

Czechs Cringe Before Red Purge Scythe

PRAGUE, Oct. 12 (AP)—Large sections of Czechoslovakia's 13,000,000 people live in fear today while the communist government carries out a purge that has hit army officers, Catholic officials, businessmen and communist party functionaries.

Citizens display a dread bordering on fearful hysteria that almost anybody can be hit in the great roundup, by the charge of treason or of "Titoism" or merely by the denunciation of some shoooper.

The police roundup is centering in Prague, but it is hitting elsewhere in Bohemia and Moravia. Slovakia, however, is the scene of more routine arrests, chiefly of Roman Catholic priests and other accused of being "dissident elements."

Some estimates, doubtless exaggerated, place the number of those arrested throughout the country in recent days as high as 20,000. There is nothing official yet from the communist-led government.

Even wearers of communist party badges didn't appear to feel safe.

This Free Library Really Free

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The Richmond free library is all its name denotes. All of its 5500 volumes have been donated from persons in all parts of the country, many of them celebrities.

The "famous persons shelf" contains books given by such people as Mary Pickford, Jack Benny, Connie Mack and Gene Tunney. The "governors shelf" was stocked by the governors of 30 states.

More than 300 volumes were presented in memory of departed family members and friends. It was done mostly by Mrs. Ethel M. Culver. She wrote hundreds of letters asking for books and the books came. Residents of the town recently donated funds, materials and labor to remodel the library.

EXPANSION VIA RADIO
HOLLYWOOD (AP)—Since Ralph Edwards has moved his radio program activities from New York to Hollywood, he has had to expand his office staff considerably. When he came here four years ago he had only three, counting himself. Today he has 20 and the second floor of a large office building.

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THEY'LL GIVE MOVIES TECHNICAL ADVICE—Here's the Harry Bayly family of Troy, N. Y.—mother, dad, and all 14 kids—as they checked in at the 20th Century Fox studio at Hollywood and met a movie star, Jeanne Crain (far left). The studio is making a movie about large family life so they invited the Baylys to come out with a bit of technical advice. They did, in the specially made bus shown behind them. The children's ages range from 18 to 1 year. The Baylys are (front to rear): Bernard, 2; Beryl, 3; Bernadette, 4; Brenda, 6; Bernice, 9; Blake, 8; Brian, 10; Bette, 13; Beverly, 18; Barbara, 14; Barry, 16; Buddy, 17; mother, Mrs. Vernice Bayly; Benjamin Neale, 1, in mother's arms, and Father Harry Bayly, 38.

Behind Stalin's Mask

What Will 'Uncle Joe' Do With A-bomb? Book Mirrors Mystery Man's Makeup

NEW YORK (NEA)—What can the world expect from Joseph Stalin now that Russia holds the atom bomb? Is he likely to use it?

To find the answers to these questions, we need to know the kind of man he is. But no leader of current times is more completely masked in mystery than Stalin.

Nevertheless, a new effort to pierce that mask has just been made. Isaac Deutscher, a Polish-born specialist in Russian affairs who writes for the British press, has written a comprehensive biography that is being hailed as the most penetrating yet most objective study of Stalin attempted thus far.

What emerges is not a clearly etched portrait. Fundamentals of his makeup remain hidden. But there are some clues to his character that may help the world judge what Stalin may do.

As Deutscher pictures the Russian dictator: He is above all a political boss, a master strategist, shrewd, practical, ruthless, unshining in spirit. He is no intellectual firebrand, no great theorist of the communist revolution, as was Lenin. Stalin is a man of icy self-

possession. In him is none of the impulsive, intuitive behavior of a Hitler.

But like many a gifted politician, Stalin is an opportunist. He changes the course of his policy to fit the circumstances of a time. He does not function from a set master plan in which all major details are determined in advance.

In other words, what the rest of the world does strongly affects what Stalin does. To millions who fear he may already have decided upon war, there may be hope in this analysis—if it is sound.

Mistakes
Like all opportunists, Stalin has made big mistakes and made them often. At the start of World War II he vastly overrated the strength and quality of the French army. On the other hand, he underrated the striking power of Hitler's Nazi legions. He of course was not alone in these particular errors.

It is plain, too, that he genuinely hoped to keep Russia out of the war. He looked for a long conflict that might exhaust both sides and leave his country free of invasion. Deutscher concludes it is impossible to tell from the record whether Stalin preferred his 1939 pact with Hitler to one he might have made with the western European powers.

However that may be, Stalin strove hard to preserve his fragile friendship with Germany. He refused to believe the signs of the coming Nazi invasion. Though he was preparing for it, he did not expect it when it occurred.

Strength
Once into the war, Stalin mustered all his indomitable will and strength to save Russia—and himself. Says Deutscher: "He was in effect his own commander-in-chief, his own quartermaster, his own minister of supply, his own foreign minister."

He was no meddler in military strategy like Hitler. He operated as a calm, careful referee among his generals, leaving them room for experiment and independent judgment. But he made all the big decisions.

These organizing and administrative talents were the traits that lifted Stalin to prominence in the com-

munist party of revolutionary days. Under Lenin, he won ever higher posts until at last he had controlling power. Then he successfully outmaneuvered his party opponents and gradually built himself to a pinnacle where others could not reach him.

The fruits of unbridled power came to a man who had begun life as a cobbler's son in the southern part of Russia called Georgia. He was studying theology when first touched with revolutionary fever. From that time forward, he was a hard-driving underground agitator for a socialist rebellion in reactionary Czarist Russia. Before the overturn came he spent nearly 10 years in prisons or in exile.

Colorless
Stalin, though long schooled as a party spokesman, has never risen above the dull and colorless as a public speaker and writer. No spellbinder, he has seemed to shrink from public contact. His soldiers in the field never saw him.

Always since gaining despotic power he has preferred to remain a sort of misty, impersonal, "gray eminence" standing in the Kremlin surrounded by the familiar symbols of his high station. His travels outside Russia have been limited to a few brief trips to nearby countries.

Stalin's private life? Plain and austere. Deutscher says he knows of only one personal letter ever written by him. Though he twice was married, his passionate devotion to politics ruled out anything like a normal home existence.

Not much to go on, all this, but it is from such trail evidence that the world's statesmen must try to gauge Stalin and keep him from using the great atomic secret he has learned.

Farm Accidents High In West

DAVIS, Calif. (AP)—Farmers in western states have a higher accident rate than those in the east, says Ralph Parks, agricultural engineer on the Davis campus of the University of California. The western farm accident rate is 40 a year for every 1000 farm people, he estimates.

Falls cause the greatest number of accidents on farms, he says.

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