

Most Russian People Live in Inadequate Quarters, Mrs. Roosevelt Learns on Trip

BY ELEANOR ROOSEVELT

New York—A large group of Russian women invited me to spend some time with them soon after my arrival in Moscow. They told me they were members of the Committee of Soviet Women, which covers the whole U.S.S.R. The assistant chairman of the committee placed me on her right. She was a professor. On my other side sat Tatyana Zueva, Minister of Culture of RSFSR, deputy to the Supreme Soviet. All were distinguished women. Two of them wore pins with a gold star hanging from them, distinguishing them as heroes of the Soviet Union or of Socialist Labor.

These were women receiving fairly good salaries and yet none of them probably lived in an apartment which you and I would consider adequate for family needs. Building is going on everywhere in Russia at a tremendous pace, but the needs to rebuild are even greater and most people live in inadequate quarters.

The architecture of the new apartments is drab and dull. Beauty and quality are sacrificed for speed, so that building finished only five years ago might have been built 30 or 40 years ago.

Can Hose Down Stairs
The entrance to nearly all apartments resembles that of one of our modern slum-clearance type of buildings—made so that one can hose down the stairs. And if there is an elevator, it is the kind you find in France—small and open like a cage.

While the influence of France is felt in the type of houses and the looks of the streets, the concierge is missing. Instead, most housing units have someone in charge of social welfare who tries to adjust quarrels and difficulties and who has an eye to cleanliness and general behavior of the tenants.

The women told me that since all of them work, the days when people had to queue up for hours to buy their supplies were trying for them. Now, however, they can telephone and have the supplies delivered. This means they have to shop at a government store where all food prices are fixed by the government.

If they want to buy something from the little open markets in their area, where people who live on the land are permitted to sell

ing what is on the pages of the any goods they do not need, then they must go themselves and

Some of Teamsters' Documents Missing

Washington — The Senate Rackets Committee said Wednesday union officials conceded some documents are missing from the Teamster Union's convention records they promised to deliver after snatching them from an incinerator.

Teamster official Joseph Kowalewicz of New York was expected to deliver the remaining records to chief counsel Robert F. Kennedy today under a committee subpoena.

Kennedy said union leaders told him, however, that some of the records are "definitely missing."

He said the importance of the missing records will have to be assessed when the committee staff reviews the remaining documents.

New Senior Engineer Announced by PT&T

Dee H. Wood has assumed duties of senior engineer in charge of plant engineering for Pacific Telephone and Telegraph company in Medford, Manager J. H. Creager, has announced.

Wood replaces Dale L. Miller, who recently was transferred to the chief engineer's department of the telephone company in Portland.

Formerly assigned in Roseburg, Wood will be responsible for engineering telephone plant in Klamath Falls, Ashland, Phoenix-Talent, Rogue River, Gold Hill and Grants Pass as well as Medford.

Wood has been senior engineer for Pacific Telephone in Roseburg since 1950. He first went to work for the telephone company in 1940. As soon as housing arrangements can be completed, Wood plans to move his wife and three children to the Medford area.

EX-ART EDITOR DIES

Point Pleasant, N.J.—Miss Dorothy G. Gruger, 53, former editor of the Saturday Evening Post, died Tuesday.

compete with other shoppers. The advantage is that there is sometimes a little more variety.

There is a room in the big store where children can be left while mothers shop, and while we were in Moscow a big shop, primarily for children, opened. The crowd that went through this new shop on Sundays was simply tremendous.

I asked this group of women whether they would outline for me how a woman in the Soviet Union manages her day. I told them that I thought some of us in the U.S. wondered how it was possible for a woman with children to work at a full-time job.

Many Things Provided

They smiled at me indulgently and said the government provided them with many things needed to make this possible. They get up early and feed the family, the older children leave for school and, if there are young ones, they are taken to a kindergarten. Or if a mother works in a factory and has a baby, she takes her baby to the day nursery in the factory.

If there is illness in the family, she is not required to report to work. The doctor gives her a certificate and she can stay home. Wherever they are, the children are fed by the government, the union or the factory organization and the mother picks them up and brings them home at the end of her day's work.

The crowding in apartments means there is always more than one family sharing one unit. So there is usually an older member of the family who at 60 has retired and is glad to watch the children if they must be at home.

There are many restaurants and families go out to dinner on Sunday or sometimes for an evening meal. Sunday is still the day of rest, even in a country where religion is not officially recognized.

These women seemed to think their lives are very easy to manage. My tourist guide, Anna Lavrova, whose husband is a professor, mentioned to me that on evenings when she is at home and busy sewing, he reads aloud to her in French, a language that he loves.

There is a hunger among men and women alike for education in the Soviet Union, and in the subway, on trains everywhere, young and old read as though

their lives depended on master-book they read.

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Ike Deeply Concerned Over Russ Satellite

Washington — President Eisenhower is deeply concerned with Soviet scientific achievements and is ready to give the nation an up-to-the-minute assessment of the American position in the race into space, the United Press learned Wednesday. Despite outward signs of virtual indifference, the United Press learned Eisenhower has been in almost continual contact with his highest military and scientific advisers since the Russians launched their earth satellite Friday.

California-To-Hawaii Cable System Dedicated

San Francisco — Officials in five widely-scattered cities engaged in an around-the-world telephone conversation Tuesday at the dedication of a new 2,400-mile cable system between California and Hawaii.

The \$37 million project—the world's largest submarine circuit—was hailed as a boon to the nation's defense and commerce.

IT LEAKS

Ludlow, Vt. — The Frank Proctor Memorial Swimming Pool Association discovered that its pool, just completed after several years of community effort, will not hold water.

Portland Police To Use 'Meter Maids'

Portland — Portland will join the list of cities using "meter maids" to police downtown parking meters and release male police officers for more vigorous forms of law enforcement.

Other cities that have decided parking meters are women's work have found the plan paid dividends in more frequent parking spaces and fewer overtime parking violations.

The municipal civil service board said it would be ready to call for examinations in about two weeks. Fifteen women between 23 and 35 will be hired. The city will provide foul weather gear but the meter maids themselves must furnish a prescribed uniform that will be either red or green. They will also be expected to act in a public relations capacity, providing tourist information to visitors. Also planned is a four-hour training course in judo.

NEW BATTERY

Chicago — General Electric said today it has developed a battery that lasts 10 times longer and has a voltage potential greater than ordinary batteries. GE said the new unit is about the same size as an ordinary flashlight battery.

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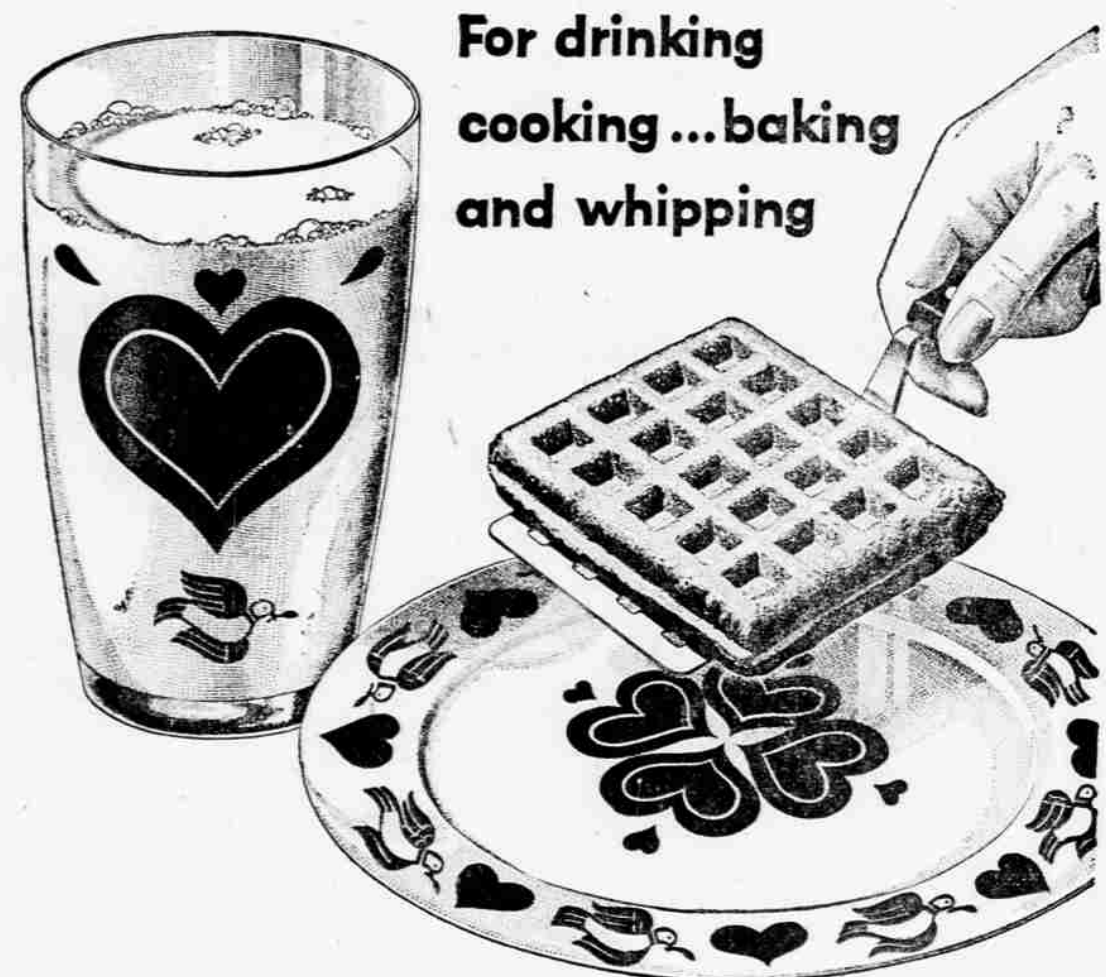
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