

# Smooth Consolidation Of New Russian Regime Seen Recently

## Western Observers Agree Collective Leadership Working Shapiro Gives Views On Return to Moscow

(Editor's Note: Henry Shapiro, United Press chief correspondent in Russia, returned to Moscow recently after a two-year stay in the United States. With his background of many years of experience as a UP reporter in Moscow, he reports the situation in Russia as he sees it after his absence.)

**By HENRY SHAPIRO**  
Moscow — (U.P.)—The meeting of the Russian Parliament on December 23 is expected to give further indication that a relatively smooth consolidation of the Soviet regime has taken place in the post-Stalin era.

Speeches to be made during the session are expected to show also that there has been general progress in the major fields of national activity.

Nearly three years after Josef Stalin's death, Western observers agree that the new principle of collective leadership appears to be working efficiently.

Top Russian leaders are now more accessible to foreigners than at any time since the Bolshevik revolution of 1917.

The leaders display increasing confidence in themselves and growing awareness of their power and sense of security.

**Leaders in Full Control**

The liquidation of Secret Police Chief Lavrenti P. Beria failed to result in the anticipated major shake-up. The security organs, as well as the armed forces, now appear to be entirely under the control of Communist party leaders.

The bloodless ousting of Georgi M. Malenkov as Premier and his succession by Nikolai A. Bulganin, did not create a ripple on the outwardly calm surface of Soviet national politics.

This switchover established the policy of continued priority of heavy industry without a major acceleration in the production of consumer goods.

At the same time, Malenkov remains one of the topmost 11 rulers of the Soviet Union.

He exercises an important role in the Communist party leadership. As minister of electric power stations he plays an important part in the expanding electrification of the country and in the building of new vast hydroelectric enterprises. He supervises atomic industry.

**Most Leaders Absent**  
One of the shrewdest Western diplomats, who has had intimate experience of the Soviet Union for 25 years, recently observed that most of the top-ranking rulers were absent from Moscow at the same time.

They included Bulganin and Communist Party Chief Nikita S. Khrushchev visiting in Southeast Asia, and Malenkov, Lazar M. Kaganovich and Mikhail V. Pervukhin, vacationing in the Crimea.

This observer said that these men would not have absented themselves, and left other cabinet members to run the Kremlin, unless they considered the internal political situation in good shape.

It is noteworthy that Stalin never left the Soviet Union during his 30-year rule except for brief wartime visits to Tehran and Potsdam.

The present year has marked a continued relaxation of cul-

ural life, greater latitude has been allowed to novelists, playwrights and composers. There is more comedy and jazz. There are more restaurants and cafes. Foreign plays, films and music are beginning to become regular fare in the Soviet Russia.

**Tourists Another First**  
For the first time since 1917, a foreign theatrical company—the Paris Comedie Francaise—came here last year. They have been followed this year by a British Shakespearean troupe and by an American company of "Porgy and Bess."

The appearance of groups of Soviet tourists in foreign countries was another 1955 first.

More Western newsmen have received Soviet visas this year than ever before under Communism. It is indicated that the number will increase in 1956.

Russia is expected to make a big attempt to win first place in the Olympic games to be held in Australia next year. French, British and West German soccer teams have played in Moscow this year. Russian soccer teams have played in these and other Western countries and Russian hockey teams, wrestlers, boxers and weight lifters have toured them.

## Criminologist May Take Stand Monday In Abbott Trial

Oakland—(U.P.)—University of California criminologist Paul L. Kirk will face further cross-examination by defense attorneys Monday in the kidnap-murder trial of Burton W. Abbott.

Kirk's testimony provided a strong link between Abbott, a 27-year-old U. C. student, and 14-year-old Stephanie Bryan whose decomposed body was found buried in Abbott's Trinity county mountain cabin.

District Attorney J. Frank Coakley is expected to rest the state's case when the criminologist's cross-examination ends—but there was no indication when that would be.

**Found Clues In Car**  
Kirk was on the stand all day Friday while defense attorney Harold Hove took him over every step of the tests by which he linked Abbott to the disappearance of the Berkeley school girl.

Kirk had stated that he found by scientific examination: Wash-out bloodstains on the rear seat and mat of Abbott's car; several hairs "identical" to Stephanie's; fiber from the slain girl's clothes; and mud from the girl's grave on Abbott's boots.

However, under cross-examination Kirk conceded there are other substances besides blood which give similar—but not, he insisted, identical—reactions under the chemical tests.

**Henry Ringling Dies; Famous in Circus**

Baraboo, Wis.—(U.P.)—Henry E. Ringling, a member of the famed circus family who left the big top for a political career, died Friday night. He was 49 years old.

Ringling, the son of one of the five Ringling Brothers of circus fame, occupied many Republican party posts, including the national committeemanship from Wisconsin.

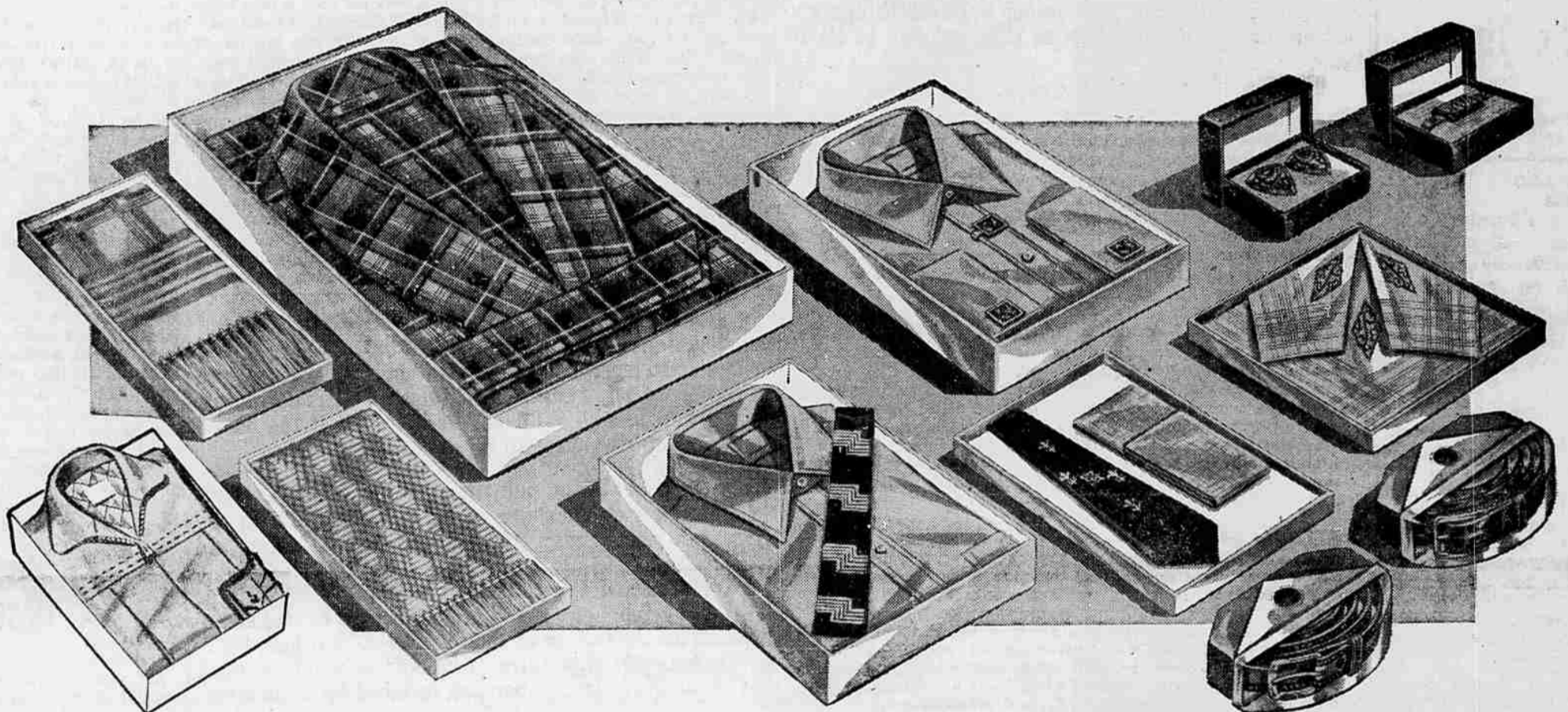
**CASH DIVIDENDS UP**  
Washington—(U.P.)—The Commerce Department has reported that cash dividends paid by corporations issuing public reports during the first 10 months were 9.5 per cent above payments in the same period last year.

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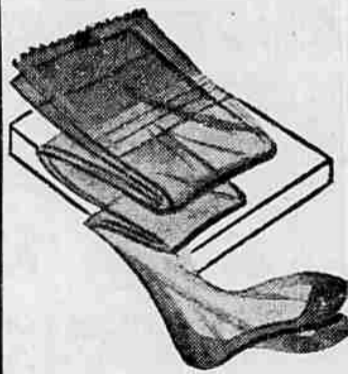
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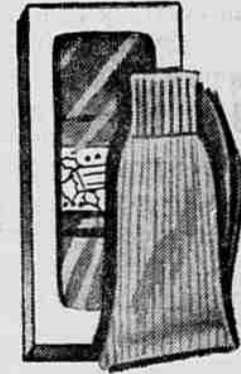
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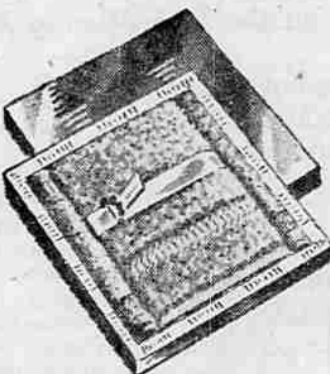
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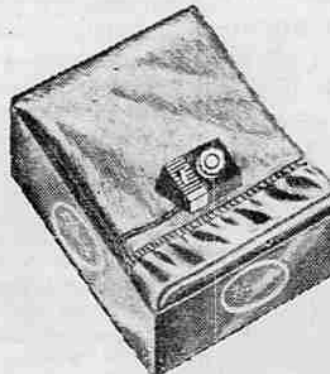
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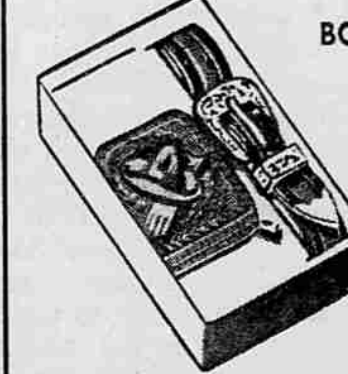
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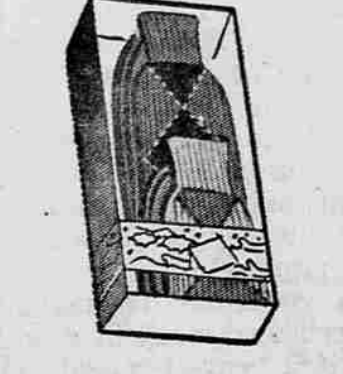
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