

# Battalion Editorials

Page 2 TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 1951

## Bolshevism: Past and Present

ANTI-NAZI Joseph Bornstein has recently written a book "The Politics of Murder" which shows instances in which murder has been the chief political weapon of the Soviet. He also expresses the idea that Stalinism differs widely from both the views of Trotsky and Lenin.

A brief excerpt of his opinions follow. "Although it may be too early to know the destiny of the Bolshevist convulsions in Russia and other once-feudalistic or half feudalistic countries of Eastern Europe and Asia, it is also possible that the amazing similarities between the Stalin regime and the rule of Czar Ivan the Terrible and other Russian tyrants will become more distinct in the future than they are today and that Stalinism will be established in history as having been nothing but the modern form of an ancient Russian governmental system. The Communist regime in Russia has paralleled in many ways the retrogression of the regimes of despotic reformers who ruled Russia in former centuries enriching their country with technical innovation, but maintaining the division of the nation between a small group of masters and a population of slaves, both excluded from the benefits of Western knowledge.

"Neither the personal role played by Joseph Stalin in the record of Bolshevist crimes, nor the fact that the most remarkable of these crimes were committed against his own party comrades, justified the conclusion that Stalinism is merely the ugly deterioration of the original bolshevism of Leninism. There is considerable evidence for the belief that the first Bolshevist leaders, Lenin and Trotsky, were men of greater stature than Stalin, both intolerant of the kind of deification of their person which Stalin demanded and accomplished for himself, both perhaps incapable of committing crimes after the manner of Stalin or of making the more stupid of his political mistakes.

"Behind the walls of a Mexican prison, La Penitenciaría, lives a mysterious prisoner. Who he is not known—except by a few who do not talk; but it is known that he is not the man he pretends to be. The judges who in 1943 found him guilty of murder were convinced that the name he used was fictitious, and they had ample proof that everything he told the police and the court regarding his identity, his family, and his past was untrue. His real name, his origin, even his nationality, were never established."

The masked prisoner of the Penitenciaría calls himself Jaques Mornard Vandendresend and claims to be a Belgian, born in Persia in 1904. He is the murderer of the man whom Joseph Stalin hated most, Leon Trotsky.

"General Walter Krivitsky, the former Soviet intelligence chief who turned against Stalin, was expected to testify at the trial of Trotsky's killer. But one day in February 1941, General Krivitsky was found dead in a Washington hotel room—an apparent sui-

cide. But his widow and friends have never for a moment ceased to believe that his was another political murder."

The very apparatus employed by Stalin for the assassination of Trotsky and many others had been built when Lenin and Trotsky were the heads of the Soviet regime. Under their leadership it is true, the Cheka and GPU were declared and perhaps believed to be temporary institutions, enforced upon the Bolshevist regime by the bitter necessities of self defense in a period of civil war.

"According to old Bolshevist maxims, Stalin was right when he saw no reason to abstain from any measure he believed would solidify the party by strengthening his personal position. If the end justified the means and nothing but expediency counts, "striking innocent heads" must seem permissible, not only in the event of actual danger for the cause and its leaders but also a measure of prevention—in expectation or fear of a threat which might arise in the future. Logically, Stalin could assume the right to do anything in particular against his own party comrades. Expediency was reason to sacrifice their lives or demand that they sacrifice themselves "for the cause," even going so far as to "confess" themselves traitors, spies, and murderers, and to accept death from the hands of the party leader's executioners.

"Today, the spectacle of the Moscow purge trials is no longer mysterious and confusing as it appeared in former years. Efforts to give political murder the appearance of a genuine legal procedure have meanwhile become a constant feature of totalitarian politics. The fashion of show trials in which defendants "confess" non-existent crimes, has been reported from Soviet Russia to Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Poland, and Romania. It has become evident that the extortion of confessions is a relatively simple manner wherever a totalitarian type of Justice covers the maneuvers of totalitarian Police.

"In summing up Bornstein's treatment of Stalinism it must be said that we were certainly using non democratic institutions during World War II in an effort to further the American way of life, or so we thought.

The results bear out a statement made by Carl Schurz years ago: "It is a matter of historical experience that nothing that is wrong in principle can be right in practice. People are apt to delude themselves on that point, but the ultimate result will always prove the truth of the maxim."

We are not accomplished students of History.

Outline in the Grand Rapids (Mich.) Herald: "While 40 or 50 young persons work picture puzzles, play games inside or ball in the yard outside the Methodist Communist House, there's nearly always..."

## The Battalion

Lawrence Sullivan Ross, Founder of Aggie Traditions  
"Soldier, Statesman, Knightly Gentleman"

News contributions may be made by telephone (4-5444) or at the editorial office, Room 201, Goodwin Hall. Classified ads may be placed by telephone (4-5324) or at the Student Activities Office, Room 209, Goodwin Hall.

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## Aggie Grad Is ECA Man In Capital

By TEX EASLEY  
Washington, Jan. 23.—Four Texans hold key jobs in a program aimed at helping free nations to help themselves.

They are employed by the State Department in the Mutual Defense Assistance Program (MDAP). Their jobs deal with allocating funds to the various government agencies which have a hand in the program, and with determination of the military value of particular operations.

The MDAP liaison officer who works with the armed services is Eli Stevens, a graduate of West Point who was promoted to Colonel before he retired because of combat injuries received in North African fighting.

Richard B. Beardsley, El Paso; Floyd B. Moyer, Denison, and Dero J. Cagle, San Antonio, handle disbursement of funds to the armed services, Commerce Department and other government units carrying out the defense assistance program.

Still another Texan in a related field of foreign assistance is E. N. (Skinny) Holmgreen of Bryan, a Texas Aggie of the class of 1922. Holmgreen is deputy director of the food and agriculture division of the Economic Cooperation Administration.

His job is to see that the war-torn countries outside the iron curtain get adequate food, and the materials to rebuild their agricultural economy. About half the \$8,000,000,000 spent so far on the ECA has gone into the program in which the former Texas county agent is active.

After finishing A&M, he worked in the extension services at College Station and was Galveston county agent from 1941 to 1943, before entering the army. He was with the American Military Government for a period in Austria. He was in the 36th Division's invasion of Salerno, and was with a group of 38 ex-Aggies of the VI corps who held a muster on the beachhead of Anzio on April 21, 1944.

His wife, Claire, is from Carpio Springs. They have a son, J. N., living in Houston; another son, Richard, of Bryan, and a daughter, Shirley, who is studying aeronautical engineering at the University of Texas.

## Vets Will Hold Rights If in School

"Veterans in training under the GI Bill of Rights at the time they are called back in the service or when they volunteer for active duty will retain their World War II educational benefits," Taylor Wilkins, veterans advisor, said today. "Those not in training at that time," Wilkins points out, "will lose their benefits."

The veterans advisor said that "in the next few months many more veterans of World War II will be called back into federal service. During the fall semester, 1950, Texas A&M had 1640 veterans of World War II enrolled. But of that number, 35 were called back into the service."

Wilkins says that "under the existing regulations, a veteran must be in training during the spring semester 1951 (which begins on January 29, or in a summer session starting before July 25, 1951) in order to retain his benefits. A veteran must then attend each fall and spring semester thereafter until he uses up his benefits or until July 25, 1956 except the school teachers. Teachers do not necessarily have to attend fall and spring as long as they teach but they must train each summer."

## Landowners May Still Get Seedlings

One and three-quarter million slash pine seedlings for reforestation purposes are still available to Texas landowners, Don Young, head of the Texas Forest Service Management Department, advised today. A record production of 19 million seedlings was grown this year at the Indian Mound Nursery in Cherokee County. This nursery is operated by the Texas Forest Service.

The deadline for ordering seedlings is Jan. 31. The planting season extends into March. Orders submitted in January may specify a February or March delivery date. Seedlings are sold to landowners at cost, \$3 per thousand for slash pine and \$5 per thousand for the hardwood species. Hardwood species available and suitable for use in East Texas include black locust, green ash, bois d'arc and catalpa.

Individuals desiring planting information should contact their district forester or write the Texas Forest Service, College Station. Orders for seedlings should be submitted direct to the Indian Mound Nursery, Alto.

## The Ballad Of Grade Point Davis

By Ned Sneed

Where the Brazos River winds through the land of cotton there stands a school Where those inside only wish they were out and curse themselves for a fool.

Here's where they teach the cowboys to ride and the M. E.'s to engineer, And the B. A.'s to sit in a swivel chair and the freshmen to guzzle the beer.

The exes are all mighty proud of the place . . . They show off their nuggets with pride. They say that when they were here it was rough, and many a good freshman died.

The climate is bad . . . no women around . . . Some stories are false, you can tell at a glance, but most are truer than words.

When I think of this God-forsaken place, I remember a buddy of mine Who lived across the hall from me and had a hell of a time.

Davis came up from Old San Antone with a slipstick in his hand.

He wanted to learn all there was to learn and make his mark in the land.

Before he got through his Junior year he went head-over-heels for a girl.

I met her a couple of time myself, and, pardner, she was a pearl!

He wanted to marry her right away, but of course her folks said, "No."

He was only a measly Junior M. E. Where would he get any dough?

So he sweated and bled as the months dragged by while she worked in a cheap dance hall.

He thought, "Could I only graduate, I would take her away from it all."

He wasn't too bright, but he plugged right along, and for him it was really a fight.

When thermo and 417 had him down, he'd study from morning 'til night.

In his last semester he did well enough except for that 446. He thought he could work all the problems and such, but on quizzes he took all the licks.

The prof was a good guy, but screwball, you know who talked of Swiss steaks and the sort.

His class time was filled with pop quizzes and jokes. Old Davis was beat from the start.

As the time to start finals came rolling around, and the prof added up all the grades.

The average for Davis was just sixty-eight. (with deductions for pop quizzes made)

This was revolting! . . . A stab in the back! . . . This meant a final to take!

And to turn in a "C" on a final like this he'd have to have plenty of breaks.

He went to his room, and he bolted the door, and he started racking his mind.

A freshman with coffee came in every hour to help him to live through the grind.

He cursed and he cried, and he wished he had died 'til the whites of his eyes had turned blue.

But he'd look at Her picture, and she seemed to say, "Please, darling, I'm waiting for you."

The final was just as he knew it would be. His slipstick was worn down an inch.

He worked all three hours and didn't get through, but he felt that a "C" was a cinch.

He went home by air (Air you going my way?) to tell his sweetheart the news.

But the grade on his quiz back in old Aggie land was, in round numbers, seventy-two.

### "LET'S GET TOGETHER," SAYS LOU

A deal with Lou is a steal for you. Swap him five for four, at LOUPOT'S TRADING POST North Gate

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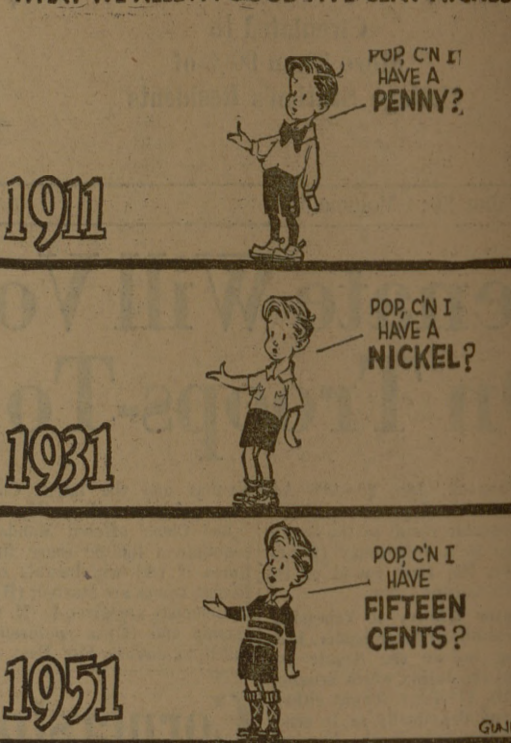
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When Strong Men Tremble  
A Pawn of Fate  
The Uninvited  
MEANWHILE  
STRANGLE HIM!!

### WHAT WE NEED: A GOOD FIVE CENT NICKEL



## Cows Reach Butterfat Goal

The Texas Agricultural Experiment Station recently announced that 13 Jersey cows in the experimental herd had each produced more than a ton of butterfat.

The total amount produced by these cows was 449 tons of milk and 22 tons of butterfat. This is enough milk to give every person in a community of 1100 persons one quart of milk a day for a year.

Based on the average price received by the Station for their milk and the average price paid for feed during their lives, this group returned \$36,481 profit above feed costs, plus the value of their offspring.

These cows range in age from 8 to 17 years. Production ranged from 130,391 pounds of milk and 5,892 pounds of butterfat to 50,392 pounds of milk and 2,372 pounds of butterfat.

Several of these cows would be recognized as official "Ton of Gold" cow by the American Jersey Cattle Club if all of their records had been made under the supervision of the club.

To qualify as a "Ton of Gold" cow, a cow must produce at least 2,000 pounds of butterfat within four years while on either Register of Merit or Herd Improvement Registry testing program.

Accidents are caused by careless people.

## Previous Lesson Pays Driver Well

Corsicana, Tex. —(AP)— Experience is the best teacher, the maximum goes, and R. D. Chamber, used car dealer of Dallas, is prone to believe it.

A well dressed, masked gunman got into Chamber's car as the dealer waited a traffic light change here.

This had happened to Chamber before.

The gunman, white and about 30, escaped with about \$10 after forcing Chamber to drive about a mile east of Corsicana.

But Chamber had learned about being hijacked. He carried two wallets. The "other" one contained over \$100.

## Kramer to Conduct Training Program

A. L. Kramer, field instructor for Texas Engineering Extension Service, will conduct Unit I of the Supervisory Training Program for the Eden-Birch Lumber Company at Cleveland, Texas until Jan. 28.

Unit I analyzes the supervisor's job. It includes a discussion of the responsibilities of the supervisor for job training and practice in job instruction. Supervisors meeting the minimum requirement of the twenty hour unit will be awarded certificates by the Texas Engineering Extension Service.

Socio With  
The Smorgan Friday evening the A&M W. Foods Group, husbands with A&M Christia  
The setting that of the " in Los Angeles other in the s in the Unite has featured  
Hostess for R. M. Steverl at the door by Richardson, w  
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