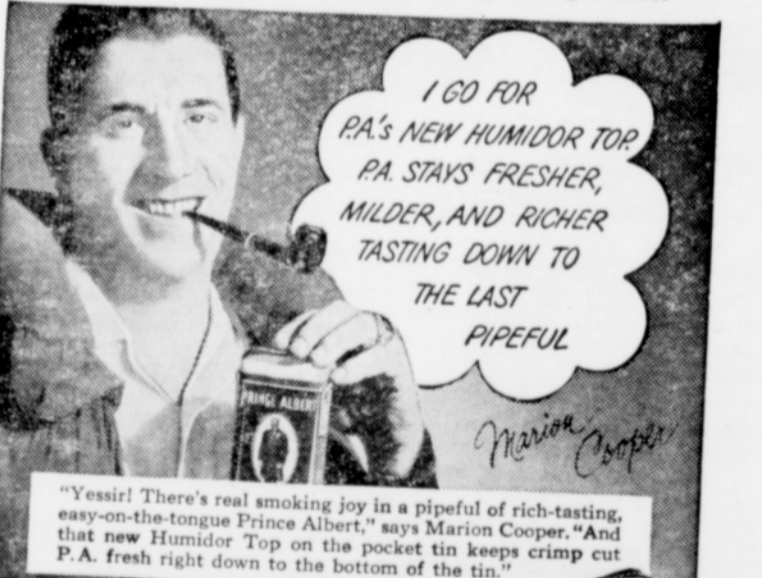


SPOT-TAIL MINNOW
If your dealer won't supply, order direct and shipment will be made promptly—\$1.25 each, postpaid—Made by WOOD MANUFACTURING COMPANY
EL DORADO ARKANSAS

For Safety—Invest in Your Own Country Buy United States Savings Bonds!

EITHER WAY—IT'S P.A.!

Yes! For pipes or papers, Prince Albert's choice tobacco stays fresher for even more smoking joy in the new Humidor Top pocket tin. P. A. is America's largest-selling smoking tobacco.



I GO FOR P.A.'S NEW HUMIDOR TOP. P.A. STAYS FRESHER, MILD, AND RICHER TASTING DOWN TO THE LAST PIPEFUL

THE NEW HUMIDOR TOP—locks OUT the air—locks IN the FRESHNESS and FLAVOR
MORE MEN SMOKE PRINCE ALBERT THAN ANY OTHER TOBACCO
The National Joy Smoke



I SURE LIKE P.A.'S NEW HUMIDOR TOP. PRINCE ALBERT STAYS FLAVOR-FRESH FOR TASTY, EASY-TO-ROLL 'MAKIN'S' SMOKES!

"The new Humidor Top on the Prince Albert pocket tin is great," says Albert Nanna. "Every time you snap it shut, you seal in P.A.'s rich-tasting freshness. Now, more than ever, crimp cut P.A. is my favorite for fast rolling of neat cigarettes."

TUNE IN Prince Albert's "GRAND OLE OP'RY" Saturday Nights on N. B. C. R. J. Beville Tobacco Company, Winston-Salem, N. C.