

George Sokolsky The Welfare State Drifts To Socialism

OF ALL of us in Petrograd in October, 1917, John Reed was most stirred by the Bolshevik revolution. He wrote a little book, "Ten Days That Shook the World," in which he said in 1919:

"It is still fashionable after a whole year of the Soviet government, to speak of the Bolshevik insurrection as an 'adventure.' Adventure it was, and one of the most marvelous mankind ever embarked upon, sweeping into history at the head of the tolling banners, and staking everything on their vast and simple desires . . ."

John Reed did not live long enough to discover that the 10 days that shook the world produced not freedom but slavery.

MANY followed Reed into Russia. Young men and women, in particular young intellectuals, viewing the inequalities of the world in which they live and from which they benefit, often confuse the word for the act, the promise for the deed.

It was in 1919 the vast propagandistic organization of international Communism has been focusing attention on the faults of every country. In the United States, young people found inequalities, discriminations, prejudices which discriminated them—in fact, among the rich, the socially elect, those benefiting by every advantage in life, young men and women who in the 1890's and early 1900's might have gone into reform movements or social work, found an outlet for their indignation against the effects of the depression, against the inequalities of opportunity.

They joined what became Communist front organizations. A young man I know first joined various organizations favorable to more popular education, and then other far Eastern countries. He soon found himself involved in movements against discrimination of Negroes.

He found that his huge contributions (he is a millionaire) were acceptable everywhere. He found his education, his personality were always welcome. Nearly all the people he met on one committee were on another—and they were an interesting crowd, writers, poets, artists, revolutionists. He is now a big shot in American Communism.

DID he drift? Maybe. Maybe he drifted as a boy drifts into any gang. But there is more to it than that—much more. In the first place, this young man suffered from a kind of "blue" which his ancestors gather together millions of dollars while others, working along with them, got so little? Why did they own palaces when so many lived in hovels and tenements?

This, to such a young man, was a deeply emotional matter; he could not appreciate the problems he faced with cold logic. He had been to our best schools; he had been to our best universities; he had read all the books that an intelligent young man should read in the modern world—modern economics, modern sociology; he believed in the materialistic interpretation of history.

BUT here is what happened not to the particular young man I have just mentioned, but to many others. They got jobs in various departments of government. They produced an altogether new form of administration, one as closely modeled on the Russian pattern as was possible in the United States. They used a new language; wrote new history books; established a new concept of economics for our country.

They used their power to build here the welfare state—a state in which by taxation, by administrative law, by decrees issued by administrative agencies, the middle class would be driven into the proletariat, and the proletariat would become the spoils of labor unions which they controlled by gaining the administrative positions in them.

WHILE the war helped them to move into important positions, they nevertheless were not sufficiently efficient to succeed altogether. It is a miracle that they did so little. The old institutions, forces laid loose in 1917 were moving swiftly and effectively throughout the world.

They failed in the United States, but the resistance of the American people was being worn down. A new generation appeared which had come under their influence. It could not accept Russia nor even Communism—but it did not possess the background, the knowledge, the ideals to resist the welfare-state—the inevitable forerunner of Socialism.

Washington Background Top Truman Aides Gave Party Funds After Nov. 2

By The Inquirer Washington Bureau Staff

WASHINGTON, Jan. 14. THE campaign contribution of Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, the President's military aide, was one of those received by the Democratic National Committee after the election. The committee recently reported that Vaughan's donation of \$1000 was received on Nov. 3. The checks of several Cabinet members also bore post-election date marks, including Secretary of Defense James Forrestal, Secretary of Commerce Charles Sawyer, Secretary of Agriculture Charles F. Brannan, and Postmaster General Jesse M. Donaldson. Brannan and Donaldson, however, were active workers during the campaign.

While owners of buildings along the route of the inaugural parade are offering vantage points for from \$3 to \$12 for three hours, Government employees working in permanent and temporary Government buildings along Pennsylvania ave. will see the parade for free. The only hitch is that there is not enough window space to accommodate the hundreds of employees in each of the buildings. In order to avoid the charge of discrimination, the heads of a number of agencies housed in the Government buildings will draw lots for the coveted window positions.

These hospital people! The other day the special inauguration committee in charge of the listing of rooms in private homes for the accommodation of out-of-town visitors received a letter from a woman offering a room in her home. This is the way she described it: "Large sunny room, facing park, beautiful view—next door to casualty hospital."

Another noted that her home was near St. Elizabeth's—Washington's hospital for mental cases—which might be an advantage after four or five days on the inaugural merry-go-round. Still another family wrote that they were very friendly people and would serve cocktails to their inaugural house guests—but only in the evening.

A man offered a room for a "couple" or "two ugly women," explaining that his wife was very jealous.

Every four years, we have just learned, the Navy Department has to discontinue hiring civilian employees for a period of three months. Reason for the hiatus in employment is a statute of 1876 which forbids the Navy from hiring civilians for a period of three months before a Presidential election. The law carries an escape clause but this can be taken advantage of only by going through a series of legal maneuvers involving consent of the Bureau of the Budget and the President. No one exactly knows the purpose of the statute, but the Navy finds it an irritating nuisance and would like to have it repealed by the present Congress.

A golden retriever named Tawny, whose owners are Mr. and Mrs. Charles Bruggmann (Bruggmann is the Minister of Switzerland and Mrs. Bruggmann a sister of Henry A. Wallace) has taken a fancy (possibly Swiss) leave.

The Bruggmanns blame the mild winter, which has kept late flowering plants in bloom in Washington, for Tawny's disappearance. An inveterate sniffer of flowers, Tawny, so the Bruggmanns conjecture, has gone off on a sniffing tour and may not be back until the temperature drops below freezing.

The Federal Works Administration has awarded a \$250 prize to Fred L. Hartman, one of its electricians, for inventing a safe method of disposing of fluorescent light tubes. Hartman used to hurl them into a barrel and run to safety before they crashed. Warned by his chief that this was dangerous, he tried breaking them under water in a sink, but this got him very wet. Then he tried crushing them in a burlap bag, only to suffer minor scratches from flying splinters. Finally he contrived a metal trough with flaps inside. The tube is inserted into the trough and broken when the lid is closed. A vacuum hose draws off the poisonous gases and powder.

Ivan H. Peterman
Reckless Drivers Using
City Streets as Speedways

PERHAPS it's the contrast to the motorized Europe. Possibly it's because they don't have so many cars, or so many demons dressed up as drivers. Possibly it's the lack of gasoline, roads and places to go. Or it might be that people over there, having survived the war, are not interested in going hell-for-leather to morgues and hospitals—for no reason.

But the idea of this column is to suggest that Philadelphia motorists, in the judgment of a returned American, are a constant menace.

IN THE space of the last 14 days, this operator has been twice smashed up by speeding vehicles. Both times he considered himself lucky the damage was only to the car. In both cases, the offending driver was going at such excessive rate of speed, he didn't have a chance to control his vehicle. He simply plowed into my car, stopping before the usual coordination job on fenders and body.

And in both cases, the driver, unhurt, emerged yelling loudly against his victim as if more concerned that his mad journey was interrupted. In one case, a drunk female passenger stepped out and added her profanity. I tell you, it's a shock, coming back to this hippodrome, and attempting to steer clear of fools.

The Labor Front Unions Delay Clean-Up in Own House

By Victor Riesel

NOT so long ago this chap died and when they opened his safe deposit box they discovered he was worth \$100,000. Another fellow, whom you might consider in the dead man's circle, can spend some \$200,000 a year without asking too many persons for permission.

Still another owns a string of race horses; another's wife was robbed of \$10,000 in jewelry in her swank hotel suite where she lives, although she could take her pick of any number of apartments in buildings owned by her husband. And another owns a fashionable steak house which served the choicest black market meat all through the war.

WHO am I talking about? The Union League Club? Hardly. The gentlemen I refer to, you might say, lead a sort of league of unions. They exploit the little guys they talk for, little guys whose dollar of union dues gives the chiefs the prestige to operate in fields far from the bargaining table.

These are the men who lead textile labor, ladies' garment and men's clothing workers, steel union auto workers and military needle trades, among many others.

WHAT of others who control millions of good working stiff? Right now we find John Lewis' union taking in \$18,000,000 or more in extra dues, keeping hundreds of men on a special payroll totaling millions yearly, just for the job of trying to carve up other unions.

RIGHT now there is in the highest policy making council of a powerful labor federation a union chief who has horded his AFL credit by protesting against the appointment of International Labor Office President David Morse because Mr. Morse is Jewish. It was as blunt as that.

RIGHT now papers are a hundred "labor papers" which the honest union chiefs resent, but which take in more than many a small daily because they're protected by other union leaders who in one way or another get a cut of the take which comes out of terrorized firms.

RIGHT now there still are many thousands of men running local unions which never hit the spotlight, like the Plymouth auto local which although the membership voted last year to support Harry Truman, the leaders disdainfully ignored the rank-and-file and turned funds over to the Henry A. Wallace (remember him?) campaign.

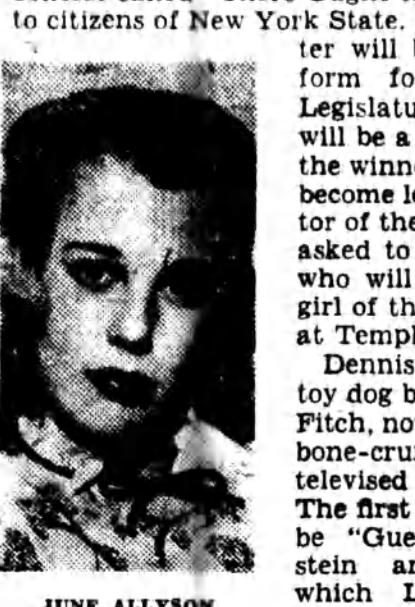
RIGHT now is the time to clean house—so the honest men don't get smeared and the little guys get a break. With power comes responsibility. Let's see some of it.

THEY'LL DO IT EVERY TIME

Gossip of the Nation

Danton Walker

THIS WACKY WORLD:

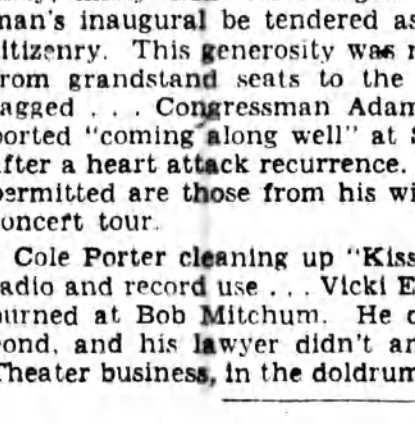


JUNE ALLYSON

NEW YORK, Jan. 14. ALREADY enough laws on the books, the Young Democrat Club of New York will sponsor a contest called "There Ought to Be a Law," open only to citizens of New York State. The prize-winning letter will be drafted into proper form for submission to the Legislature and one of the prizes will be a free trip to Albany for the winner to see his suggestions become legal.

IT SEEMS yesterday, too, that Mitzki Green—the sylph-like, streamlined Sophie Tucker of 1949—and one of the most versatile and talented singing comedienne of her time—was riding a bicycle as a kid star in silent films, instead of starring in the new Copacabana floor show (one of the best that club has ever staged).

FOR THE NOSTALGIA IN OUR TIMES DEPT.: It seems only yesterday that Nancy Walker, star of the hilarious new hit, "Along Fifth Avenue," was first convulsing Broadway audiences with her tough little mug and antic ways in that inspired bit of juvenilia, "Best Foot Forward."



BONJA HENIE

MY SECRETARY, AFRICA, SPEAKS—Dear Boss: Testimonial dinner to young Bob Wagner was a disaster, according to local political buzzing. Of 80 distinguished guests scheduled to occupy the triple-dais, about 70 arrived, hastily paid their respects and then rushed off to the conflicting Sheriff's panel dinner.

ISN'T there a sizable check from Barney Baruch at the Democratic National Committee office? With \$500,000 or more in the Democratic kitty, many Democrats urged that President Truman's inaugural be tendered as a free party to the citizenry.

AS FOR the contention that the Dutch have dealt a stunning blow to Communism by grabbing Indonesia, one need only quote Mr. Robert Trumbull of the New York Times, who cables from Batavia that the Dutch action "be- sides darkening the outlook for a durable settlement here, appears to have done perhaps irreparable damage to the stability of all Asian colonial areas."

AS FOR the claim that the leaders of the Indonesian Republic were pro-Japanese, the answer is that the Dutch attack has started a hotter "Asia for the Asiatics" movement than Japan was ever able to launch.

enchanter ringsiders with her torchy tones in the old Nils T. Granlund revue. . . That Viola Essen, "Fifth Avenue's" prima ballerina—then fresh out of the Russian Ballet—did a show-stopping routine in "Hollywood Pinaflore."

JUDITH Burroughs, the charming Negro tot who does only one film in "Fifth Avenue" with Donald Richards is a protege of Noble Sissle, who suggested her for the show. . . Speaking of kids, Marcia Kent, singing comedienne at Hogan's Irish House, was a stand-in for several of the "Our Gang" comics.

FORMER Olympic skating champ Irving Jaffee observes that Englewood, N. J., must be good luck for future skating champs. Dick Button, the 1948 Olympic figure skating king, falls from there, as does Donald McDermott, the Grossinger Skating Club ace who won the Silver Skis senior men's championship Monday night.

Ed Sullivan
up since eight shows shuttered, narrowing the available supply of seats and attractions.

His face drawn, little Rabbi Birstein, of Actors Temple, delivered the eulogy for the late actor at Willie Howard's funeral. He told the story of a man of the cloth, asking his way to the elder Rothschild's office. The stranger offered to lead him there and insisted on carrying the rabbi's suitcase.

NANCY WALKER, Carol Bruce, Jackie Gleason, Donald Richards and ballerina Viola Essen lend a terrific spark to Arthur Lesser's "Along Fifth Avenue," with Nancy's parody of all "My Man" songs worth the price of admission.

Samuel Grafton
Dutch Aggression Aids Reds in Asia

THE Dutch and their friends have started a propaganda drive, my mail now includes letters from businessmen enclosing leaflets sent them by clients in the Netherlands. An effort has been made in a paid advertisement to picture me as hostile to the Dutch people, which is not true.

IF THEY do not, Congress should act. It should initiate an investigation as to whether to continue Marshall Plan aid to Holland. It should inquire as to whether Marshall Plan resources are helping the Dutch, directly or indirectly, to press their Indonesian war.

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Louella Parsons 3 Studios Plan Films On Palestine

HOLLYWOOD, Jan. 14. TODAY, three companies are plotting and planning stories with a Palestine background. With this part of the world so much in the headlines, stories about it are increasingly timely.

For the past six months, ever since she was well enough to work after her serious automobile accident, Marjorie Rambeau has been testing her strength.

Freddie Kohlar has gone to Sun Valley to talk over his next picture, "Father Was a Fullback," with Darryl Zanuck.

Horace Schmidlapp's new gal friend is Gay Pollock. They were at Ciro's—so pleased with each other. His lawsuit in the Carole Lewis estate is still pending.

Glenda Lloyd, Harold's pretty daughter, is on the "Mabley Fabes" tele-radioshow with Susan Peters. Jim Schwartz, the producer, believes Glenda has real acting talent.

Rita Johnson's father is here to see her and her mother, who has been with Rita ever since her accident. Virginia Van Upp, who holds the enviable record of never having written a movie script that didn't reach the screen, has almost finished the life of Valentino, which she's doing for Edward Small.

Happy as a happy can be, a d d s o in love, were little Jane Powell and Geary Stedfast in a party at the Biltmore Bowl, with the Arthur Lakes and Paula Stone.

Lex Barker and his wife have gone with the Gary Coopers to Aspen, Colo., for skiing. "Comedian" James Aronson, in from Florida Sunday to discuss taking a girl vocalist job on one of the big NBC shows.

I want to make a little prophecy right here. Our most-deceyred war hero is going to be one of our outstanding movie stars. I caught a preview of "Bad Boy" and Audie is so natural and so good the bobby-naxers are going to love him.

Montgomery Clift, who just returned to Hollywood from Europe this week to off for Switzerland tomorrow. He has to be best man at the wedding of a friend, but he says he will return next week.

