

Things Begin to Look Better For Soviet Collective Farmers

(Editor's note: Soviet Russia recently announced, with much fanfare, a "new" farm policy as part of its announced aid to catch up with, and surpass, U.S. production in all fields. Just what is this policy and what will it mean to the average Russian farmer? How does that Russian farmer live in comparison with his American counterpart? A veteran Washington agricultural reporter gives the answers in this dispatch.)

By BERNARD BRENNER
UPI Correspondent

Washington—UPI— Ivan, the Soviet farmer, eats black bread and potatoes while American farmers eat meat and vegetables.

Ivan and most of his friends on Soviet collective farms have never had running water or electricity in their homes. In a Communist state which builds hydrogen bombs, jet airplanes and Sputniks, most farmers regard indoor plumbing as a luxury they hope to enjoy some day.

Ivan has seen automobiles. The manager of his collective farm drives one. But Ivan has never been able to afford a car and doesn't expect to own one anytime soon.

In spite of a standard of living most Americans would consider low and drab, how-

ever, Ivan is probably happier today than in many years, in the opinion of U.S. government experts on Soviet agriculture.

Making More Money
Due to various important government decrees aimed at easing controls and boosting market prices in Russia, these U.S. experts believe most Soviet collective farmers can count on making more money this year.

The latest decree abolished a complicated government procurement price schedule under which collectives were required to deliver a large part of their production to the state at artificially low prices.

In its place, the decree sets up a system of uniform fixed prices for all sales to the state. On a few "showplace" farms which had been earning bonuses for over-quota production this reform may not be popular, but for the average collective it will mean more income.

Geographic Zones
Prices will be fixed by geographic zones, taking into consideration factors like

farm costs, labor productivity, and the need for building up capital reserves. Experts here said the new regulation "even gives some recognition to the law of supply and demand" by allowing prices to rise or fall in response to sharp ups and downs in production.

Another significant feature of the decree wiped out the "arrears" accounts against many collectives which had failed to meet government delivery quotas in past years. These accounts had reached "considerable proportions" despite a similar slate-clearing action in 1953-54, experts said.

These moves add up to a "potentially important movement in Soviet agriculture," one specialist said here. They are part of a pattern of concessions to Soviet farmers that began after the death of Stalin in 1953.

Increased Production

One reason for easing the Communist grip on the Soviet farmer was the demand for increased food and fiber production. Another, experts believe, was a feeling in Moscow that the rigid control and exploitation of farmers under Stalin had weakened the drive to "export" Communism to under-developed nations where peasants make up a majority of the population.

Even with the recently-eased regulations, many of the features of the collective system which irked peasants most remain in effect.

The Soviet farmer works in a labor "brigade" assigned to specific farm tasks. If some brigade members loaf on the job, the result is less production and less income for the hard-working man or woman.

Can Only Guess

Officials here can only guess about the typical Soviet farmer's income because Russian figures are scanty and often unreliable. Sen. Allen J. Ellender (D-La.), visiting some of the best collectives in Siberia last year, was told farm family income there ranged from 15,000 to 20,000 rubles a year. At a "realistic" exchange rate this would equal at best \$1,500 to \$2,000 a year for the best farmers on the most efficient farms.

But the thing to remember, specialists here said, is that for most Soviet farmers life is better today than it was in the past and more improvements are coming.

Just how much improvement there will be is an open question.

The average Soviet farmer today produces enough to feed himself and three or four others. The average American farmer produces enough for himself and 20 to 22 others.

One expert here believes the new concessions will make Communism more popular with farmer Ivan, and spur him to step up production. But this same expert believes the changes have not yet gone far enough to provide a permanent cure for the built-in disadvantages of the collective way of life on the farm.



GETTING READY—M. Sgt. Samuel G. Karst (left) and Dr. Bruno (right), of the Air Force School of Aviation Medicine, check over their pressure-suit equipment as they prepare for a 10-day stay in a sealed altitude chamber at Randolph Air Force Base, near San Antonio, Tex.

Debbie Reynolds Sets Divorce Action Within Few Days

Hollywood—UPI— Actress-singer Debbie Reynolds may file for divorce from singer Eddie Fisher within the next few days, her attorney said today.

Attorney Frank B. Belcher, representing the petite mother of two said he planned to "get the ball rolling" shortly toward a divorce action, depending on talks with Fisher's attorney.

"First there must be some negotiations," Belcher said.

The lawyer promised earlier that no one would be spared in the divorce suit if it was necessary "to protect the interests" of Debbie, 26, and her two children, Carrie, 2, and Todd, 7 months.

Would Include Liz

Presumably, the attorney was prepared to include Elizabeth Taylor as a correspondent in the case with a detail-

ing in court of her New York dates with Fisher.

However, the likelihood of a court battle was discounted by friends of the 30-year-old singer who felt that Fisher would seek a quick divorce.

Fisher, boyish former favorite of the bobby soxers, accepted "full responsibility" of the break up of his marriage, once publicized by the press agents as the "ideal" wedding of the "young couple next door."

Debbie blamed "what happened in New York" for her marital troubles but Fisher said the break up would have come even if he had never known Miss Taylor.

He said he was the "heavy" in the well-publicized domestic drama but he did not plan to attempt to change the characterization.

A face to face meeting of the couple on the stage of the Hollywood bowl Saturday night was avoided when both Debbie and Eddie cancelled their appearance on a charity program.

In Seclusion

Both were reported ill. Eddie was suffering from an apparently minor blood disease. Miss Reynolds was advised by her doctor not to make the appearance although she said earlier that she would.

Miss Taylor was in seclusion at the home of her agent and wasn't talking. Earlier, she had offered the opinion that Debbie and Eddie "would destroy each other" if they went back together.

Slightly less than a week since Fisher and Miss Taylor returned from New York where they were seen together frequently at night clubs, the singer and Miss Reynolds were attempting to pick up their professional lives.

Fisher was scheduled to rehearse today for his television show in about two weeks. Debbie was preparing for the start of a movie, "The Mating Game," Sept. 29.

Harrisburg Crash Leaves Two Dead

Eugene—UPI—A two-car collision on Highway 99 just north of Harrisburg Saturday killed one person instantly and fatally injured a 37-year-old California woman.

Killed outright was James Daniel Givens, 32, Klamath Falls, a former Eugene attorney. The dead woman was Mrs. Fung-Hwan Hsu, Pasadena, Calif.

Mrs. Hsu was a passenger in a car driven by her husband, Nah Peh Hsu, along with their two children, a daughter, Loh-Wing, 19 months, and a five-month-old son, Loh-Kun.

She died in Sacred Heart hospital about two hours following the crash. Hsu was reported in "fairly good" condition and the children were said to be in good condition.

The Hsus were northbound, police said. Givens was headed south.

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MAIL TRIBUNE, MEDFORD, ORE.

French, German Leaders Agree on Cooperation Need

Colombey-Les-Deux-Eglises, France—UPI—West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and French Premier Charles de Gaulle have agreed on the need to end forever "ancient hostility" between their two countries.

They said in a communique Sunday night after nearly six hours of talks that cooperation between the traditional military rivals was the "foundation" for all constructive effort in Europe and the basis for a new era of unity.

The two most dominant political figures in Western Europe also decided to join the United States in refusing to accept Soviet domination of Eastern Europe as a permanent state of affairs.

Adenauer, 82, and De Gaulle, 67, met for the first time Sunday. Adenauer traveled here from Baden Baden for the one-day meeting at De Gaulle's high-walled estate "La Boisserie," 150 miles southeast of Paris.

They announced: "We are both deeply conscious of the importance and significance which clothe our meeting. We believe that the ancient hostility must be ended forever and that French and Germans are summoned to live in harmony and work side by side."

"We have the conviction that the close cooperation of the Federal German Republic and of the French Republic is the foundation of all constructive effort in Europe. It is indispensable for the world."

Myrtle Creek Boy Killed by Gunshot

Myrtle Creek, Ore.—UPI—A 12-year-old boy was fatally wounded Sunday when accidentally shot with a .22 caliber rifle held by a friend, state police reported.

The victim was William Curtis Blackert, son of Mrs. W. A. Blackert, Myrtle Creek. He died about five hours after the accident from a stomach wound.

State police said the .22 rifle was being held by Lyle Lee, 15, Myrtle Creek, when it discharged. They termed the shooting an accident.

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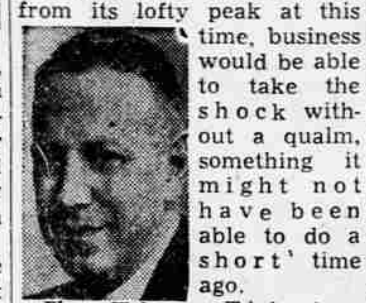
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Business Could Absorb Shock If Stock Market Falls a Bit

By ELMER C. WALZER
UPI Financial Editor

New York—UPI—If the stock market should tumble a bit from its lofty peak at this



time, business would be able to take the shock without a quail, something it might not have been able to do a short time ago.

This is a Wall Street belief and those who have it, hold that the market, if it should recede a bit now, has done its work nobly in instilling confidence

into industry through a few months of recession.

This group holds that the market was wiser than any individuals in correctly appraising the future. Stocks moved higher while industry was in a decline, and earnings and dividends were falling away.

It is a fact that a strong stock market is an inspiring thing for business while a weak market works in reverse against confidence.

Fast Recovery

And this strong market in a waning business cycle may have been a number one reason why business came back so rapidly. The experts say this is the fastest business recovery since the war.

The market statistics make interesting reading. The industrial average has gone through two 100-point arcs. From the 1957 high of 520.77 set on July 12 of that year until Oct. 22, 1957, when the average was down to 419.79, there was a decline of 100.98 points.

At the close last Thursday,

the day the record almost was achieved, the average of 520.43 was up exactly 100.64 points from the Oct. 22, 1957, close.

Since the all-time high was set at 521.05 on April 6, 1956, the industrial average has made three tries to beat that figure—Aug. 2, 1956, when it closed at 520.95 off only 0.10 from the high; July 12, 1957, when it hit 520.77, and last Thursday when it closed at 520.43.

One thing that this market does not seem to have at this time is a strong railroad department. It had one back in 1956 when the rail average almost got up to the 1929 high, a figure never equaled.

Rails did a little less than nothing last week while the industrials advanced nearly seven points.

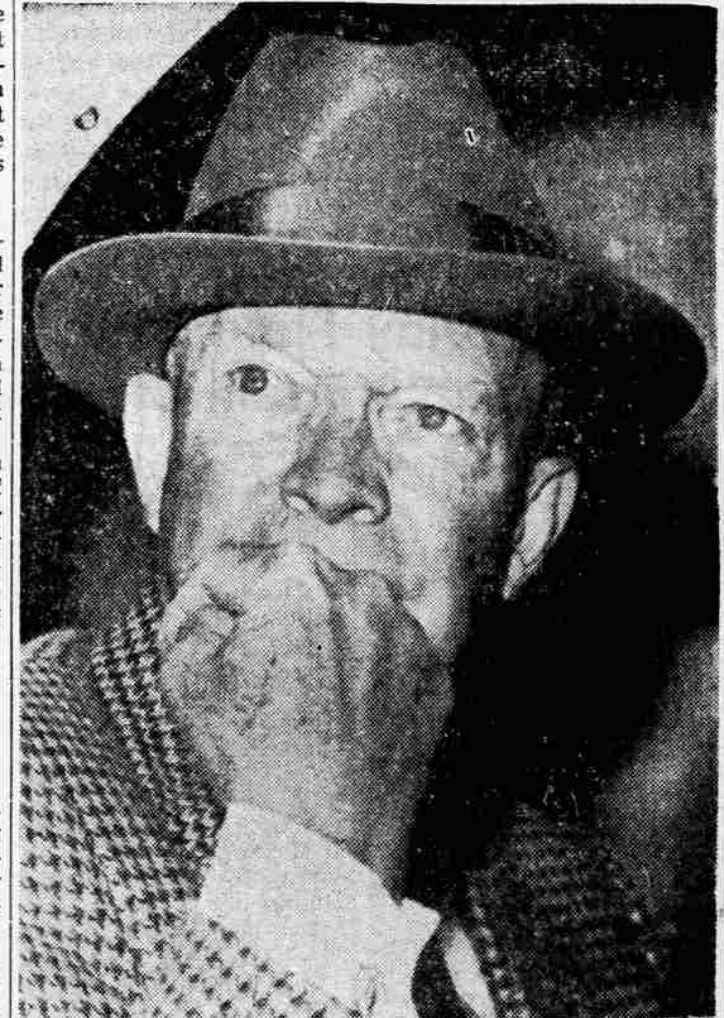
Street Not Worrying

This is a week when the automobile negotiations come to a head and when some indication of the status of the Far Eastern situation might be forthcoming.

Wall Street doesn't seem to be worrying too much about the money situation. Margins are high at 70 per cent and could go higher—to as much as 100 per cent, which would mean no margin at all.

There are many more investors than speculators and barrels of money are pushing for investment in common stocks. Bonds and preferred stocks are being sold. And the government bond market has few friends.

Hence without bond market competition and with demand for stocks based mostly on hard cash the prospect of



PENSIVE—President Eisenhower appears to be in deep thought as he returns to the "summer White House" in Newport, R. I., after making his speech to the nation from Washington, D. C. The President called on the people to support his plan to defend the islands of Quemoy and Matsu, off the coast of Red China, and warned that there should be no appeasement of Red China. Meanwhile, Red shore batteries have driven off Nationalist convoys attempting to deliver supplies to Quemoy.

Algeria Rebels Fail In Attempt To Kill French Official

Paris—UPI—Algerian rebels tried today to assassinate Information Minister Jacques Soustelle with pistols and sub-machine guns in a daring Chicago-style attack in the heart of Paris. He was cut by flying glass when bullets struck his limousine.

Five passersby were wounded in a five-minute gun battle which developed between police and the terrorist attackers at one of Paris' busiest traffic intersections. One passerby died later in a hospital, wounded by a bullet but none of the shots fired by three fanatic Moslem attackers hit Soustelle, who is hated by Algerians because of his ruthless policy of oppression against terrorists as governor general.

The attack appeared to pre-empt a new all out effort by the National Liberation Movement (FLN) to carry the Algerian war into Paris itself with a series of spectacular coups that would emphasize their demands for freedom.

One Assassin Killed

Three Algerians opened up with revolvers and sub-machine guns at Soustelle's car as it slowed for a red light on the tree-lined Avenue Friedland near the Arc de Triumphe.

SIGN TRADE AGREEMENT

Cairo—UPI—The United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia have concluded a new trade agreement, abolishing tariffs on some goods and drastically reducing them on others, it was disclosed today.

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tight money may be of little market importance.

There are a few ways that the stock market could be loosened up: 1. A cut or elimination in capital gains taxes. 2. Sale of a long-term government bond bearing 4 1/2 per cent interest on a tax exempt basis, and 3. A war. Wall Street doesn't expect any of them. What then will keep the market down? No one was able to guess it would go up the way it did. Hence, no one may yet be able to see what it will take to bring it down. There are really only two

groups that want it down—the Bears and the sold-out Bulls.

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