

Soviets Take 'New Look' at Wall Street

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A recent article in the *New York Times* indicated that those "dodo intellectuals" in the Soviet Union have finally "wised up." They have finally made the "obvious" discovery that U.S. politics aren't controlled by Wall Street and that it is wrong to picture U.S. society in traditional terms of oppressed workers ruled by monopolists.

Speaking before a group of "Marxist historians," Evgenie I. Popova said: "Unfortunately, up until recently, Soviet history has tended to lump imperialists into one group and treat them without differentiation and objectivity. The view that the American government is the servant of Wall Street monopolists in many respects hampers an understanding of the important role of public opinion in the U.S. Popova then says, "It should be understood that the Washington government must also take into account the views of its allies, the changing conditions in international affairs and the demands of public opinion."

Needless to say, these "brilliant" ideas were hailed by Popova's colleagues. Not only do these Johnny come lately "experts" see that their view of imperialist politics is faulty, but that the imperialist economic system isn't so bad after all. Various reports from Moscow have demonstrated this.

POVERTY 'WARRIORS' GOING ABROAD?

According to a report by the Australian Associated Press, the Soviet government began preparing Soviet citizens for major reforms that are expected to give Soviet industry some of the surface trappings of Western management. The reforms, if carried out, would give business men sweeping new freedom, put stress on profits and give incentives to workers.

An article in *Pravda* said 'the reforms would include: Drastic curtailment of state management of industry; factory managers will be given greater freedom in running their plants.' Profits will be the new cornerstone of Soviet industry. Managers will be expected to show a profit and will be allowed to use part of it as they see fit. Workers will be encouraged through better wages, bonuses, and even a profit sharing plan."

These fellows are still a little behind "socialist" Yugoslavia. A *New York Times* editorial (from July 5th) hailed recent Yugoslav economic "reforms." It said, "...Forecasters in Belgrade are also predicting that the expected reforms will open the way for large scale private foreign investments in Yugoslavia. Such a step would have excellent Leninist precedent since the Soviet Union tried hard in the early 1920s to interest foreign capitalists in putting their funds to work. But for almost four decades the official communist line toward private foreign investment has been one of unreserved hostility, equating private investors with thieves and scoundrels."

'FREEDOM FOR PROFITS'

If these new socialist "economists and scholars" run fast enough, they may even surpass the U.S.A. and return to feudalism. In the meantime these immediate "reforms" could lead to the great U.S. example of mass unemployment. Pretty soon they could do away with low rent housing in Moscow, and have quaint slums—just like New York. They could start charging 100 rubles a room. To help them along, (co-existence) we could export some Harlem rats to them. Then it would be just like home.

We could even send them Walter Reuther to show them how to introduce that "profit-sharing" plan for workers, or maybe Dave McDonald also; he's out of a job now. His profit-sharing plan at Kaiser Steel was a dilly. Thousands of workers were laid off—the ones that remained were real record-breakers, and with their "profits" earned as much as other workers in mills that didn't have the "historic" plan.

When the new bosses, I mean managers, amassed some profits they could pool them and open up a factory in Saigon. No, the U.S. is there. Maybe the Dominican Republic? No, same problem. (The U.S. is everywhere.) Maybe they could help the U.S. put down some of those revolutions and split the areas with them. Then they could invest, too. That's socialist cooperation—co-existence. Maybe if the U.S. didn't want to be socialist-like, and share, the Soviets could "lean" on them a little. A few missiles and all that.

Now I can begin to see why this Popova woman doesn't think that Wall Street runs the U.S. After all, Soviet bosses are trying to do the same thing. They have their stooges in the government, and it would be bad imagery if the people at home and abroad recognized them as crooks and exploiters (takes one to know one).

They have a real problem over there. As the *Times* said, their people have been taught for forty years that private investors were "thieves and scoundrels." No wonder they had to put that Stalin down. He sure was an "extremist."