

# Washington Digest

## Life in Soviet Russia Lacks Utopian Promise

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WASHINGTON, D. C.—As relations between the western world and Russia grow rapidly no better, many reports are coming in to show that Communism, which reached the peak of its prestige with the end of the war, is losing some of its popularity in Europe. The lack of proof provided in the eating of the Soviet pudding has had its effects, and many a wall of anguish is dimly audible behind the iron curtain which stretches from the Baltic through the Balkans.



Baukhage

This, of course, doesn't prevent our own little family of loyal American "Commies" from screaming the praises of all within the Soviet's gates.

I have been looking over some facts concerning two of the great postwar American problems—housing and union labor demands—with an eye on similar conditions in Russia.

Nobody but an optimist with rose-colored glasses and a five-year lease would say that we have no housing problem in America. But Stalin has one in Russia too. And how, To-varish! (Don't answer me now, there's a plain clothes man behind the samovar.) I know about that letter workers wrote to Uncle Joe, pledging their tireless work and a promise to "liquidate all shortcomings" on the housing industry. That word "liquidate" has an unpleasant sound. And when Russian papers are allowed to criticize production, putting the blame on "local Soviets," it means—the situation needs criticizing!

But what were Russian housing conditions before the war?

According to a recent Library of Congress report, "Communism in Action," even before the devastation of western Russia the average floor space in Moscow was only 45 square feet per head. But the privileged (workers with high records on the speed-up plan) had much more. Hence, the ordinary Russian worker had much less. By way of contrast in Washington, D. C., under the National Capital Housing authority, the smallest housing unit (a one-bedroom apartment) must allot 165 square feet to the living room alone, and the total space must be 250 square feet.

In Russia the usual arrangement is one family per room in a six-room apartment with common use of the kitchen and bathroom.

### Figure Out Floor Space Per Person

This was the situation before the war. Today, in the Ukraine, according to an article in Harper's by John Fischer, who spent some months in the Ukraine and Byelo Russia with UNRRA, conditions are such that the Russian press may well be allowed to criticize—if that will do any good.

In Kiev, says Fischer, a person is supposed to have six square meters of living space, which is a strip of floor about ten feet long and six feet wide. Less than that is available in Kharkov.

If you want to know how a typical family in the Ukraine lives, Fischer tells you to imagine you and your wife and children occupying the smallest room in your house, with the clothing, beds, furniture and possessions that are absolutely indispensable. You'll have a brick stove instead of a radiator or cooking range, a bathroom with no hot water shared by several other families—and probably a few relatives to share all that!

Probably you could stand this if you knew it was temporary. But in Russia, according to Fischer, because of the five-year plan for the expansion of heavy industry (said to be a part of Soviet war preparation) Russians are going to have a bitterly hard life as far as consumer goods and facilities go, for another 10 to 15 years.

I can't verify Fischer's views, but I know that authorities agree that Russia cannot possibly do much to raise the standard of living of the less privileged even if she doesn't continue the present military preparation.

And what has Communism done for the laborer as such? Under the five-year plan industri-

al workers' pay is supposed to go up to 500 rubles a month. Fischer estimates the present rate at between 300 and 350, which he says amounts in terms of American purchasing power to about \$30 to \$35.

### Labor Unions Under Government Wing

According to "Communism in Action" (the U. S. government document I mentioned earlier) the Russian labor unions started out under Trotsky as independent, fighting organs of labor. But when Trotsky was ousted and made his very hasty departure from the Utopia he helped found, one lap ahead of the liquidators, things changed. As in the case of Nazi Germany the union became a limb of the party.

And no one would say that American unions, like the Russian variety, "are not organized to conduct strikes." This is reported by "Communism in Action," which says that there hasn't been a strike in Russia since 1921. The document further points out that unions in the United States have as their primary purpose the privilege of their members to deal on equal terms with their employers on all matters of mutual interest.

In the U.S.S.R., on the other hand, the unions are a part of the apparatus of the employer (the government) and since the government is supposed to act in the interests of all, the workers can't complain against any of its decisions.

### Tough Sledding For the 'Ins'

There seems to be agreement between some of the political leaders of both parties that the voters are going to indulge in a good deal of indiscriminate hurling of brickbats next month and it is entirely likely that many an innocent, bystander congressman is going to suffer for the sins of his colleagues. Clarence Brown, No. 2 man in the Republican national committee, admitted to me that he was counting heavily on the "throw the rascals out" vote. In other words people are going to take out their various personal grouches on the incumbent, regardless of record or party affiliation. This view was reflected on the Democratic side by that experienced politician, Senator Russell of Georgia. He said to some of us the other day:

"It's always like this after a war. A great many people have complaints of one kind or another. It's a natural thing for many of them to decide to vote against the people who have been in office."

That line of reasoning, when pursued by a good Democrat, might be wishful thinking if he were casting his eyes at the gubernatorial contest in New York state. Many people take for granted that Governor Dewey, if he wins, will try to use re-election as a stepping stone toward the presidential nomination. In any case, the way the issues are being played now, if Dewey is re-elected, it will strengthen the arguments the Republicans are emphasizing that the next presidential campaign will be "safety and solidity" versus "wild-eyed radicalism."

Issues will be joined on this point by the National Citizens Political Action committee (CIO-PAC's twin) when the latter makes the following statement at the conference of "progressives" in Chicago at the end of the month:

"The November elections will decide the nation's future—the independent voters . . . will determine whether the voice of privilege, of hate and bigotry will dominate the 80th congress, as they did the old, or whether the progressives who fought against great odds in the 79th congress will find new allies."

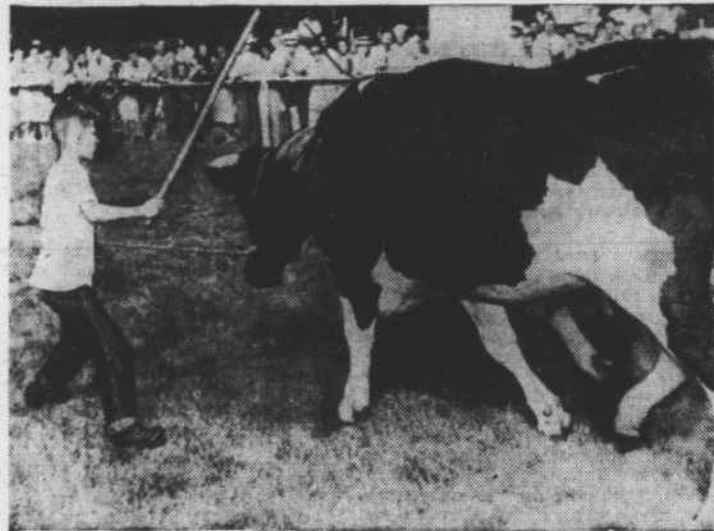
The Republicans are offering themselves as "new allies" by making the claim that they represent true liberalism, and telling the "progressives" that they must either choose the Republican brand of "liberalism" or support the so-called "radicalism" of the Democrats.

Evidence to support the view that the "ins," whether they are Democrats or Republicans, are going to get the brickbats from disgruntled voters was contained in a letter recently received by two Democrat "ins."

"There just aren't any diapers," an expectant, incensed father wrote to his congressman, "and it's someone's fault. Regardless of where and how you place the blame, you represent us in our government which has allowed this national disgrace to come about and are, therefore, to a greater or a less degree, personally responsible for it."



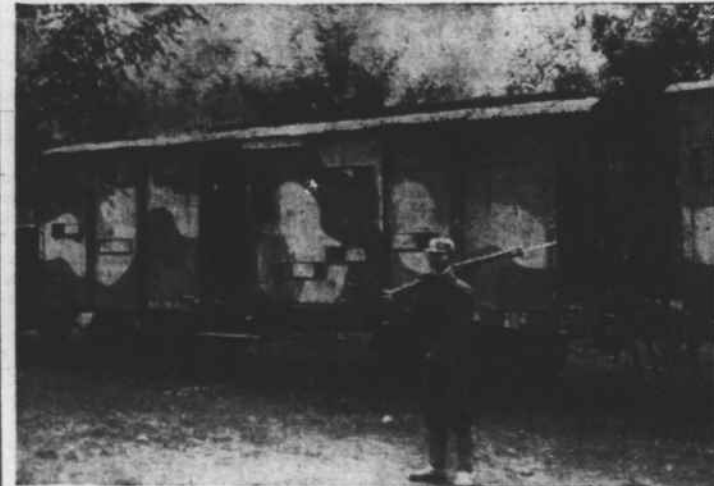
**GROMYKO HEADS SECURITY COUNCIL . . .** Andrei Gromyko of Russia, shown with gavel after he assumed the chair as president of the United Nations security council. Gromyko, who will preside for the next 30 days, succeeds Polish ambassador, Oscar Lange. Chairmanship of the security council is rotated among the various nations, each serving only 30 days, according to a compromise agreement reached during early organization days of the United Nations.



**WINS OX-PULLING CONTEST . . .** Operating like a veteran mule skinner, Ronald Wolf, 10, is shown coaxing, with the aid of a whip, his oxen in the ox-pulling contest at the Queens-Nassau agricultural society fair at Mineola, N. Y. Ronald won the contest by inducing his team to pull more than 3,000 pounds of steel on a wooden sled.



**INEXPENSIVE ATOMIC POWER . . .** F. Alden Miller, executive of a Buffalo machinery company, has offered to demonstrate to scientists a device that will produce inexpensive atomic power. "Atomic scientists are trying to dramatize atomic energy and are playing it up with fancy charts and fancy-sounding scientific names trying to make people think it is something super natural," Miller asserted. He has applied for a patent on a rectifier.



**'CEASE FIRE' TRAIN AT LAI YUAN . . .** U. S. marine "cease fire" train acts as intermediary between the Nationalist government of China and the Communist party. It is composed of two officers and three enlisted men. There are six such teams. This one patrols the 100-mile narrow gauge Gung Chin line in an armored train. It appears wherever hostilities have broken out anew and attempts to bring a peaceful settlement between the fighting factions. Both sides praise the team's work.



**JACK TAR'S PAL . . .** This Jackdaw, helping himself to some of the tobacco from the ripped cigarette of a sailor friend, is the mascot of a balloon training center of the British Royal navy at Palmore, England. No one knows who taught him the habit.



**NEW YANKEE PILOT . . .** John Neun, who succeeded Bill Dickey as manager of the New York Yankees, has been Yankee coach since 1944.



**WINS GOLF CROWN . . .** Ted Bishop, Dedham, Mass., with trophy symbol of victory which he won in the national amateur golf championship at Springfield, N. J. He defeated Smiley Quick.



**MISS AMERICA OF 1960 . . .** Little Miss Anne Kenny, 3, of Miami Beach, strikes her prettiest pose after she had been chosen "Miss Playground of 1946." She has a big lead toward becoming Miss America of 1960.



**HERO CHAPLAIN LEAVES . . .** Comdr. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S.J., U.S.N.R., of Cambridge, Mass., hero chaplain of the carrier Franklin and first cleric to get the Congressional Medal of Honor.



### BYRNES MAY RESIGN

WASHINGTON.—Friends of Secretary of State Byrnes have received word that he may have to resign shortly after the end of the Paris peace conference—for reasons of health. The news has come as a great blow to President Truman, who has leaned heavily on Byrnes.

Byrnes' doctors have told him that he might be able to continue as secretary of state provided he took long and periodic rests. However, Byrnes does not believe he should do this. Cordell Hull used to spend several months a year away from his office. In 1942, our first year in the war, he was away a total of six months.

Byrnes has told intimates that conducting the foreign affairs of the United States today is a constant, day-to-day job. He does not feel that a secretary of state can be off the job a minute, and he does not believe it would be fair to the American people for him to take a prolonged rest.

For instance, immediately after the Paris conference is the assembly of the United Nations, now already late. After that comes the Pan American security conference and the regular Pan American conference, to say nothing of various meetings of the United Nations security council.

Byrnes has been hopping back and forth across the Atlantic ever since he became secretary of state. In 15 months he has made seven round trips. Cordell Hull, in 12 long years, made only one air flight across the Atlantic, plus two leisurely steamship trips to Latin America.

In Paris, Byrnes has worked at a terrific pace. Sitting in the peace conference all day, keeping on the alert to watch the moves of rival delegates, is a grueling job. It would wear out a younger man. But by going to bed every night immediately after dinner, Byrnes has kept going.

However, he is no longer young—68—and when the peace conference closes, he will have to decide whether to follow his doctors' advice and resign, or face eventualities.

### MONTY'S POLITICS

Some of those who served in the American command in Europe are lifting their eyebrows over the U. S. visit of dapper, publicity-wise Field Marshal Viscount Montgomery.

Seared in their minds during those bloody months in Europe are certain events involving the famed Monty which personally they would like to forget, but which nationally they hope won't be forgotten—especially in view of the fear of impending war.

General Patton's officers, for instance, remember Patton's race up the west coast of Sicily, in contrast to Montgomery's snail's pace up the east coast. Nobody can blame a commander for having hard luck or necessarily going slow. But what only a few officers around Patton know, and what has never been published, is the telegram he received from the vaunted Montgomery.

Montgomery actually sent Patton a telegram asking him to halt his offensive and wait until he, Monty, caught up. In other words, American troops were going too fast for Monty. He was afraid Patton would envelope not only the enemy, but also the British army. Inside fact is that Patton pretended he never received the telegram, showed it only to a few top aides, later told Monty it never arrived. Patton's army kept on moving.

Later, in the Normandy offensive, Gen. Omar Bradley's officers recall all too vividly how Monty was supposed to break through at Caen, but sat there day after day, yelling at Eisenhower for more troops (American troops). Finally Bradley, Patton and Joe Collins made the American breakthrough at St. Lo, leaving Monty still sitting at Caen.

British papers all this time were featuring headlines: "Monty Pivots at Caen." Actually all the pivoting he did was to break up a few tanks in the Normandy hedgerows.

Shortly after that Eisenhower made General Bradley top field commander, giving him a higher place than Montgomery—a shift that brought such a roar from the British press and Mr. Churchill that Eisenhower later took two armies away from Bradley and gave them to Montgomery.

### MERRY-GO-ROUND

President Truman has told congressional friends he will summon a special session of congress following the November election to deal with skyrocketing prices, the continued housing shortage and other matters, providing the Republican party does not win control of the house of representatives or make material gains in the senate. . . . Truman again has offered the chairmanship of the atomic commission to Undersecretary of State Dean Acheson, but Acheson again declined.

## ASK ME ANOTHER?

- A General Quiz
- The Questions
1. The Chinese are believed to have been the first to discover gunpowder. Was that gunpowder explosive?
  2. What was the seating capacity of the Roman Circus Maximus?
  3. What is the outlet for the Great Salt lake?
  4. The Constitution of the United States requires congress to assemble how often?
  5. What has the United States spent on wars since 1776?
  6. How many persons are normally employed by the motor car industry?

- The Answers
1. No, but it was incendiary.
  2. Estimated at 250,000 people.
  3. It has no outlet.
  4. At least once in every year.
  5. Close to \$414,000,000,000, or more than all the wealth the United States has piled up since the Declaration of Independence.
  6. About 7,000,000. Only 700,000 are employed in the production of cars and parts. The rest are employed in the operation, maintenance and servicing of cars.

## CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

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74 ACRES DAIRY AND TRUCK FARM. Modern house, 7 rooms, hot water heater, burning oil; electricity, New dairy barn, 10 stalls, new silo. Large packing house with farmer's quarters. Magnificent location. Gorgeous views every direction. On surface highway only 2 miles to Mullica Hill; 20 miles Philadelphia; 2-car garage. Large poultry house. Never failing spring in pasture. Ideal for farmer or country gentleman's estate. A really wonderful set-up. Priced for quick sale. \$20,000. 1/2 cash. E. A. PETTIT REAL ESTATE, 706 Cedar Ave., Pitman, N. J. Phone Pitman 3-0628.

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WANTED—U. S. GOLD COINS for my collection. Will pay following prices for coins in fine condition. \$32 for \$20, \$36 for \$10, \$37 for \$5, \$44 for \$2 1/2, \$2 1/2 for \$1. Write for details. P.O. Box 2646, Baltimore 15, Maryland.

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You girls and women who suffer so from simple anemia that you're pale, weak, "dragged out"—this may be due to lack of blood-iron. So try Lydia E. Pinkham's TABLETS—one of the best home ways to build up red blood—in such cases. Pinkham's Tablets are one of the greatest blood-iron tonics you can buy! Ask all druggists. Worth trying!

**That Nagging Backache**

May Warn of Disordered Kidney Action

Modern life with its hurry and worry, irregular habits, improper eating and drinking—its risk of exposure and infection—drags heavy strain on the work of the kidneys. They are apt to become over-taxed and fail to filter excess acid and other impurities from the life-giving blood.

You may suffer nagging backache, headache, dizziness, getting up nights, "dragged out" feeling—feeling constantly tired, nervous, all worn out. Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.

Try Doan's Pills. Doan's help the kidneys to pass off harmful excess body waste. They have had more than half a century of public approval. Are recommended by grateful users everywhere. Ask your neighbor!

**DOAN'S PILLS**

## BARBS . . . by Baukhage

A Kentucky physician received a tribute from his townfolk the other day for delivering 5,492 babies in 47 years. And not a wrong address in a pram-load.

An 84-year-old mountaineer whose 31-year-old wife had a nine pound baby wants the government to increase his old age pension. Not with those young ideas!

Terminal leaves end just like the ones that grow on trees.

A short circuit which tied up the telegraph line in Lombard, Mont., was caused by a big fish lodged on the cross-arm of a telegraph pole. Probably dropped by a fish-hawk which didn't realize there were some currents even a fish couldn't swim against.