

I.S.S. TAG DAY APPEAL TO BE MADE ON THURSDAY

FREELY SPEAKING!

— By George Vlasak —

The editor of this column posed these questions: "What is your conception of Communism?" and "Do you believe it will ever attain a firm foothold in Canada?"

Ed's Note: The first half of Mr. Vlasak's reply to Stan Jobb's questions were printed last week. In that he traced the theory of Communism, tying it in with totalitarianism, Marxism and Russian Imperialism; spoke of the principle that "the end justifies the means"; and wondered if the goal, a classless society, were achievable, by any means. He continues below.

(Continued From Last Week)

The marxist doctrine, in its 'dialectical' view and logic, is based on the idealistic-mythical philosophies of nineteenth century (Hegel, Feuerbach etc.); in its materialistic view then, its sources lie in the hypotheses of the same period; its social outlook is based on the features of the same century in the western Europe. The emotional charge was inherited from the outlived and at that time dying religious fanaticism (in Russia directly from the Eastern Orthodoxy). The present set of 'ways and means' are gathered from a long line of predecessors, in which the chief teachers are the Holy Inquisition, the series of Russian tsars and, most recently, those sides of nazism that are symbolized by the names of Joseph Goebbels in his line and of Heinrich Himmler in his. This selection is certainly a very incomplete one but it contains the elements which are most noticeable in the present day's situation in the areas where the Communist regime is in charge. People, whose main source of information on Communist matters is represented by LPP's Tribune, Tim Buck's travel-journals, Daily Worker, Soviet Information Service, reports from the USSR 1920-32, Litvinov's speeches in Geneva in 1930's or even some articles in New Statesman and Nation, or Prof. Schuman's views of the world, would certainly sharply disagree when I say that the present Communist reality is further away from what we understand under the terms of democracy or even of socialism, than ever before and that the trend goes in quite an opposite direction from the social justice and particularly from anything like a classless society: The means swallowed the goal, however noble and ideal the latter can seem. 'The God that Failed' is the name of the joint work on Communism written by one-time Communist top intellectuals and writers like Andre Gide, Ignazio Silone, Crossman and others.

The "rise of standard of living in Russia" is usually the first argument of the defenders of Communism here and the same thing is applied now on China. After thirty years of Soviet government in Russia the material standard of living went up, as far as the majority of the people is concerned. But it is hard to imagine any even corrupt and unable, half-democratic government, that would have risen the standard of the Russian people's living since 1917 less than the Soviet government did, not taking in account all these curious facilities that the Soviet government has to its disposition in the production: 10-15 million slave-workers in the forced labour camps certainly do mean a very cheap labour. The fact that every worker owns a wristwatch and that many live in several-room apartments, is something that the rank-and-file Soviet worker is not able to understand. When he came as soldier to Central Europe, he considered it to be a sort of dirty capitalist trick.

There is practically no wide-spread illiteracy in most of Russia today. But the real value of this fact can be realized only after one sees, what the reading ability of the people is used for.

The last remnants of any opposition in Soviet Russia have been liquidated in 1933. It is hard to decide what is closer to some sort of a parliament, whether the "120 per cent" — elected Supreme Soviet or the Tzar's famous Duma, or the "most expensive singer-choir of the world", as Goebbels named the Third Reich's parliament 1933-44. The achievements of thirty years' Soviet rule are, however, clearly visible in one respect: the four-and-half-million armed force of the USSR and a police system beside of which the Gestapo would look like a tin-soldiers' army. Some people here still think that this all is for defence — against the offensive West and its half as strong force scattered over several continents, in fifteen or so national armies.

I could go on in telling what my 'conception' of Communism is, what the Communist rule concretely means at Universities, in the press, in the art, in students' association, in simple family life, and so on. It would surpass the space which can be given to this column. But it would, nonetheless, still belong in the question which Stan posed me, asking for this article. All the features of the complex phenomenon of 'Communism', (how the word itself is misleading!), which could be contained in this answer, have even a 'local' importance nowadays: The Communist reality is present in its most concrete form, such as the army and police, not further away than several hours by plane from here — even from our Maritimes, which seem to be still the most quiet spot in the world, where a new groceries-store or one mayor's abdication means a leading radio-news for several days.

Baseball and frequent dates certainly are lovely things, but can a 1950 college student afford to keep them as only subject of his interest? Many of them evidently think that they can. I cannot help seeing in such an attitude — if it is really wide-spread — more help to the Communism's way into Canada, than in all what Tim Buck and friends can ever offer. This is partly my reply on the second of both questions.

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CHESTER L. MAHAN

A reorganization of the business administration of the University, and the appointment of Beverley F. Macaulay to the newly created position of business manager were announced recently by the administration. Mr. Macaulay will assume the chief administrative duties now held by Dr. J. W. Sears, bursar, and will assume office on Feb. 1. A prominent U. N. B. alumnus, he will also act as secretary of the University of New Brunswick Senate. The position of bursar will be continued and the office will be assumed by Chester L. Mahan. He will act as office manager and chief accountant, and is presently assistant manager of the Fredericton branch of the Bank of Nova Scotia. The appointment of Dr. Sears as professor of law at the university was announced some time ago.

U. N. B. Film Society Serves Real Need; Promotes Appreciation of Film Artistry

The average student can name most of the U. N. B. campus organizations.

The average student knows something about the larger, more popular clubs.

He knows little, or nothing at all about the smaller groups.

In fact, one frequently hears remarks which suggest that some clubs ought to justify their existence.

It is with these thoughts in mind that we stand up for the U. N. B. Film Society; to assure you that it did not fold up with silent pictures; and to show how it can be classed among the worthwhile campus groups.

1. It is entirely self-supporting; it receives no grants.
2. It is not in debt. (Unique situation!)

3. The U. N. B. Film Society has but one purpose: to enable the student to see the better quality pictures, the outstanding films which have been so widely acclaimed. It affords an opportunity of seeing recognized artists in their greatest performances; the smash hits of past years; the unusual film; the genius of famous writers and directors; the excellence of British pictures, and the inimitable, "continental touch" of foreign films.

All of us have ulterior motives, (obviously this is written by a male!) and ours is expressed in the hope that, while taking your leisure in the comfortable auditorium of Teachers' College, you might be beguiled into acquiring a fuller appreciation of the artistry of good motion pictures.

Every campus club has its problems and the U. N. B. Film Society is no exception. Knowing these difficulties might help to temper your criticism.

1. The "blurb" from the supply houses often misleads us when selecting films. Impartial descriptions of their products is not the usual form of advertising of any business.
2. Sometimes the companies cannot send even one of the several films of our choice; (they are popular!) and in order that the "show might go on", we are forced to accept the substitute which they send.
3. It is sometimes our misfortune to receive a more shopworn copy of a film. Many other film clubs use the same

source of supply.

4. The "added shorts" are frequently added quite literally, being affixed to the feature film, and hence their selection is beyond our control.

(Continued on Page Seven)

Officials Hope For Greater Response Than Other Years

The annual I. S. S. (International Students Service) Tag Day will be held on the campus on Thursday of this week. Jackie Webster, chairman of the I. S. S. Campus committee has announced. Tables for the sale of the tags will be set up all day Thursday in the Arts, Forestry and Engineering Buildings, and will be manned this year by members of the Student Christian Movement. Officials handling the sale were noncommittal as to the way they expected the sales to go, but did say that they looked for an improvement over the showing since the first tag day was held two years ago.

Poor Record

U. N. B.'s record in support of the International Student Service has been a poor one alongside other Canadian and Maritime universities since the program was inaugurated some time ago. Two years ago, the students here registered a Canadian low in terms of response to I. S. S. appeals. Last year, although the position was considerably improved, this campus donated a sum only in the order of \$200 to the cause.

I. S. S. spokesman here maintain that the poor response is traceable in part to a misunderstanding of the application of the funds collected. They have pointed out that they are not in any way applied to covering those scholarships awarded annually to deserving students for attendance at the annual I. S. S. Summer Seminar held in Europe.

Funds for that purpose are usually supplied by provincial governments, service clubs, and other such sources.

Some ISS Projects

In issuing the present appeal for funds, I. S. S. spokesman pointed out some of the projects to which the money will be applied.

At the present time, there are (Continued on Page Seven)



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