SOCIALISM IN THE USSR

(Thís is the second part of a two-part series on socialism in the USSR.)

EDUCATION

We found that everyone gets the equivalent of a high school education and upon graduation has at least a basic education in Political Economy and Marxism-Leninism in general. In college there is a two year requirement to study Marx's Capital and study Marxism-Leninism in general.

As far as Marxist-Leninist material being available is concerned, it is found along with Marx, Engels, Lenin and other material available at the newsstands of the streets of Estonia. Wherever we went in the streets, we found all the basic Marxist material readily available. It is impossible not to see communist material. Also, more important and hard to get used to, is that the people avoid readers. Whenever we went on the Metro at least 2 out of every 3 people would be reading a newspaper or textbook. Many people line up in the street waiting for a bookstore to open before they go out in the streets but ones that deal with Marxism.

TRADE UNIONS

While on the trip we had a chance to talk with the Central Council of Trade Unions as well as meet with the leaders of the Leningrad Dockworkers’ Union. We learned that the trade unions play an important role in running the country. It was pointed out that they are the main organization of the working class. They are completely voluntary, mass organizations which play a crucial role in running the country. All working people are members and it is through the unions that the workers are able to direct the trade unions is done with the purpose of raising the standard of living of the people.

A SOCIALIST COUNTRY

We came fully convinced that this was a socialist country, a country where production is geared to the needs of the people, where the wealth of society is used for the people. There was no sign anywhere of exploitation. Police had the main function of picking up people who were drunk or engaging in the usual behavior. There was no sign anywhere of haßmatt or repression.

WAR

I guess the strongest feeling we came away with was that the Soviet people hate war more than we can imagine. In Leningrad, we came to a graveyard of 2 million people who died in that city during the years 1941-44. During the Nazi siege, people had collapsed from starvation and frozen in the streets. When spring came, to prevent widespread epidemic, the Communist Party called on the people to show their strength and defend their city. Out of necessity people were buried in mass graves; and today you can see rows and rows of these mass graves for each year of the war. We saw little children putting flowers on some of the graves. One old man, who had lost his grandfather and died and other people coming with tears in their eyes. We pushed by a small crowd in front of Moscow where there was not a single household that had not lost at least one person in the war effort of the country.

The Soviet people fought with extreme bravery and played the main role in defeating Hitler. It is said they also suffered tremendously and they know the horrors of war. I have never met so many people and an old ali, who hate war so much. Even their circus starts out with moving pictures of the Second World War and a modern symbolizing the workers’ fight against the fascist onslaught.

REVISIONISM

When we left the USNA we had some preconceived notions about how the Soviet people would react to questions concerning Comrade Brezhnev and revisionist policy. Since Brezhnev and his revisionist cli- que have tried to downplay and cover up Stalin’s leadership. We found the Soviet people were surprised at our apprehension asking about Stalin’s writings. They say the useful bookstore; they have been the most consistent support for the march by the National Guard Arm ory and the American Legion. The complete absence of political representation, the valiant struggle of the Negro people for freedom, the march organizer, Paul Haney, said, “you can’t satisfy the niggers. They always want more.” Another march organizer, Paul Haney, said, “We’re not going to let the blacks take over this country.”

Despite theKKK march, the naked support for the march by the National Guard and the American Legion, the myth of the so-called “New South” has been revealed. The march was held in a small city outside of Picayune, Mississippi, where on December 6, 1975, 140 Anglo-Americans marched in a “race hatred” demonstration organized by the local Ku Klux Klan. This march put to rest the old belief that the FBI had destroyed the KKK in Mississippi. Picayune is located in southern central Mississippi, near the Mississippi-Louisiana border, and is significant that Picayune is in Pearl River County, scene of the most re- cent lynching in Mississippi. It is the home of the late Theodore Bilbo, Mississippi’s most notorious fascist demagogue.

Picayune has a Negro population of approximately 33 1/3%. Not a single elected official in the city is Negro. Picayune has been the scene of a concerted effort by the state NAACP to fight increasing police brutality and white chauvinist discrimination in the city’s public services. This effort contributed to the firing of Chief of Police Math Bouds, which resulted in Picayune being ordered to investigate the November 21 shooting of four Negro youths. The Klan march was held one day after the latest NAACP rally and was allegedly a protest against the firing of Bounded and the arrest of a suspect involved in the Novem­ber 21 shooting.

While the Klan activity is on the rise, the Negro people will not back down. The tall white terror” in Picayune, Mississippi, masses against the severe economic expoli­ation and increased political op­pression all point to the growing in­fluence of imperialism. The struggle for peace is an historic part of the struggle for socialism. Our con­tribution to the struggle to top imperialism and to stop imperialism is de­scribed by our effort to overthrow our own bourgeois and their oppressive, aggressive, militaristic state. The source of the war danger is world im­perialism, headed up by the super­imperialists. It is against these rapa­cious monopoly capitalists that we fight.

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