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# Washington Digest Life in Soviet Russia Lacks Utopian Promise

By BAUKHAGE

WNU Service, 1616 Eye Street, N.W., Washington, D. C.

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. Tozarish (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 full of news of the "liquidation" of the "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 regular salaries had much more. Hence, the ordinary Russian worker had much less. By way of contrast in Washington, D. C., a complete one-bedroom apartment with a bathroom and kitchen must allow 165 square feet to the living room. 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—it that will do you 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 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 and no soap other than toilet paper—and probably a few relatives to share all that!

Probably you could stand this if you were a laborer at a munitions plant in Russia, according to Fischer, because of the five-year plan for the expansion of heavy industry (said to be a part of the Soviet war program). Russians are going to have a bitterly hard life as far as consumer goods and facilities go, for another 10 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 should the present military preparation.

And what has Communism done for labor in a less developed country? Under the five-year plan industry...

workers' pay is supposed to go up to 500 rubles a month. Fischer estimates the present rate at between 300 and 250, 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 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 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 of labor.

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 government (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, innocent of any kind of political activity, is going to suffer for the sins of his colleagues. Clarence Brown, No. 2 man in the Republican ticket, 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 grudges on the Republican ticket, 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 a feeling that the government is doing it's a natural thing for many of them to decide to vote against the people who have been in office."

This line of reasoning, which is pursued by a good Democrat, might be wishful thinking if he were casting his eyes at the gubernatorial contest in New York state. The Republican ticket for governor and lieutenant governor is being pushed by a good Democrat, might be wishful thinking if he were casting his eyes at the gubernatorial contest in New York state.

The November elections will decide the nation's future—the independent voters, who determine whether the voice of privilege and hate and bigotry will dominate the 80th congress, as they did the old, or whether the progressives who fought against great odds in the 78th 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 dispersers," an expectant, innocent 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 lesser or a less degree, personally responsible for it."

### BARBS . . . by Baukhage

A Kentucky politician received a tribute from his townfolk the other day for delivering 5,492 babies in 47 years. And not a wrong address in a gram-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 telephone pole. Probably dropped by a fish-bawk which didn't realize there were some currents even a fish couldn't swim against.

# NOVI NEWS

By MRS. GEORGE WAITE

Mr. and Mrs. Gus Zessou, who were on a three weeks tour of ten different states, principally in Colorado where they were guests of the Arthur Powers, returned home on Wednesday, accompanied by Mrs. Powers who will remain for a couple of weeks. They report a wonderful trip and beautiful country. They traveled 6,000 miles.

Mr. and Mrs. George Waite entertained ten ladies on Thursday, honoring Mrs. Maggie White. Guests were present from Nook, Winford, Northville, Pontiac, and Redford. Mr. and Mrs. George Hines were Royal Oak visitors on Friday evenings.

Mr. and Mrs. Luther Rix are vacationing for a month by motor. Their destination is California. Ten ladies of the Rebekah Lodge visited the Garland Lodge in Detroit on Wednesday evening, when they saw them put on the work.

Mr. and Mrs. George Kabri are on a week's vacation. Mr. and Mrs. Royce Darling and two children visited at the home of the former's sister in Lincoln Park on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. Frazier Staman, Mr. and Mrs. George Atkinson, accompanied by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Clark of Northville had a picnic dinner on Sunday at the Staman Farm in Farmington.

Mrs. Eliza Nichols is confined to her home by illness. Mr. William Stevenson of Flat Rock is spending a few days at the Equestrian home.

Mrs. Fred Loyles was a Detroit shopper on Tuesday. Mrs. Rowena Salow-entertained her 500 Club on Monday evening at her home on Nov Road.

Little Nadean Hayes, who was seriously injured in an automobile accident and is in Mt. Carmel Hospital with a fractured pelvis, and law, crushed chest and other internal injuries, is reported doing as nicely as can be expected. The

# Good Hunting



BY Greyhound

### V.F.W. Auxiliary To Have Fall Bazaar

The Veterans of Foreign Wars will hold their fall bazaar on Saturday, October 12, at the Farmington Town Hall. The ladies have prepared a large variety of articles which will make excellent Christmas and party gifts. You will find some very attractive and comfortable pillow cases and dresser scarves, just to mention a few of the items that have been made for the bazaar. In addition there will be a bake sale, and you will be able to purchase your own and supply of delicious home baked treats.

Visit the V.F.W. Auxiliary Bazaar on October 11.

For fast, time-saving service direct to your favorite hunting grounds, choose Greyhound as your "sportsman's special!" You'll find Greyhound's frequent schedules will give you extra-shooting time in the field.

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**REGISTRATION NOTICE FOR General Election TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 1946**  
To the Qualified Electors of the Township of Farmington, County of Oakland, State of Michigan:

Notice is hereby given that in conformity with the "Michigan Election Law," I, the undersigned Clerk, will, upon any day, except Sunday and a legal holiday, the day of any regular or special election or primary election, receive for registration the name of any legal voter in said Township not already registered who may APPLY TO ME PERSONALLY for such registration. Provided, however, that I can receive no names for registration during the time intervening between the Twentieth day before any regular, special or official primary election and the day of such election.

The last day for General Registration does not apply to persons who vote under the Absent Voters' Law.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I WILL BE AT 35720 TWELVE MILE ROAD EVERY DAY UNTIL THE 16th OF OCTOBER, and on WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 16, 1946 — Last Day The Twentieth day preceding said Election, as provided by Sec. 3, Chapter 3, Part II, P.A. 306, 1929 and Sec. 1, Chapter 3, Part II, P.A. 1939, Act 31, P.A. 1941, and Act 291, P.A. 1945, at THE TOWNSHIP OFFICE

from 8 o'clock a.m. until 8 o'clock p.m. on said day for the purpose of REVIEWING the REGISTRATION and REGISTERING such of the qualified electors in said TOWNSHIP as SHALL PROPERLY apply therefor.

The name of no person but an ACTUAL RESIDENT of the precinct at the time of registration, and entitled under the constitution, if remaining such resident, to vote at the next election, shall be entered in the registration book.

I will also be at the Township Office October 8 and October 11 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

**HARRY McCracken**  
Township Clerk  
Oct. 3-10

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