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FOURPENCE WEEKLY

WHAT KRAVCHENKO REVEALED ABOUT RUSSIA

Radio Talk by ERIC D. BUTLER over 3 CS Colac

Undoubtedly one of the most important books published in recent years is "I Chose Freedom," by the Russian, Victor Kravchenko. In this book a former high Soviet official tells the true story of his life in Russia, his experiences as a member of the Communist Party and his break with the Soviet Government after having been sent to America on an important mission. As there is not adequate space to deal with all the important material in Kravchenko's book, I propose to deal with only one aspect of the book.

Although there has been a considerable awakening to the menace of Soviet policy since the conclusion of the war, there is no doubt that Communist propaganda has been so successful that large numbers of well meaning people through the English speaking world are still victims of this propaganda.

For example Mr. Henry Wallace, formerly a most influential member of the American Roosevelt Government, is at present engaged in conducting a pro-Russian campaign in America. Mr. Wallace is quoted with approval by many Left-wing journals in this and other British countries.

Kravchenko writes of Wallace as follows:

"In the Commission library I found several speeches of Henry A. Wallace. An interpreter read for me the marked portions about Russia. I could not believe my ears—the Vice-President of a democratic government was praising what he called 'economic democracy' in Stalin's police State! Our Secret and Soviet factory, state-controlled trade unions, lack of true collective bargaining, the death penalty for strike agitations, . . . labor passports, laws punishing more than twenty minutes' lateness by starvation, and forced-labor colonies—didn't Mr. Wallace know these commonplace facts or did he, by some trick of

rationalisation, really look on them as aspects of totalitarian propaganda."

OUR POLICY

1. The preservation of Australia's sovereignty as a part of the British Empire, and the exposure of all internal and external groups which attack that sovereignty.
2. The preservation and extension of genuine local government.
3. The preservation and strengthening of all Constitutional safeguards for the purpose of protecting fundamental individual rights.
4. The encouragement of all activities designed to bring Governments under more effective control by the electors.
5. The preservation and extension of genuine free, competitive enterprise and private ownership, and opposition to all Monopoly, whether it be "private" or State.
6. The support of a financial policy which will (a) permit free enterprise to make available to all individuals an increasing standard of living and greater leisure for cultural pursuits; (b) result in no further increase in the community's indebtedness and the sound business practice of gradually reducing existing debt.
7. Recognising that the basis of any sound economy is agriculture, the encouragement of agricultural policies which will ensure the preservation and building up of soil fertility by organic farming and gardening; and the prevention of soil erosion and the protection of forests and watersheds.

Writing of the late Wendell Wilkie's famous book, "One World," written after Wilkie had been in Russia, Kravchenko writes:

"I struggled through Wendell Wilkie's book 'One World.' I had been working at the Sovnarkom (a portion of the Soviet bureaucracy) during his visit and I knew, at the time, that no propagandist stunt was overlooked in the plans to impress him. Nothing just happened—everything was arranged. Now I was astounded and horrified by the success of our plans. How could any man, I marvelled, be so elaborately deceived in such a short time? Reading his Russian chapters I had the sense he was referring to a country, which I had never visited, a country somewhere on the other side of the moon. The book was a simple triumph of totalitarian propaganda."

As Wendell Wilkie's work is still being vigorously carried on, the controllers of Soviet Russia must be highly pleased.

Probably the most dangerous piece of pro-Russian propaganda issued to the English-speaking world during the war years, was the much-publicised Hollywood film, "Mission to Moscow." It has been stated that the producers of this film spent half a million pounds to "boost" it—the largest sum that had ever been spent on advertising a film.

Commenting on his reactions to this film, Kravchenko writes: "Perhaps my most harrowing evening in America was spent in a Washington motion-picture theatre. I was grateful for the dark, which covered up the distress that, I am sure, was written on my face . . . It was the evening when I watched the unfoldment of a film called 'Mission to Moscow,' based on a book of the same name by the former Ambassador to Moscow, Joseph E. Davies. What I saw was a brutal heavy-handed insult

WHAT KRAVCHENKO REVEALED ABOUT RUSSIA (Continued)

to the Russian nation—a caricature of its revolution and a mockery of its long anguish. The book was more absurd than evil, a hash of ignorance and double talk and in large part plain silly; but it was mitigated here and there by a streak of truth. The film carefully steered around these streaks and added nightmarish inventions not in the book. . . .

"It happened that I was thoroughly acquainted with the Siberian factory that figured in one of the purge trials; a more ludicrous cartoon than the Hollywood version could scarcely be contrived. No Soviet propaganda picture would have dared twist facts so recklessly out of their sockets. The American propagandists evidently relied upon the ignorance of their audience 'to get away' with their fantasy . . . Small wonder that the Moscow 'Pravda' lavished praise on Mr. Davies and his book, quoting him to the effect that Soviet justice was flawless, that a fifth column had been wiped out by the purge . . . What strange reading it made for intelligent Russians!"

Probably one of the greatest successes of Soviet propaganda was to the effect that the Hitler-Stalin pact gave the Russians valuable time in which to prepare to enter the war. Kravchenko effectively disposes of this myth—a myth still believed by many who are violently opposed to Communism.

He writes: "Inside Russia we had been so ashamed of the Hitler-Stalin pact that we rarely mentioned it at all. Official writings and oratory slurred over that period.

But in America (and, of course, in this and other countries) the pact was subtly transformed into one more proof of Stalin's wisdom. In one breath people booed the appeasement of Hitler in Munich and cheered his appeasement in Moscow. Somehow it was considered disreputable for the allies to gain time by directing Nazi energies eastward against Poland and Russia, but glorious statesmanship for the Kremlin to divert Germany into a war in the west against France and England. Americans seemed intent on explaining everything in Stalin's favour, to the discredit of the demo-

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cracies. The Kremlin's every diplomatic blunder, its groveling bargains with the Nazis, its ineptitude in not preparing for the war, its every fumble—paid for with oceans of Russian blood—emerged in the American prints and American conversation as special, almost mystical virtues."

Those who have closely studied the technique of the Communists know that there can be no agreement between Western Civilisation and the gangsters of Moscow.

These gangsters regard all agreements merely as instruments to further their own policies of world domination.

Over the past few years we have heard that complete freedom of religion is now permitted in Russia. We also were told during the war years that the controllers of Soviet Russia had given up the idea of world revolution.

Kravchenko comments scathingly upon such dangerous nonsense:

"The outside world . . . accepted all this eagerly as proofs of a change of heart by the Soviet leaders. I was to see articles and books in which this 'retreat' was hailed as marking the Kremlin's break with the idea of world revolution. There were even 'experts' who announced stupidly that the Soviet Union was edging away from dictatorship and closer to capitalism. They professed to see the democratic and the Soviet totalitarian ways of life moving towards a common ground somewhere in the middle. Had any one of these experts sat in on our 'closed' weekly Party sessions for the higher personnel, he would have been shocked. For us, 'retreat from Leninism' was simply a temporary tactical maneuver . . ."

"No properly indoctrinated Communist felt that the Party was 'lying' in professing one set of policies in public and its very opposite in private. He had no more conscience about it than a general in the field who misleads and disorients the enemy. Until the whole earth has been transformed into a single Soviet Union under the sum of Stalinism, the General Staff of the Revolution—meaning our leaders in the Kremlin—would have to maneuver, now attacking,

now lying low, sometimes retreating to consolidate positions . . ."

One of the greatest Communist propaganda victories in recent years has been to convince a great number of Christians that the controllers of Soviet Russia now permit complete freedom of religion.

Kravchenko comments as follows: "The compromise with religion was a humiliating but in dispensable concession . . . The most galling of the compromises made necessary by war was in relation to religion. The clergy had been permitted to write and enabled a book called 'The Truth About Religion In The U.S.S.R.' in which they signalled reconciliation with the Soviet system. Though few people among us attached too much significance to the book, we heard that it created a sensation abroad."

Western civilisation is today fighting for survival against an international conspiracy. We are engaged in a War, which is going to decide the future of mankind for centuries to come.

The controllers of Soviet Russia have their agents and dupes in every country. As Kravchenko makes clear, every Russian who visits another country must be regarded as an agent of revolution.

This courageous Russian, who risked his life to break away from the Soviet Purchasing Commission in America and tell the truth about Soviet policy, also reveals the startling fact that Russian representatives abroad are regimented just as much as they are in Russia.

He says: "In Washington, D.C., right in the heart of the world's greatest democracy, hundreds of us, men and women, lived the rigidly controlled lives of the world's greatest dictatorship. Though we resided and worked among free people, we remained the terrorised subjects of a police-state."

There are many naive people in country who will reply to Kravchenko's revelations by saying "But it cannot happen here." Totalitarian propaganda has been so successful that it can happen here—unless there is a greater awakening to the grave menace confronting us.

We are desirous of assisting to bring about this awakening.

ANOTHER STEP IN THE SOVIETISATION OF AUSTRALIA

By H.R.

The Defence (Transitional Provisions) Bill 1947 which was passed by both the House of Representatives and the Senate, just before both Houses went into recess in December provides for continuation for a period of twelve months of certain of the wartime controls exercised by the Chifley Government.

Although on the surface this Bill purports to repeal a number of regulations and amend a number of others, it also contains a provision in the form of an amendment to the Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1941, which will go far towards extending the powers of the bureaucracy at the expense of responsible government and the personal freedom of the elector.

The remainder of the Bill will apply for a period of twelve months from December 31st last, but this particular sub-clause will apply permanently, as Mr. Pollard, Minister of Commerce and Agriculture admitted when attacked by Mr. Menzies.

Clause 7, sub-clause reads "After section thirty four of the Acts Interpretation Act 1901-1941 the following section is inserted: —

"34A. Where under any Act the exercises of a power or function by a person is dependent upon the opinion, belief or state of mind of that person in relation to a matter and that power or function has been delegated in pursuance of that Act, that power or function may be exercised by the delegate upon the opinion belief or state of mind of the delegate in relation to that matter."

When attacked, Mr. Pollard at first claimed that this was merely a formal machinery provision to cover the transference of the powers of one Minister to another Minister, and that the powers taken under the bill are limited to twelve months only.

Later however, (when Mr. Menzies pressed the point by way of interjection) Mr. Pollard admitted that the proposed new section to the Acts Interpretation Act will not be limited to twelve months and that it was inserted to obviate the need to bring down individual bills to amend at least 200 other acts!

The Minister refused to accept an amendment by Mr. Menzies that this sub section of the Act should apply for twelve months only and attempted to justify this classic piece of Soviet machinery in these words :

"It must be quite clear that in a number of acts to which this sub-clause refers specific powers are given to a certain authority and those powers are exercisable on the state of mind or opinion of that particular authority. When authority to delegate power is given it would be ridiculous to deny to the person to whom the authority is delegated the right to express his own state of mind. If that were done the delegation of power would be meaningless."

The net effect of this effort to rush through a sub-clause distasteful to the Opposition, on the eve of the Christmas vacation in a bill of which the Opposition otherwise

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approved, is that henceforth any petty "official to whom a Minister chooses to delegate his authority will be free to exercise that power in true commissar fashion, absolutely free of responsibility for the consequences of his action.

The introduction of those all too numerous bills containing the words "where in the opinion of the Minister" will then become a device for establishing gangs of autocrats to tyrannise and regiment the "sovereign" people guided only by doctrinaire opinions.

Is it any wonder that the Communist Party is not over concerned at the absence of avowed communists in the Federal Parliament?

Important New Books and Pamphlets

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LEAGUE OF RIGHTS STUDY COURSE

The Victorian League of Rights will be starting its first 1948 Study Course next Wednesday evening, February 11, at the Combined Old Girls' Club, 4th Floor, McEwan House, Little Collins Street.

All genuine believers in the British way of life are invited to attend this Course in order to become competent to combat the totalitarian menace.

The following is the Syllabus for the League's Study Course:

First Week: The British Empire and its contribution to civilization. Why a strong and sovereign British Empire is necessary. Main anti-British arguments and how they can be best answered.

Second Week: An examination of our British and Christian philosophy. Different policies arising from different philosophies. The two main types of organisation: totalitarian and democratic. The functions of the political vote and the economic vote.

Third Week: What is Free Enterprise? The consumer control of industry by the money vote. Arguments in favour of more widespread ownership. The menace of State and other Monopolies. The function of the "Profit Motive." The efficiency of small, decentralised enterprise.

Fourth Week: The function of Government. A survey of the Federal Constitution and the methods of attack being used to destroy it. The value of a written Constitution.

Fifth Week: The Rule of Law. A brief outline of the development of Common Law. The purpose of an Upper House. The function and importance of the Crown.

Sixth Week: What is Communism? What is Socialism? The main strategy and tactics of the Communists and Socialists. The Communist technique of infiltration into the bureaucracy, Universities, etc.

Seventh Week: A brief survey of some of the international groups working against the British Empire. How the League of Rights can counteract the enemies of the Australian and the British way of life. Making responsible Government a reality.

SPECIAL NOTICE

Our readers will be pleased to know that we will be reverting to our normal size next week.

All readers are urged to obtain next week's issue and read in detail the full story of the moves being made to cripple "The New Times" and to restrict Mr. Eric Butler's activities.

In next week's issue we shall also be resuming publication of material supporting our agricultural policy.

OBITUARY

(From an Adelaide Correspondent)

The passing of Mr. Albert V. Knott, of Plympton, South Australia, has removed from us an early and thoroughgoing member of the true Social Credit fraternity.

Serious invalidism kept him out of the hurly-burly of affairs during the latter years of his life, but it did not prevent him from using every opportunity, which offered to write and talk about the essentials of Social Credit. His clear and deep perceptions were allied to a frank disposition and so he developed an effective way of expressing himself and he continued to do so while he was still able to make use of a typewriter.

That Mr. Knott suffered business setbacks because of his Social Credit activities is well-known to his Melbourne friends, but nothing daunted him because of his complete assurance that the ideas he had adopted and adapted were really true and so must be finally triumphant.

To his widow are offered sincere sentiments of sympathy.

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