

MEDFORD MAIL TRIBUNE

2nd SECTION

MEDFORD, OREGON, THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1959

12 Pages

Khrushchev's Phenomenal Success in Achieving Authority Tops Soviet History

Editor's note: The 21st Communist Party Congress which wound up in Moscow last week may be recorded as a milestone in Soviet history. Present in the great hall of the Kremlin when Nikita Khrushchev issued his battle orders for the final struggle against capitalism was UPI manager for Russia Henry Shapiro. In the following dispatch, Shapiro, a veteran of 25 years in the Russian capital, begins his assessment of Khrushchev at the summit.

By HENRY SHAPIRO
Moscow—(UPI)—Never in the troubled and sometimes tragic 41 years of Soviet history has any Soviet leader matched Nikita Khrushchev's phenomenal success in achieving supreme authority.

That is the inescapable message of Khrushchev's confident, ambitious stewardship this month before the 21st Communist Party Congress, the supreme body of Communism.

Five years after the death of Stalin, who ruled for three decades with a fist of steel, Stalin's three principal lieutenants stood condemned as "contemptible traitors . . . renegades . . . factionalists . . ."

And Khrushchev, the 64-

year-old former coal miner emerged unchallenged not only as leader of Soviet Russia but as the reigning Marxist theoretician.

Even founder Lenin's tenure was marked by bitter oppositional strife. Stalin's iron fist needed a decade to consolidate power.

But Khrushchev made short, bloodless shrift of his opponents. He won hands down. Not only did he not have to conduct a purge of the party membership but he appeared to win increasing acclaim for his sweeping popular reforms.

Khrushchev's moment of victory was the June, 1957 meeting of the party Central Committee which ousted Stalin's old aide V. M. Molotov.

PIGGY-BACK
San Francisco—(UPI)—The Southern Pacific railroad soon will provide the ultimate in piggy-back hauling service. Railroad President Donald J. Russell said its flatcars will haul trucks which will be loaded with autos.

his chosen successor George Malenkov, and old guard member Lazar Kaganovich.

Congress Confirmed Victory
But it was the congress of 1,269 delegates which fully confirmed Khrushchev's victory and added to the roll of deposed opponents ex - Premier Nikolai Bulganin and ousted presidium members Mikhail Pervukhin and Maxim Saburov.

This "anti-party group" apparently was not a solidly united faction like the Trotskyists of Stalin's early days.

Each opposed Khrushchev on one ground or another. Not until mid-1957 did they join forces when, meeting under Bulganin's chairmanship in the Presidium they tried to remove Khrushchev.

Khrushchev refused to submit, arguing that the Central Committee and not the Presidium elected him.

The hastily summoned Central Committee fully supported Khrushchev. It elected a new 15-man Presidium which retained Bulganin temporarily and demoted Pervukhin to alternate membership.

Molotov, Kaganovich and their junior partner, Dmitri Shepilov, accepted ouster and relegation to comparatively insignificant - but safe - jobs.

Later, Bulganin, Pervukhin and Saburov made formal admissions which only won derision from the Congress and some clamor that they be further penalized within the framework of party discipline.

All indications were that Bulganin, Pervukhin and Saburov, who are still nominal members of the Central Committee, will merely be expelled from that distinction.

As now disclosed, a bitter controversy raged within the small group of Stalin's collective successors.

Molotov, for example, opposed Khrushchev's personal conduct of foreign policy, particularly the peace treaty with Austria and efforts for rapprochement with Yugoslavia.

He also opposed the virgin lands program and decentralization of industrial control, Khrushchev's two key internal reforms.

Pervukhin and Saburov ap-

parently confirmed their opposition to the economic reforms while Malenkov and Kaganovich based their objections to Khrushchev largely on personal grounds.

By the time the Congress convened two weeks ago, Khrushchev was able to point to the relative success of most of the measures he had advocated.

With Hungary pacified and Poland's Wladyslaw Gomulka acclaiming the unity of the Soviet camp under Soviet leadership, Khrushchev could also claim the correctness of his policies vis a vis the peoples democracies.

Months before the Congress met, Khrushchev was already firmly in the saddle and the anti-party clique was thoroughly discredited.

Why then renew the sharp attacks on Molotov and company during the Congress?

First Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan supplied one answer - "to prove once again, on the strength of facts, the error and harm of the anti-party group's political position and to underscore emphatically the correctness in other words, Khrushchev's position."

Additionally, since this is no longer the Stalin era, Khrushchev probably felt he owed the country a fuller explanation than previously was available. The 21st Congress provided this.

Although Bulganin, Pervukhin and Saburov confessed their error, the others never did.

It remains unknown whether they weren't formally asked, or themselves refused.

And what remains of the principle of "collective lead-



ARRIVING IN PEIPING, Otto Grotewohl, prime minister of Communist East Germany, is greeted by Mao Tse-tung, Communist China's party chairman. Grotewohl heads East German delegation on official visit to China.

ership" so much publicized immediately after Stalin's death?

Khrushchev told this correspondent in November, 1957, that the principle remains on an even broader base than previously.

He explained that the Central Committee, which meets more often than at any time since Lenin, now constitutes the top leadership.

The Presidium which numbers only 14 members, is only the executive organ of the Central Committee.

As long as Khrushchev retains the full support of the 124 - man Central Committee his position remains unassailable.

"Khrushchev is the soul of the Central Committee," said one delegate at the Congress.

WHOA!
Thompson, Conn.—(UPI)—James Ide and Stanley Chaplowski fled from a tavern brawl in a horse and buggy. When asked how he captured the pair, State Trooper James Donahue replied, "I headed them off at the pass."



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Phoenix Youth Wins FFA Math Contest

Phoenix - Bill Rasmussen, Phoenix High school Future Farmers of America member, placed first in agriculture mathematics at the vocational skills contest Feb. 7 at Marshfield High school, Coos Bay, according to Jack Dube, Phoenix High school vocational agriculture instructor and chapter advisor.

Agriculture mathematics includes keeping farm record books, farm measurement, figuring dressing percentages, shrinkages and general mathematics pertaining to farm operation. Eight chapters from the Rogue-Umpqua district participated. Fifteen members of the Phoenix FFA chapter attended the contest.

In other events Phoenix students, Gerald Sloper, placed second with a chapter scrapbook; Jim Schweitert, second in agriculture spelling; Chet Caster, third in agriculture spelling and also third in his beginning project record book.

Following the contest, chapter members visited the beach areas south of Coos Bay. On the trip home they stopped at Myrtle Creek to see the basketball game between Myrtle Creek and Phoenix and returned home Saturday night.

BY ANY OTHER NAME

Hobbs, N. M.—(UPI)—Gentle Washington, 20, was charged with disorderly conduct here after a carnival fight.

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