

# Independent Romania's Slave To Old Soviet Policy

BUCHAREST -- Romania is the paradox of Eastern Europe, feebly independent, slavishly imitative of the old Soviet model in its internal policy.

For the last five years, at the direct risk of Russian reprisal, Romania has pursued a nationalistic policy seemingly calculated to give the most possible affront to its giant northern neighbor.

IT HAS REFUSED to play its assigned role as peasant to the East under the Soviet-inspired decree of the Communist-Bloc Council for Mutual Economic Assistance that it concentrate on agriculture, not industry.

It has refused to serve as dutiful foot soldier in the Warsaw Pact, criticizing the continued presence of Russian troops in Eastern Europe and rejecting Moscow's new demand that the bloc countries give up a part of their sovereignty to a joint political commissariat.

It has refused to accept outside intervention, even in the form of "friendly advice" from other Communists, and it walked out of the International Communist meeting in Budapest last March when Syrian party representatives criticized its Middle East policy.

Alone among the Communist countries, it has refused to break relations with Israel and it now conducts a flourishing trade with the Jewish state while paying muted tip service to the Arab line.

It has refused to accept continued exploitation by the Russians (who extracted \$2.5 billion in reparations even though Romania ended World War II as an ally) and has shifted half its trade to the West, where it seeks the advanced technology to make an even greater economic break with the East.

It has refused to accept continued cultural domination, has abolished Russian as a compulsory language in the schools, has erased Russian street names, and has turned the nation back to its ancient Western roots. Next fall, it will introduce a new school system, eliminating the last traces of Soviet influence and dropping Marxism-Leninism as a required course in the universities.

IN SHORT, Romania has adopted, in the words of one of the most experienced Western observers here, a foreign policy "as independent as Yugoslavia's."

Yet in its internal policy, Romania remains probably the most old-fashioned of the European Communist states. Only last year, men with beards were being forcibly shaved on the streets of Bucharest and the police were ripping miniskirts off young girls.

Early this year the Communist Party reaffirmed its ban on any unauthorized association with foreigners and party cadre underscored the seriousness of the offense in small meetings with the people throughout the country.

Unlike some other Eastern European countries where there was a measure of personal freedom before the war, there is little pressure from below in Romania, which has experienced 2,000 years of repression and foreign domination. The people seem to accept dictation from the top as an inevitable fact of life and to adapt to it either through apathy or devout personal aggrandizement.

Despite its Socialist pretensions, Romania is probably the most aristocratic nation in Europe with the discrepancy between the privileged and the unprivileged as great or greater than in Spain.

The economy is run with a tight hand by a few central planners who command prices, commodities, prestige and power in an almost Stalin-like fashion.

THE LEADERS of the 1,900,000-member Communist Party live sparsely in the former houses of the rich and the middle class, enjoying personal servants and all the modern appliances, most of Western make. They ride in chauffeur-driven Mercedes, eat ostentatiously at the best restaurants, and vacation in their own villas in the mountains or by the Black Sea.

Meanwhile, the rest of the 19,000,000 Romanians live not much better than they did before the war. The country is being rapidly industrialized but the investment capital is being taken, as a knowing observer here put it, "out of the hides of the peasants," who still comprise at least half of the population.

The situation has become so scandalous that party leader Nicolae Ceausescu felt compelled to address himself to the problem at the party's central committee meeting last month. He denounced "flagrant and unjustified disproportions in the living standards of some sections of our population" and said it was creating the "image in our social life of privileged persons whose income does not represent the real equivalent of

their contribution to the creation of the national wealth."

"Undoubtedly," he added, "such a situation is of a nature to create discontent in the ranks of public opinion, affecting the principle of social

equity which the party is duty bound to unswervingly promote within the Socialist system."

Ceausescu called for an end to the practice of Communists holding two or more jobs within

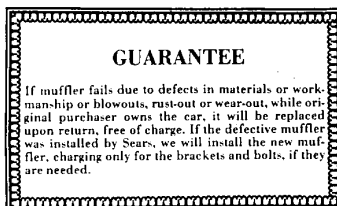
the party and the government and drawing down multiple salaries. But there is serious questions as to whether he can do much about it, since there is a broad, unspoken awareness among the comrades that their

privileges are, in effect, guaranteed by the Russians. For in a certain sense, the Romanian paradox is really a subtle device by which the regime secures the tolerance of the people by playing on his-



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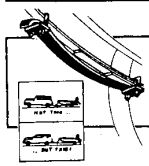
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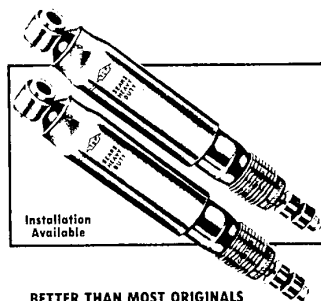
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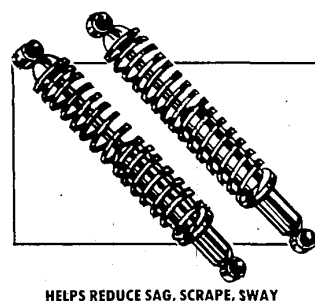


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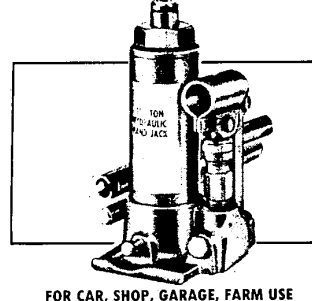


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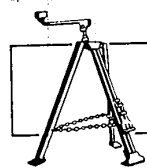
1½-Ton Capacity

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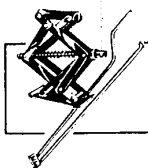
3-Ton Capacity 15.49 5-Ton Capacity 19.99  
8-Ton Capacity 22.99 12-Ton Capacity 26.99  
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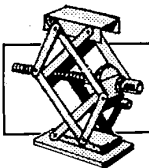
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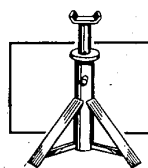
**One-Speed Jack**  
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Lifts 1½ tons from 5 to 14½ inch. 1 to 1 turning ratio. 30" folding handle. 3½x7 inch base. For light duty.



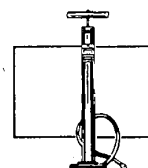
**Two-Speed Jack**  
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Lifts 2 tons from 4½" to 16½"; 4 to 1 ratio for power lift, 1 to 1 ratio for speed lift, lowering. 48" handle.



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