

# Red China's Five-Year Plan in Trouble As Shortages and Grumbling Indicate

By WENDELL S. MERICK  
United Press Correspondent  
Hong Kong — Administration mistakes, shortages of goods and grumblings among the people have forced Red leaders to slow the pell-mell economic expansion of Communist China.

In its final year, China's first five-year plan is in trouble. The Communists blame floods and drought but they also admit that they tried to do too much too fast. They confess that they made errors and failed to win the wholehearted cooperation of the people.

**Not Utter Failures**

The overhauling of what Peiping hoped would be a mammoth economic juggernaut should not be construed as a sign the Reds are utter failures. That is not so. They have made tremendous strides. But they have now been forced to cut back their ambitious goals.

Attempts will be made this year to strike a better balance between industrial production and output of consumer goods. The revised program does not mean, however, that the man-

in-the-street will necessarily win commodities," Chia said.

Both industry and the public will have to settle for less.

**Shortages Upset Public**

China's 600 million inhabitants are leveling more and more criticism at the regime, reports from the Communists themselves indicate. The public is upset by rising prices and shortages of food and consumer goods.

But Chia To-fu, vice chairman of the National Economic Commission, told a conference in Peiping, "The people's livelihood can only be improved gradually, on a small scale and with low speed."

The 1957 program calls for cuts in capital building because of a steel shortage which led to a reduction in the manufacture of machinery and building materials. Production of oil, coal, iron, steel, copper and cement "had to be cut," Chia said.

**Other Shortages**

He admitted such other shortages as cotton cloth and yarn, edible vegetable oil, paper and timber.

"Certain gaps are found to appear in the market supply of

Stocks of cotton cloth will be more strictly rationed to prevent a shortage next winter. Coal and firewood must be used sparingly. Farmers have been urged to use natural fertilizer to conserve chemical fertilizer.

To increase production, students who are not headed for higher educational institutions are being put to work in factories and farms. But at the same time tens of thousands of farmers irritated by shortages in the rural areas are flooding into the cities.

Reports from the mainland say the farmers are being driven back at gunpoint if necessary.

Heavy drought crippled farm output in many areas last year and now floods have come along

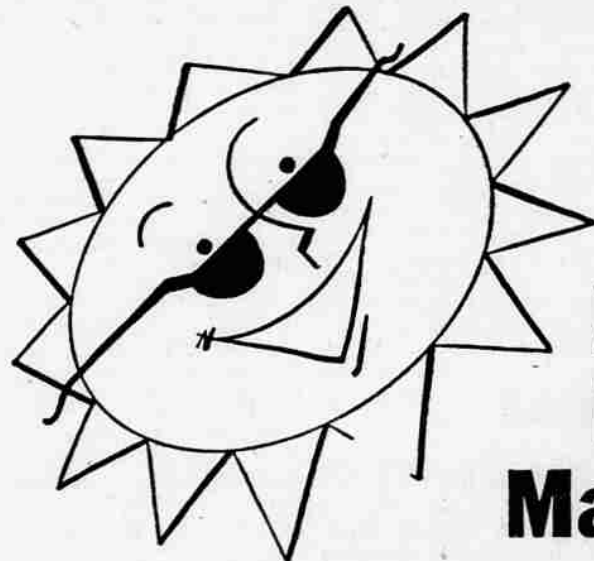
to plague Peiping's planners. Heavy rains in central China, especially in the Yangtse valley, threaten to wipe out the winter wheat crop.

Much as they may blame natural calamities, the Communists admit there are other factors to the man-in-the-street.

tors. They say low-level officials have failed to apply Communism "properly."

To counter this, Peiping has ordered a nationwide "rectification" program so Red cadres are better equipped to explain matters to the man-in-the-street.

## 4 BIG FREE PARKING LOTS IN BACK OF STORE **GROCETERIA** SIXTH AND GRAPE STREETS OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK UNTIL 9 P.M.



# DRIED FRUITS!

Are Full of Vitamins and Minerals... Economical, TOO, and Can Be Used in So Many Ways to Make Tempting Dessert Dishes

## DESSERT BRAND SEEDLESS RAISINS

2 lb. Package  
SAVE 6¢

33¢

4 lb. Package  
SAVE 12¢

63¢

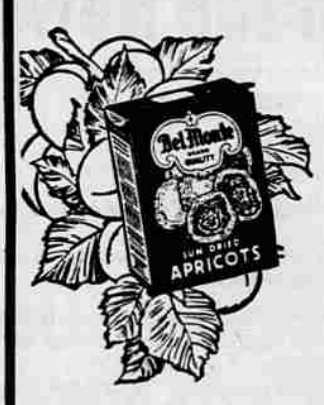


## YOUR BEST DRIED FRUIT BUYS UNDER THE SUN!



**DEL MONTE**  
Seedless  
**RAISINS**  
15-oz. Pkg. 23¢  
2 for 39¢  
Save 7¢

**DEL MONTE**  
Natural Flavor  
Large  
**PRUNES**  
2-lb. Pkg. 59¢  
2 for 1.00  
Save 18¢



**DEL MONTE**  
Sun Dried  
**Apricots**  
Medium Size  
11-oz. Pkg. 59¢  
2 Pkgs. 1.00  
Save 18¢

**DEL MONTE**  
Sun Dried  
**Peaches**  
11-oz. Pkg. 39¢  
2 Pkgs. 69¢  
Save 9¢



**Pound Can**  
**99¢**

**ZEE RAINBOW PACK**  
**NAPKINS**  
Pkg. of 80  
2 pkgs. 29¢

**CALGON**  
16-oz. pkg.  
33¢

**CRISCO**  
**SHORTENING**  
3-lb. Can 99¢

**CALGONITE**  
20-oz. pkg.  
39¢

**CRACKER**  
**JACK**  
2 pkgs. 15¢

**TREND**  
**POWDERED DETERGENT**  
Large Pkg.  
2 for 45¢

**Del Monte Seeded Muscat Raisins** (Sticky Type) 15 oz. pkg. **33¢**  
**Del Monte Seedless Raisins** Individual Pack 6-1 1/2 oz. ctns. **23¢**  
**S&W Golden Bleached Raisins** 15 oz. pkg. **29¢**  
**Sauce Quick** (Apple Sauce in a Jiffy) 4 oz. pkg. 19¢-8 oz. pkg. **35¢**  
**Del Monte Medium Prunes** 1 lb. pkg. 28¢-2 lb. pkg. **49¢**  
**Sun Ray Italian Prunes** 2 lb. cello bag **59¢**  
**Sun Ray Date Prunes** 2 lb. cello bag **45¢**  
**Dromedary Pitted Dates** 6 1/2 oz. pkg. 20¢-lb. pkg. **39¢**  
**Bordo Pitted Dates** 7 oz. pkg. 19¢-lb. pkg. **37¢**  
**Del Monte Moist Pack Prunes** 1 lb. glass jar **43¢**  
**Roeding Calimyrna Figs** 12 oz. cello pkg. **33¢**  
**Roeding Black Mission Figs** 12 oz. cello pkg. **25¢**

**HUNT'S CATSUP 6 bottles 89¢**

**SPARE RIBS** **LEAN, SMALL SIZE** **49¢ lb.**  
Bake or Barbecue For A Real Treat

## Is That So?

By EUGENE BURNS  
Ranger-Naturalist

Perhaps the lowliest of man's allies in World War II was the one-footed, common garden-variety, gray, shapeless slug who leaves behind him a tattle-tale silvery trail of slime.

His battle duty? Gas detection. Of all "gas detectors" used by man in tunnels, underground munitions plants, submarines, and trenches, these backboneless slugs are by far the most efficient.

Where white mice, rats, canaries, goldfish and cats may detect up to one part of gas in 4,000,000 parts of air, our one-



footed slug can detect one part in 12,000,000—three times as efficient.

What an important ally to have—helping us against being taken by surprise by one of man's most terrifying weapons—modern poison gas which blinds or kills by destroying the blood, the nerves, or by suffocation—men exposed to the latter type of gas have clawed their throats open in their maddened frenzy to get air.

(Horses, mules, camels, oxen and elephants, incidentally, can withstand a higher concentration of most poison gases than man without sustaining serious damage.)

To be sure, poison gas is today outlawed among decent nations. But all nations must be ready; and it is no secret that all powerful nations had it in large quantities during the last war—Germany, Russia, Italy, France, England, Japan and the U. S.

### Has long History

Poison gas has a long history. In the Peloponnesian war between Sparta and Athens, 431-404 B.C., Greek used suffocating gas against Greek; in the past century, shells containing gases were used during the siege of Charleston in the American civil war; and today poison gases have been perfected which are too terrifying even to contemplate except by the realistic against their use. God forbid that they, with the H-bomb will ever be unleashed. But yet, if they are, standing defense between a helpless city population and a ruthless terrifying "surprise" gas attack may be our lowly cold-blooded slug who can scarcely count one human friend in the world. But then, slugs are not social-minded beast.

Besides being a warm friend in warfare the slug stands guard over many lives in peacetime—in tunnels, coal mines, and submarines, giving warning wherever accumulating gases can become harmful to man.

### Another Advantage

In addition to being more "sensitive," our slug has another decided advantage. Other "gas detectors" usually succumb after the first attack—not through the gas itself but because it usually gives them pneumonia from which they die. Not so the slug. It curls up tightly, shuts off air-intake, and stops breathing until the lethal attack is over. Thus, without gas-mask, he lives to detect gas another day.

Dr. Paul Bartsch of the Smithsonian Institution first enlisted the slug for gas detection. In experimenting with slugs in his home, he found that they could detect his wife's cooking at incredible distances. Following a hunch, the doctor released some slugs 70 feet away from a boiled potato and sure enough without an hour's hesitation, they single-footed it for the potatoes oozing along on their slippery underside at something like 0.07 miles an hour.

So come the next war, count upon our garden slug with the keen olfactory apparatus to be on the ready.

(Copyright, 1957, by Eugene Burns)  
(Released by McClure Newspaper Syndicate)

Free: By special arrangement with the editors of the Encyclopedia Americana, my panel of judges will award each week to the reader who sends me the best true-life nature adventure, the best nature observation, or the best question on nature and wildlife, a complete 30-volume set of this world-famous reference work in a handsome Sealcraft binding. Each week new submissions will be considered. Sorry, I simply can't answer your many friendly letters. Please address your letter to: Is That So! c/o Medford Mail Tribune, Box 575, Sausalito, Calif.

### SISTERS

Worcester, Mass. — When Mrs. Joseph Pratte went to Hahnemann Hospital to have a baby, she was surprised to find that her roommate was Mrs. John Bugan, a sister. The sisters had their babies within 24 hours of each other.



**RIGHT CHOICE** — California's dairymen, planning a month-long campaign to push their healthy beverage, have designated June as official "Dairy Month." They got off to a good start by naming San Francisco State College Angela Michaels, 19, their official "Milk Maid."

FREE!

ONEIDA STAINLESS  
packed in special sacks of  
SPERRY DRIFTED SNOW FLOUR

collect as many place settings as you want!