

Battalion Editorials

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THE BATTALION WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 1952

Ike And Adlai Move Along Singing A Song

TEXAS WAS in the spotlight of the national political scene yesterday as Gen. Eisenhower brought his big brass band through on tour singing some new hit parade tunes. Like all tunes, they went in one ear and out the other.

Among the favorites enjoyed by Texans were: "Truman's administration is weak-kneed and soft headed . . . power hungry . . . discredited . . ." Here's the way things went:

In Houston, an estimated 65,000 persons wildcatted as Ike threw a few hot songs at Stevenson and Harry.

And the general was happy. It was his birthday and he now is 62 years old.

Stevenson was rolling through Wyoming

Women Offered ROTC Training

CHANCES OF WOMEN students taking Air Force ROTC courses at A&M are nil, but at other colleges across the country, it's the thing.

AF ROTC courses now are open to women students at several universities beginning with this fall semester. The Air Reservists, a Department of the Air Force publication, said recently.

Women may take this training at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania and at the Universities of Georgia, Utah, and Maryland.

Coeds are allowed to enroll for the same course of study offered male students and receive full academic credit for their ROTC studies as elective subjects.

There is no practical need for the women's course here at the present time. State law covers the situation.

It is a good thing to be rich and a good thing to be strong, but it is a better thing to be loved by many friends.—Euripides

Absentee Voting Easy For Freedom

PLANNING TO VOTE? Away from home? Read on:

The absentee ballot will enable you to vote for Ike or Adlai on Nov. 4 in your own home town. Your vote will be counted there as if you had cast the ballot personally.

If you are a Texas resident, write to your county clerk and enclose 15 cents in coin with your poll tax receipt or exemption. He will send you a ballot. When you receive it, get the ballot notarized before marking it. After you have marked it, mail the ballot back to your county clerk.

Absentee balloting requirements are different in every state. If your home is not in Texas, write to your local county clerk for information about absentee balloting.

Protect your freedom—vote.

singing "Republican bosses have fought with blind fury" against all programs aimed at bolstering the nation's prosperity.

Five thousand persons greeted Ike at Waco. The general told them, "It is pure unadulterated bunk . . ." (interruption by cheers.) " . . . that if I am elected, I will pull the rug right out from under the farmers."

But Stevenson was strumming along with a tuning fork claiming "Old Guard Republicans own the Republican Party hoofs, hide, and tallow . . ."

And the vice presidential candidates?

Sen. Sparkman spoke to an AFL union and told them the Democrats have a basic philosophy of "doing things" while the Republicans "stand pat."

Sen. Nixon was on a television program again (it does wonders to women) and he contended that Stevenson's record on communism disqualified him for the presidency.

Stevenson's remark about the program was typical of what all the candidates are doing now. When asked if he would answer Nixon he said, "I don't think so."

Few are thinking.

Communist's Story In Russia Today

VESTERDAY IS history.

Yet few of our books now used in history courses can present to us the rapidly changing policies and conditions of different countries.

And the next best thing to having someone speak to you on rapidly changing issues, is to read current commentaries and reports.

We plan to bring to you these current reports.

Starting in today's publication is the first of a series of articles concerning "Stalin's Hoax on Communism."

Stalin has replaced "The Communist Manifesto" as planned by Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels with a theory of his own.

Gone are their ideas that "The Communists disdain to conceal their views and aims; that the proletarians have nothing to lose but their chains; that the Communists seek to rescue education from the influence of the ruling class; that in proportion as to the exploitation of one individual by another is put an end to, the exploitation of one nation by another will also be put an end to; that free education is for all children in public schools; that the theory of communism may be summed up in a single sentence: Abolition of private property."

These articles written by a man who has seen the story first hand behind the Iron Curtain is as interesting as it is factual.

We hope you will read and study it critically.

That action is best which procures the greatest happiness for the greatest numbers.—Francis Hutcheson

STALIN'S HOAX

On The Communists

Today's politics in the United States are causing many varied opinions "on who is corrupt where." But of one thing all Americans seem certain: Russia is up to no good. Yet few of these same Americans know why this is so.

Starting in The Battalion today is one of a series of articles taken from The Christian Science Monitor. The articles were written by Ernest S. Pisko, who spent considerable time behind the Iron Curtain and upon multitudinous research. We feel these articles will help clarify many questions you might have on Russian communism and the change it has undergone.—The Editors.

By ERNEST S. PISKO

Staff Writer of The Christian Science Monitor

In an attempt to refute Abraham Lincoln and "fool all the people all the time," Soviet Prime Minister Joseph Stalin has played a gigantic hoax not only on the 25 million card-bearing members of the various Communist parties and the Soviet people but on the world in general and the western democracies in particular. And he almost carried it off unnoticed.

The purpose of his hoax was to make people within and without the Soviet sphere believe that the Bolsheviki system is identical with communism.

This does not mean that communism is better than Bolshevism. It means that the two have little in common. Communism, as will become abundantly clear in the course of this series, is an outmoded and unworkable socio-economic theory. It reflects conditions as they were a hundred years ago, and it was unworkable even then on account of its inner contradiction between total freedom and total organization. Today, with every aspect of life—except the moral one—affected, and in many instances transformed, by fantastic technological progress, the Marxist doctrine is less workable than ever.

Revised Plan to Avert Defects

Stalin apparently recognized this fact earlier than any other of the leading Bolsheviki. Indeed, there may be ample justification to ascribe his personal triumph as well as his successful stewardship of the Soviet Union to his insight into the fundamental defects of Marxist communism and to his decision—reached some time between 1925 and 1928—to revise the blueprints and change the structure of the Soviet state while in the midst of the building process.

How complete a reversal of the Marxist doctrine Stalin has brought about during the past 25 years can be seen by comparing Karl Marx's key tenets with their present counterparts in the Soviet Union.

To start with the economic features, since these probably are the first ones everybody thinks of when communism is discussed:

In the Communist state, as designed by Marx and Engels, all private property, inheritance rights, taxation, and profit were to be abolished.

In the Soviet Union, people may own property. They own their clothing—whether it be one threadbare and patched suit or a wardrobe full of the finest wearing apparel. They own their furniture, their books, their stamp collections, their automobiles, motorcycles, or bicycles. If they belong to the upper classes, they may own a house or even several houses.

Tax Bite Hits Little Man Hard

Their own savings accounts and government bonds—both of which earn interest. In contrast to the Communist Manifesto, which expressly abolished inheritance rights, Soviet citizens can dispose of their property in their wills in exactly the same manner as citizens of western democracies. And just as western people have to pay taxes to their governments, so do the Soviet people. But there is quite an interesting difference.

In western democratic countries, turnover or sales taxes are regarded as unfair to the economically weaker groups of the population and therefore are kept within narrow limits. In the Soviet Union, there is a turnover tax on every item. Its scale ranges from 26 per cent for certain types of shoes to 80 per cent on salt and 71 per cent on beer. The factory man-



ager, who earns \$1,000 or \$1,500 a month, and factory night watchman who earns \$135, are fully equal before the turnover tax law.

Evidence of deliberately fostered inequality can be found in every sphere of Soviet activity. Details will be given in the following articles of this series. They will show the hierarchical setup not only of the Soviet Communist Party but of the entire state, as evidenced in the reestablishment of rank distinctions in the Soviet Army and the civil service, in the selection of candidates for higher education, and in the ruthless enforcement of discipline in factories and on the farms.

Cultural Outlets Stifled By Danger

Perhaps the most striking example of Stalin's deviation from Marxism is the role which the profit motive plays in Soviet affairs. In writing about this dream-state, Marx and Engels occasionally implied that some portions of this blueprint would have to be realized gradually over a considerable period of time. But they never allowed any doubt that the "capitalist" striving for profit would be banned from the Communist state right from the beginning.

However, instead of being alien to the Soviet citizens, the profit motive now dominates their thinking and their activities. Their struggle for the ruble is all the more intense since they have hardly any opportunity for satisfying their nonmaterialistic interests in freedom.

They cannot go to church without risking their reputation or their job. They cannot travel in their own state without asking for permits. They cannot read the books they like, listen to the music they like, and view the films they like, and they cannot discuss the books, the music, the films, and so on, without risking that some members of their family or some of their friends will denounce them for "subversive attitudes."

Stalin Distorts Theory

The only thing Soviet citizens can do if they want to live in peace is to work. The harder they work, the more money they will make, and then they will be able not only to afford some luxuries but also to climb up a few steps on the social ladder. This is one of the reasons why the ruble now looms so large in their consciousness—it is the symbol of distinction, the key to success, the measure of all recognized values. Another reason is that it is very hard for the Soviet masses to earn the amount of rubles necessary for a most modest life.

As radically as in the case of the economic tenets, Stalin either has done away with most of the other key features of Marxism or has distorted them beyond recognition.

The Communist society which Marx envisaged was to be classless; it was to express the will of its overwhelming majority, and this will was to be ascertained by strictly democratic means; it was to be impervious to such "bourgeois" emotions as nationalism or such "bourgeois vices" as imperialism.

The Soviet Union today is a super capitalistic, militaristic, hierarchical, and tyrannical state. It has taken over from capitalism the profit motive and such features, obsolete in western countries, as the piecework system and restrictions on labor's freedom of movement. It is militaristic because of its preferential treatment accorded to members of the armed forces, the militarization of youth, and the government's ever-present will to use military pressure for foreign political ends. It is a hierarchy modeled on the pattern of ancient Egypt. Every Soviet citizen's standing in society (See STALIN'S HOAX, Page 6)

The Battalion

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

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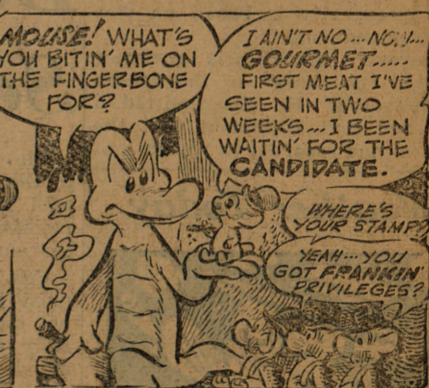
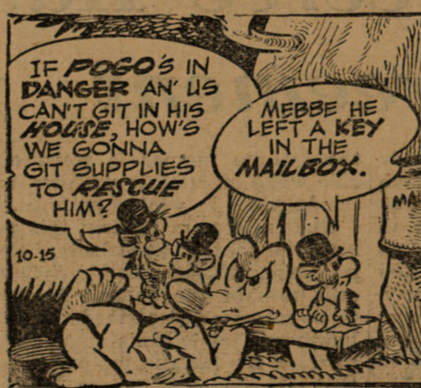
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