

# Washington Digest

## Is U.S. Going Socialist? It's World-Wide Argument

By BAUKHAGE

News Analyst and Commentator.

WASHINGTON.—As congress sharpens its teeth for the "True-Deal" program (The "true" being for Truman), some of the gentlemen who have watched things going on behind the scenes in Washington for a long time (maybe too long) have a habit of blinking and saying in hushed voice:—

"Say, is America going socialist without knowing it?"

Long before the November election a number of European statesmen, editors, professional politicians and others who are backing the various socialist and socialist-inclined governments, including Britain's, were getting really worried lest a probable Republican victory should make an emphatically capitalistic America less sympathetic toward left-of-center regimes.

The Truman upset caused them to whoop with joy. After they read the President's state of the union message on January 5, and after his appointment of Dean Acheson as secretary of state, they pulled out a chair on the left side of the international table, expecting him to sit right down and join them.



BAUKHAGE

What was probably as much wishful thinking as anything else caused the official Socialist party organ of France to hail the administration program as definitely socialist. Most of the rest of the French press took about the same view, even to the somewhat lonely, pro-capitalistic Figaro which said the message was "close" to socialism.

The same view was taken by the left-wing press in other European countries—(I'm not counting the Communists who merely rang the old propaganda changes). However, the independent Manchester Guardian, long known as the rock of liberalism and likewise as an outstanding voice in British journalism, took a different tone. The Guardian always has been exceedingly well informed concerning the United States and probably understands America as well as any foreign newspaper. It said:

"Mr. Truman's program is an indication that socialism is not the only path for the left. Its goal might be called the insurance state. Its method the deliberate shortening of the odds against the weak. But without abandoning the basically individualist way of life which is accepted as characteristically American."

Comment from the extreme right in this country, in congress and out, chose to see Skipper Truman charting a course for the Ship of State which veered far to the left of center, in fact headed straight for the rocks on which free enterprise, individual initiative, in fact all phases of capitalism, would be sunk without a trace.

That, however, was not the opinion of the majority of the Republican party, and, already signs are showing that it isn't the intention of the majority of the Democrats to let such a catastrophe overtake us, even if they think the Skipper would be willing to risk it, which they don't believe he is.

The alarmists point to the rather startling suggestion on the part of the President that the government study production with a view to offering loans to the steel, and other industries for expansion of plants and increased production.

If the companies refuse to cooperate, it was suggested the government-owned steel plants would be erected. That does sound like a long step toward nationalization of industry. But other observers, both those who consider the idea fatal to free enterprise and those who believe in such government-run ventures as the Tennessee Valley Authority, consider it more of a threat than a promise.

In that connection the recent controversy behind the iron curtain which has finally leaked out in specific and detailed form is interesting. One document consists of reports of a three-day conference of Soviet economists held last May, the other is a study of Russian economy during World War II, by a member of the all-powerful politburo. Both documents attack the theories of Eugene Varga, internationally known Russian economist and former director of the World Institute of Economics in Moscow.

### Those 'Anxious' Russian Leaders

This controversy, according to Walter Lippman, may be the real basis of President Truman's Kansas City statement that there were "certain leaders" in Russia who were "exceedingly anxious" to reach an understanding with the United States. Even if the row among the economists wasn't the inspiration for the President's

mysterious remarks, it might indicate that there is or was an element in the Soviet leadership which felt it was better to try to get along with us.

The explanation of the controversy among Russian economists is this: Soviet foreign policy, specifically maintenance of the cold war, is supposed to be based on a belief that the United States is headed directly toward another depression. This "bust" will so sap our strength that all the Soviets will have to do is to take us over with little or no real military struggle. (The revolt of the proletariat) We'll be too down and out to help anti-Communist Europe. The anti-Communist countries will fall easily into Communist control. Then we can be beaten largely by infiltration, fifth column "action committees" and other methods because there will be general unemployment, discontent and general chaos.

This belief is based on the teachings of Marx and Lenin that capitalism is bound to destroy itself because it produces "boom and bust" cycles which grow increasingly worse, and therefore, it is impossible for a capitalist country to try to do anything permanent for the masses to increase their standard of living.

Now, however, along comes Varga, introducing a new argument. He argues that by adopting measures which he describes as "state socialism" any major depression in the United States can be prevented or at least postponed for 10 or 20 years. If this thesis were accepted by the Soviets it would be wiser to cooperate with the United States and other non-Communist countries, rather than to take for granted that our economic system as well as theirs is going to continue for some time. On that theory it would be to the Soviets' interests, for the present at least, for the Kremlin and the White House to play ball.

What are the measures of "state socialism" Varga is talking about? The various social and welfare proposals like expanded social security, national health insurance, federal aid to education, undertakings like the Tennessee Valley Authority and the many other reforms which started under the New Deal, and which President Truman now urges should be carried forward or expanded.

In the early part of the President's state of the union message he announced in popular language the underlying theory of his administration. He said:

"We have rejected the discredited theory that the fortunes of the Nation should be in the hands of the privileged few. We have abandoned the 'trickle-down' concept of national prosperity. Instead, we believe that our economic system should rest on a democratic foundation and that wealth should be created for the benefit of all."

Whether or not the majority of the people have rejected that theory remains to be seen. There are still many people who believe that no country can be prosperous unless it is strong at the top and that it cannot be strong at the top, that business and industry cannot prosper, unless free enterprise have the widest liberty possible. That capital should be encouraged by the incentive of profit to take risks and challenge competition. That government interference destroys the initiative which has made the country great. That once business is unshackled by federal bureaucracy, the benefits flow (not trickle) down and spread out to benefit the whole people.

The National Association of State Chambers of Commerce, one of a hundred business organizations testifying against a bill which would permit the TVA to build a new steam plant at Johnsonville, said:

"... this government cannot continue much longer to aid in the growth of tax-exempt or government-owned enterprises, thus narrowing the nation's tax base, without throwing greater burdens upon the remainder of the taxpayers and without gradually strangling free enterprise to death."



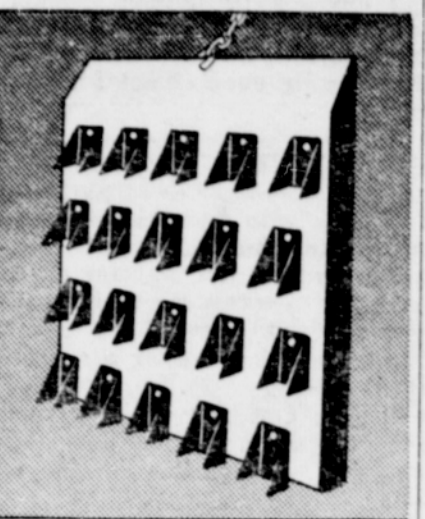
### 'Soil Surgeon' Says Seedbed-Making Boon

#### Performs Multiple Work, Cuts Time in Half

A new, efficient device for producing finer, smoother seedbeds is the "Soil Surgeon" now on the market.

Designed for use in a plowed field only, the device does the combined work of a double-disc, spiked toothed harrow and a float—and manufacturers declare it gives the farmer a finer, smoother seedbed in half the ordinary time.

The exclusive use of the soil surgeon after plowing does not turn up dormant weed seeds or plowed-under vegetation, thus giving a cleaner growing crop and richer soil. It levels the ground, fills all air pockets, and seals the moisture



This "soil surgeon" is designed for use in a plowed field only. It does the work of a double-disc, a spike-toothed harrow and a float—and is said to give you a finer, smoother seedbed in half the time.

in the soil, thereby making for quicker germination and a higher yield.

Sturdy and simple, the soil surgeon consists of two heavy steel pans with raised sides, to permit loading with dirt for added weight. These may be used singly or bolted together, depending on the desired width to be covered.

To the bottom of each pan are bolted 20 double-edged cultivator knives, each provided with a bearing to permit it to follow easily and automatically the tractor's line of travel. These heavy-duty knives slice the four and one-half inches of soil into one-inch strips, while the action of the pan pulverizes, smooths and levels the sliced soil in a way not approached by any other instrument currently in use on the farm.

The field should first be worked in the direction of plowing, using as many sections side by side as the tractor can pull with weight adjusted. The final finish is obtained by pulling the soil surgeon across the line of furrows. The soil surgeon should also be used as a crust breaker for all oncoming crops to mulch and kill small weeds.

### Pacific Island Farm



"Pigs is pigs," no matter where you find them—even on the Pacific island of Guam in the Marianas. On farms established by the U. S. naval government on Guam, American sailors instruct natives in modern agricultural methods. Produce from the farms is used for naval personnel (who are fond of food anyway) and for the rehabilitation of the natives. In the photo an American seaman is driving some of the pigs to feed.

### Proper Carburetor Use Cuts Farm Fuel Costs

A heavy tractor operating under a load with the carburetor slightly out of adjustment may burn a half-gallon more fuel per hour. In the average 50 days a year that farm tractors operate, the tractor may burn 250 gallons more fuel annually than it should.

Proper carburetor adjustment would save 10 per cent of the total fuel burned in farm tractors annually.



### Famous Baseball Duels

IT HARDLY seems possible that in less than two months several thousands of ballplayers will be needed for the sun again, south or west.

In the meanwhile, the hot stove league is getting hotter now that football is packed away where it belongs. And one stove league feature has been the argument involving Tris Speaker and Joe DiMaggio. Here's one leading example:

"Dear Sir: The other night we sat around and, after the inevitable late-hour discussion of the comparative abilities of Joe Louis and Jack Dempsey, naturally the chitchat switched to the all-time baseball team. One man averred that there should be a place for Joe DiMaggio. That he is such a great star that it seem ridiculous to bar him.

"It was pointed out that currently, and for the last 20 years or more, the all-time outfield has been made up of Ty Cobb, Babe Ruth and Tris Speaker, and which of those three could a fellow toss out in favor of DiMaggio, no matter how great Joe is. It was said we could throw out Speaker, that old Tris had been only a great fly-catcher and that he didn't really rank with Cobb and Ruth and DiMaggio.

When I got home, I got out the record book to look up Tris' records and I am convinced that DiMaggio is forever locked out of the all-time outfield. Surely, no one questions the rights of Cobb and Ruth and, after a bit of study, no one can query the right of Speaker to the center field spot, either.

"Now look. In the 22 seasons, embracing 1907 through 1928, all Tris did was average .344 at the dish, in 2,789 games and after 10,208 times at bat, during which he got 3,515 hits. Only Cobb, Rabbit Maranville and Hans Wagner went to bat more than 10,000 times. The only others in the history of the games who hit safely more than 3,000 times are such stars as Cap Anson, Cobb, Eddie Collins, Nap Lajoie, Wagner and Paul Wauer. Even Ruth didn't make that category.

"The only others to top his lifetime batting record were Cobb, Rogers Hornsby, Dan Delahanty, Billy Hamilton and Willie Keeler. Ruth is two points back. Think of the other greats who couldn't bang .344 in their careers, and Tris did it for 22 years!

"He's in the book for hitting 50 or more doubles in five different years, showing his amazing speed, and a knack of taking the extra base that DiMaggio has. He leads in the matter of two base hits, with 793. Aside from those figures, Speaker also shares the record for most assists from the outfield in one season—35. He once was guilty of perpetrating a pair of unassisted double plays in a season, and his mark of four triples in his three World Series stands alone.

"I'm sorry that DiMaggio can't make it, but the book won't yield. Speaker was good. It says so.

Caswell Adams."

### Speaker vs. DiMaggio

The Speaker-DiMaggio duel is a tough one to analyze. In addition to being hard and timely hitters, both were great outfielders. On the defensive side alone, they were better than Cobb and Ruth. Both had better arms than Cobb and both were faster than the Babe.

Speaker had a better chance to show his all-around outfield ability than DiMaggio. He played in the day of the dead or at least deader ball. This gave him a chance for a much longer range.

Speaker was a star at going back for a ball—and so is DiMaggio. Both could also come in. Speaker was a master at fielding ground balls, perhaps the best in baseball.

No one would be more dangerous in a pinch than DiMaggio has been—with men on bases, waiting 'o be driven home. I doubt that DiMaggio can ever reach Speaker's all-time batting mark of .344. Few have ever passed this set of figures.

Connie Mack has the idea that there should be new baseball rankings every 20 years since so many things change. This is a good idea.

DiMaggio then would certainly head the new order—dating back to 1920 or 1925. Or possibly beginning with 1930, when Cobb and Speaker were through—when Babe was fading—when Wagner and Collins and Lajoie had all finished.

### NEEDLECRAFT PATTERNS

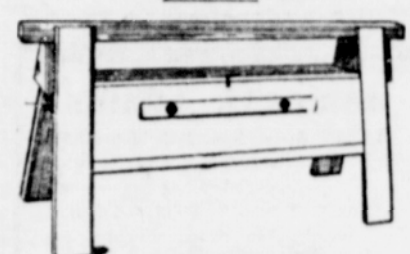
## A Filet-Crochet Chair Set



A PRETTY and easy way to keep furniture clean! This filet crochet is beginner-easy crochet that everyone will love to do.

Make this filet-crocheted chair-set or scarf ends. Pattern 7076 has charts; directions.

### Miniature Sawhorse Is Shoe Shine Box



IF YOU have been looking for a serviceable as well as decorative shoeshine box, the one illustrated above will prove of special interest. Actually it's a miniature copy of a sawhorse converted into a shoeshine box. Being of sturdy construction, it can be used as a "step-up" when needed in the kitchen, storeroom or in closets. The large box provides ample storage space for brushes, polishes and other needed shoe shining equipment. You also will find this cabinet an ideal place to store floor waxes, polishes, etc.

The full size printed paper pattern offered below really takes the mystery out of building. Each component part of the box is reproduced full size. After cutting all parts, according to the pattern, each one is fastened in exact position indicated. Since only small pieces of wood are needed, one or several of these clever boxes can be built at small cost.

Send 25c for Sawhorse Shoeshine Box Pattern No. 45 to East-Bild Pattern Company, Dept. W, Pleasantville, N. Y.



Seamstresses will save time, effort and thread if they use scotch tape instead of basting material.

Did you know that shellac will turn white with the absorption of water or moisture?

When you cut ribbon off a roll to make hair bows, use pinking shears to avoid frayed ends.

A wooden skewer is just the article to dip into those corners of the cake and bread tins to get after the obstinate crumbs.

When washing cut glass or pressed glass articles, apply sudsy water with a small hand brush to get into the crevices.

Use up leftover pickle juice by pouring it over sliced cooked beets and allowing the beets to marinate in it. Serve the beets as a relish or on salad greens.

If there is an elderly person or child in your home, burn a low wattage light all night in the hall or bathroom to insure against accidents.

## SORE, CHAPPED LIPS?



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