

CATCH PHRASES HAVE REPLACED SOVIET THOUGHT

Years of Propaganda Make All Russian Communists Think Alike.

This is the tenth of a series of articles by Eugene Lyons, United Press Staff Correspondent in Moscow, after a residence there of thirty-six months.

BY EUGENE LYONS
United Press Staff Correspondent
MOSCOW, March 5.—If the quality of life under the Soviets will ever be conveyed to readers outside it will be done not by economists, or journalists, but by artists.

The things which give that life its special flavor, its deep tang, are not alone in the concrete facts. They are in overtones, in new attitudes and new prejudices not easily caught in words.

Not even the United States, with its reputation for standardized thinking and well-advertised catchwords, is as thoroughgoing in these respects as the Soviet Union.

Thirteen years of undisguised propaganda for a set of ideas have produced a mental uniformity rarely matched in history. Germany or France in the midst of their death grapple scarcely developed such uniform opinion as has the land of Soviets.

"Slogans" Replace Thought

For that active fraction of the population which takes the trouble to have a well-defined viewpoint at all, stock phrases too often take the place of thought. "Slogans" they are called here.

Because of the exceptional strain and sacrifices imposed on the nation by the present policies, there is no room left for independent views.

The prime political virtue is orthodoxy.

Personal journalism, for instance, practically has been eliminated. Whether in "stories" or editorials the Soviet writer sticks to texts, stereotyped phrases, the path of safety.

Like the orthodoxies of older religions, Communist orthodoxy finds expression in unthinking and irrational ways.

Foreigners Are Isolated

Anything which smacks of "bourgeois comfort"—even too many cushions on the divan in the living room—is per se shameful.

The principal taboo, of course, is against the non-Communist foreigner.

The foreign correspondents are as nearly isolated as they can be short of actual imprisonment in their rooms.

The Russians who see them outside of official duty do so with a deep sense of tasting forbidden fruit and flirting with danger.

The foreigners are given special privileges in the matter of food, priority in a hundred things.

Foreigners Under Watch

But they are denied—not by law but by the force of custom—any real contact with Russians, especially with pro-Soviet Russians.

Already a fact when I arrived three years ago, the isolation of the foreigner has become increasingly stringent in the last eighteen months.

The 100 per cent Communist shrinks from the bourgeois representative through a real distaste for contact with anything "unclean." The rest, especially in the large centers, steer shy out of ordinary fear. It may be legal, they figure, but it is not safe. It is an open secret that all foreigners are under constant surveillance and few Russians, however clear their consciences, care to step into the circle of observation.

Next Possession of private property abolished.

FRED LIGHTNER HAS TWO PAIRS OF EARS

Comedian Gets a Bunch of Laughs by Doling Himself Up in a Strange Manner at the Indiana.

BY WALTER D. HICKMAN
EVER hear of a fellow having two pairs of ears? Never did until I ran across Fred Lightner, comedian.

I have had the reputation of possessing about the biggest pair of ears in captivity, but Fred goes to the head of the class.

Must explain that one pair of Fred's ears is just a fake. They are his comedy ears and he wears them over his real ones when he makes his entrance.

When I was talking to Lightner the other night, I intended to ask him how he got hold of this unique comedy idea, but I forgot to ask the question.

Lightner is tremendously interesting and he knows a lot about show business. I think the last time he was here, he was with a successful musical comedy at English's.

Fred is the brother of Winnie Lightner who went skyrocketing to fame and money on the talking screen.

This may seem funny but the most serious business in the world is the business of being funny. There is a definite comedy touch about everything that Lightner is doing this week at the Indiana.

There is more to this fake ear stunt of Fred's than it appears on the surface. The fake ears are really the index to the mood of the audience.

"The second that the audience lams my fake ears, I can tell in a second whether they are going to be with me or against me," Fred said.

And that is sound logic because all men and women of the stage who know their business have an "index" by which they can judge the audience.

Once when Donald MacDonald was playing at English's in "Strange Interlude," he told me that the opening speech of poor Charles Marsden about his sex complex was the index to the way the play was going to go.

"If the audience laughed out loud

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reports, all trace of the cold was gone.

Note: Other cases reported daily—all certified by attending physician.

Just a few pleasant spoonfuls of Ayer's Pectoral now and you, too, will feel like a different person tomorrow. At all druggists 60¢; or twice as much in \$1.00 bottles.

Relief began instantly. With the first pleasant swallow he felt its comforting, healing warmth—from his nose passages deep down into his chest. In a few hours the "feverish," "achy" feeling was relieved; congestion began to clear up, and in another day or so, the doctor

reports, all trace of the cold was gone.

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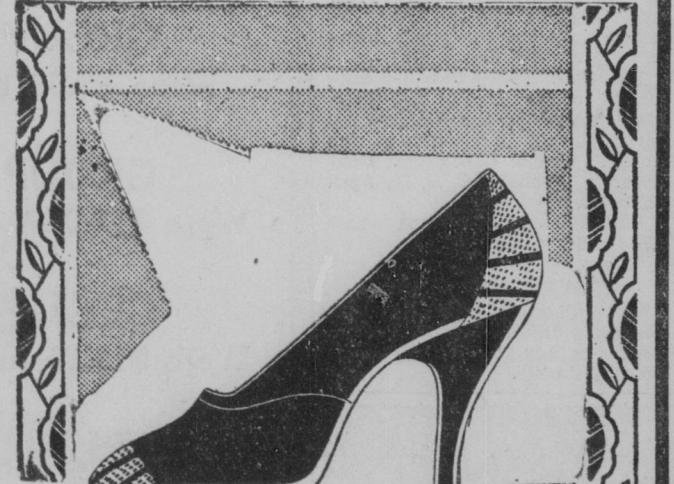
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