

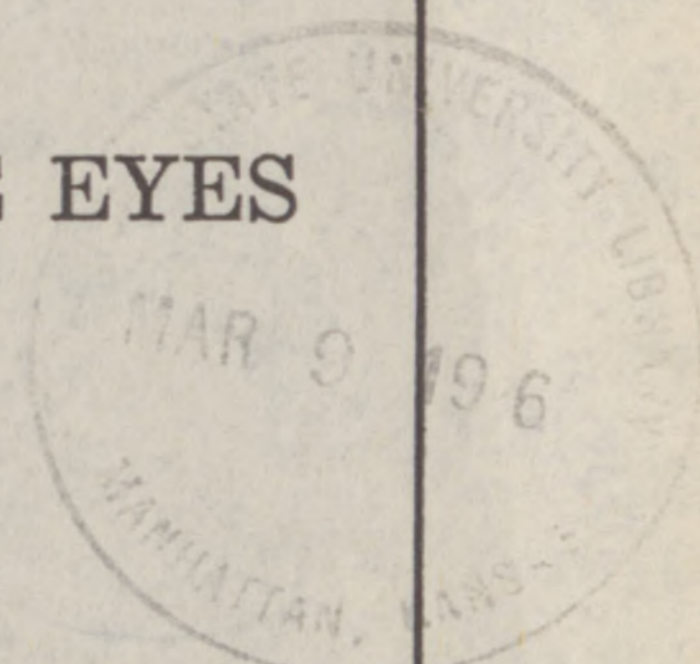
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80th Congress }
2d Session }

5 COMMITTEE PRINT

THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE EYES
OF SOVIET TOURISTS



ANALYSIS OF THEIR PUBLISHED REPORTS
PREPARED BY THE STAFF

OF THE

COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE
OPERATION OF THE INTERNAL SECURITY

ACT AND OTHER INTERNAL SECURITY LAWS

OF THE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

UNITED STATES SENATE

EIGHTY-SIXTH CONGRESS

CONGRESS 2 SECOND SESSION



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88th Congress
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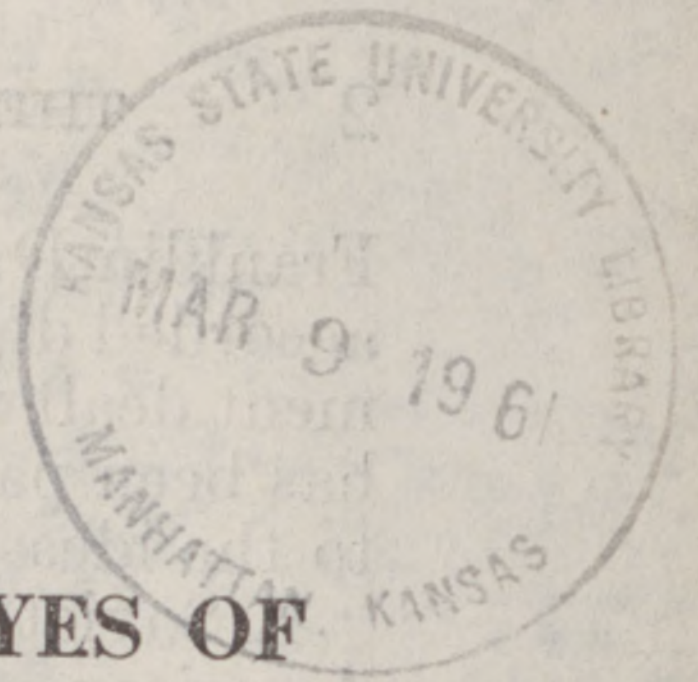
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THE UNITED STATES THROUGH THE EYES OF SOVIET TOURISTS

In the 11 months ended January 19, 1960, the Soviet Union sent to the United States 1,897 politically reliable and carefully trained civilian observers to report on our way of life.

These were not all spies, as we understand the word, though there were unquestionably some intelligence operatives among them. The Soviet visitors were official guests of the United States under the 1958 cultural exchange agreement between the U.S.A. and the U.S.S.R. It was their mission to gather information which could be used, by means of their published reports in Soviet journals, to downgrade the United States, and thus crush any spark of desire their fellow citizens might have had to experience a life like that in this country.

That was not the objective which our Government sought under the agreement. Its hopes are outlined in part in the following excerpts from "The Citizen's Role in Cultural Relations" published by the Bureau of International Cultural Relations of the Department of State in September 1959:

Under the full realization that public opinion has great influence in the formulation of public policy, it has become important for governments to communicate with the citizens of other countries. Because the peoples of different countries are separated by deep-seated cultural differences as well as by political and natural boundaries, governments have turned to the medium of exchange-of-persons programs in an effort to overcome the prejudice and distrust that are based on ignorance and distorted information (p. 1).

* * * * *

The International Educational Exchange Program, conducted for the U.S. Government by the Department of State, builds and maintains more friendly attitudes toward the United States in other countries, increases respect for and confidence in our aims and policies, * * * (p. 2).

* * * * *

Working together, the U.S. Government, private sponsors, and the American public have opened a two-way avenue of communication between the United States and the other nations of the world, designed to provide the present and future leaders of overseas opinion with the truth about the American way of life and the ideals of the American people (p. 4).

* * * * *

After more than two decades of government-sponsored cultural exchange, and many more years of private experience in this field, it can be said that much has been accomplished in terms of spreading the truth about America's institutions and way of life, * * * (p. 35).

The high hopes expressed in this pronouncement certainly have been dashed so far as the Soviet Union is concerned as the material to follow will reveal. The goal of the Communist leadership was obviously far distant from the American objective.

Information favorable to America which is found in the printed reports of Soviet visitors usually refers to the beauties of nature, the past history of the United States with particular emphasis on the

Franklin D. Roosevelt era, during which the Stalin Government was accorded diplomatic recognition by the United States, and our Government dealt with the Soviet leaders on a friendly basis. Attention also has been paid to other individuals or institutions regarded as friendly to the idea of coexistence or to the Soviet cause.

A Soviet citizen cannot decide for himself spontaneously, as can an American, that he will go abroad. This is a matter which, in all cases, and at all times, is decided by the Soviet government, as a matter of policy.

The screening process through which prospective visitors to these shores are selected leaves little to chance. Regardless of his status, every nominee for a trip to the United States is, first of all, checked by the organization which proposed him. In the majority of cases, the prospective traveler would be also a member of the Communist Party or of the Young Communist League, but the organization to which he belongs is directly responsible for him. Usually, his credentials include written recommendations from the party or the league and his government organization. Since his superiors risk their own official reputations and status by vouching for this man, the recommendation is not lightly granted. All recommendations are sent to the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the U.S.S.R., which has a special section responsible for sending people abroad and has the last word about such matters. In many cases, approval depends on the result of a final check by state security organizations.

When a delegation is to be organized, the Ministry of Culture writes to each Government agency requesting it to designate certain individuals for assignment abroad. It is never a matter of individual choice.

The requirements for approval are:

- (1) That the person has excellent or positive "characteristics" in the Communist Party and the government.
- (2) That he is a member of the Communist Party or the Young Communist League. A non-Communist may go if he can obtain permission to make the trip for a special purpose and if his record is satisfactory.
- (3) That the person does not have any relatives abroad.

As a rule, people who are going abroad are attached to a group under organized leadership and group discipline is maintained throughout the trip. The leader usually has some official title. In addition to this supervision, the group is usually penetrated by special informants who keep the Soviet authorities well informed as to the activities of each member. It also is routine that Soviet Intelligence Service try to plant within each delegation a representative acting under cover.

When the members of the delegation return to Russia, each is expected to submit an exhaustive report to his own agency. But no tourist would dare to submit to the totalitarian press of the U.S.S.R. a description of the United States contrary to the official propaganda line.

Because of the great volume of material from the reports published in the Soviet press, the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee made arrangements for a study by means of which excerpts could be used to provide the American people with a view of America as seen through the eyes of these carefully selected visitors. These excerpts will disclose to what extent we are accomplishing our objectives and to what extent members of the Russian delegations are living up to

the Soviet Government's professed desire for coexistence and friendship.

Reports reflecting the publicly revealed impressions of our Soviet visitors have appeared throughout the Soviet Union, in books and in articles of varied length appearing in newspapers and periodicals.

Among these are:

(a) The Moscow, as well as the "republican" and provincial party press.

(b) The labor union press (for example, the Moscow Trud),

(c) Literary publications issued by the Writers' Union of the U.S.S.R. (Literaturnaya Gazeta, Oktyabr, Novyi Mir, Znamya, Zvesda, etc.) and its branches in Moscow (Moskva), Leningrad (Neva) Kiev (Dnipro), Voronezh (Podem), etc.

(d) Youth newspapers and periodicals (Komsomolskaya Pravda, Molodoi Kommunist, Smena, Molodaya Gvardiya).

(e) Moscow and provincial technical journals.

Since the scope of the present study makes it impossible to give consideration to the abundant material available, the reports selected were limited to (a) the most recent from the standpoint of date of publication, and (b) the most important from the Soviet point of view.

This explains the selections of statements made in April 1960, by Stepan Shchipachev, a Soviet poet, in preference to books by Polevoi and Gribachev or articles by Goryaev, Moiseev, and others of the period from 1956 through early 1959. This also explains the selection of "Litsom K Litsu S Amerikoi" ("Face to Face With America") which received the Lenin prize for 1960 and must therefore be regarded as an outstanding work, and of Ekaterina Sheveleva's article published in a widely read periodical. The writer is a staff member of Moscow Trud.

Soviet visits to the United States are an element of Soviet tactics of the "peaceful coexistence" period. They are an important factor in a program founded on the premises of Marxism-Leninism that (1) capitalism (imperialism) must be destroyed, and (2) the struggle between capitalism and socialism is inevitable.

"Peaceful coexistence" is a tactical interlude utilized to strengthen "socialist-communist" countries and weaken capitalism. So-called "competition" belongs to the tactics of the "peaceful coexistence" period as a form of class struggle. Thus Soviet visits to the United States serve these purposes:

(1) Obtaining information ranging from the study of American conditions, collection of technical data and verification of previously obtained data, to direct espionage and the establishment of a network of contacts,

(2) Engaging in propaganda, both

(a) Pro-Soviet in the United States where it is aimed at misinforming American society on the objectives and possibilities open to the U.S.S.R. and communism, and at decomposing and demobilizing American public opinion, and

(b) Pro-Soviet in the U.S.S.R. and other so-called socialist countries where it is aimed at confirming Soviet theses concerning the superiority of the Soviet system over the capitalist and the inevitable destruction of capitalism, and at presenting documentary proof of the prestige enjoyed by

the U.S.S.R. and communism, as well as Soviet political leaders in the Free World.

It is thus natural that the impressions of Soviet visitors to the United States, as reported in the Soviet press and by Soviet literature, are mainly intended as propaganda aimed at the Soviet people. They are directed at avoiding the contribution of any evidence which might arouse in the Soviet reader admiration or envy of our way of life. They avoid particularly the mention of any favorable traits relating to the political, social, and cultural life of the United States, even while they admit economic and technical achievement. Thus, as a rule, Soviet visitors, in their reports, make every effort to present America in its darkest colors. The depressing picture which they paint is usually achieved through "misrepresentation by omission." All the unfavorable aspects of life in America are stressed, exaggerated, and multiplied. In confirmation of the accuracy of the description, the reports cite American sources critical of conditions in the United States, and unjustified and often irresponsible statements appearing in the American press. These citations serve as evidence supporting Soviet allegations. They are of tremendous importance in the Soviet Union proper where they appear more convincing to the Soviet reader than any speeches made by Communist authorities. In addition to "misrepresentation by omission," some visitors distort conditions in the United States to the extent of claiming, for example, that a police regime, striking terror into every citizen, exists in the U.S.A.

It has been observed that a relatively large number (possibly 25 percent) of the Soviet citizens visiting the United States under the exchange program after an initial trip to the United States, return to America on a second mission. Among names of repeaters obtained from reports in the press are the following: Boris Polevoi, Aleksei Adzhubei, K. Nepomnyashchii, Shevchenko, Perevodchikova, Sheveleva, and Kabalevski. The percentage among the visitors of persons who have traveled extensively in China and Western Europe is still higher. These people are apparently trained professional "tourists," whose objective is far from mere tourism.

It has further been observed that a certain percentage of visitors visiting the United States under the guise of representatives of Soviet culture are actually leading workers of Communist or Communist-front organizations. A vivid example is Nina Popova, candidate member (alternate) of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union and until February 1958, board chairman of the All-Union Society for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries (VOKS).

The compilation of the material available in the Soviet press on visits to the United States, is time consuming because no index of such material exists in the Library of Congress, and the titles of articles appearing in Soviet periodicals do not always indicate that these articles refer to a visit of the author in America. It would be necessary, in order to obtain a complete picture of the reaction of Soviet visitors, as presented to the Soviet reader, to follow through page by page, all the material listed in the first several paragraphs of the covering memorandum.

Excerpts and, in some cases, descriptive comments on typical published reports follow:

1. "LITSOM K LITSU S AMERIKOI"

A book deserving particular attention among the publications by Soviet visitors to the United States upon return to the Soviet Union, is "Litsom K Litsu S Amerikoi" ("Face to Face with America"), Moscow, State Publishing House for Political Literature, 1959 (1st edition, 250,000 copies). The book is devoted to Premier Khrushchev's visit to America in September 1959, and sets down the impressions of some of the persons accompanying him on the trip. These persons include A. Adzhubei (son-in-law of the Premier), listed, together with interpreter O. Troyanovski among the 12 authors of the book. Both Adzhubei and Troyanovski knew America from previous visits. The presence of Adzhubei among the authors is a factor contributing to the significance of the statements contained in "Litsom K Litsu S Amerikoi." As stated in the preface (p. 7), the book, which covers 600-some pages, was written "in tense struggle for the victory of truth and reason, for the triumph of the principles of peaceful coexistence, and of the great ideas of communism."

The size of the volume makes it impossible to examine in a brief study the entire material relating to the visitors' reaction to America. The passages selected for examination are limited therefore to excerpts describing some of the cities visited by Khrushchev and certain aspects of the American way of life. The selection was governed by a desire to give a general idea of the views on America conveyed by the authors to their Soviet readers, rather than by an intention to cite material most hostile to the United States. Many paragraphs portraying an intentionally unfavorable and acutely distorted picture of America have consequently been disregarded:

WASHINGTON, D.C.

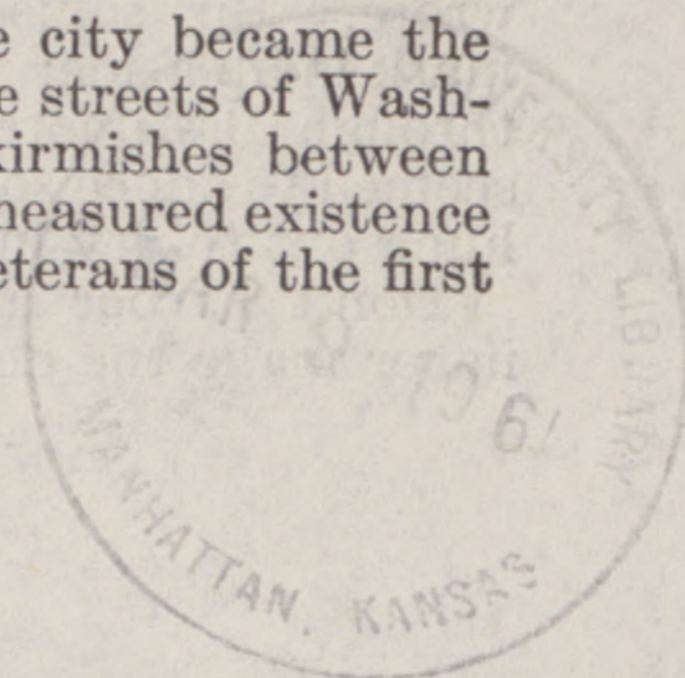
There is no capital in the West which can compare with Washington in aloofness from industry and the working class. Factory chimneys can be seen neither in the suburbs nor, particularly, in Washington as such. The central sections of the city reflect decorous calm, wealth, and prosperity. Solid homes seem to hide from alien eyes behind the exuberant vegetation of avenues and parks.

The impressive facades of government buildings, 130 hotels, four department stores, 40 "supermarkets"—stores of a market type founded on self-service—, a National Art Gallery, a Gallery of fine arts, polytechnical, historical and natural history museums, a memorial obelisk to G. Washington, memorial mausoleums to Lincoln and Jefferson, numerous monuments to generals, one hundred motion picture theaters, a covered stadium seating 9,000, racetracks, swimming pools, playgrounds, parks, all this produces an architecturally sumptuous city outline which lacks, however, human animation—the centre of Washington is empty after dark. Nor is there here a single theater of importance or relative renown.

Politics are made in Washington, but by whom? The rank and file population, at any rate, is not encouraged to participate in political activity. On the contrary, the American capital is enclosed in the borders of a specific section, the District of Columbia, which forms a part of no state. The citizens residing there are deprived of franchise, they cannot even elect any city authorities. Washington is administered by three commissioners appointed by the President with the approval of the senate.

But to protect the capital of the U.S.A. from the scourge of war was easier than to isolate it from political shocks.

During the extremely severe economic crisis of 1929-33, the city became the arena of stormy events. The unemployed demonstrating on the streets of Washington organized "hunger marches." There were constant skirmishes between demonstrators and police. No trace remained of Washington's measured existence during the march upon the American capital of thousands of veterans of the first



world war who demanded payment of their pensions. Only by summoning armed forces under the command of General MacArthur, then chief of the general staff, could the demonstrators be dispersed.

After the second world war the name of the American capital was linked with the darkest pages of McCarthy persecution, as furious as it was senseless. Describing the atmosphere prevailing at the time in the United States of America, Adlai Stevenson, prominent leader of the democratic party, wrote of "flourishing libel, fear, cunning insinuations, poisoned pens, anonymous telephone calls, amateurs of rough elbow work * * *".

The luxury and comfort of the North West of Washington, particularly sections in the vicinity of Rock Creek Park, are easy to explain: the annual income of a family over here is not inferior to 10 or 12 thousand dollars. The appearance of the Washington suburbs in the North East and South East is different. The income of families residing in these sections does not exceed two or three thousand dollars a year, even if one accepts strictly official data. Here reside mainly Negroes—subordinate workers and petty employees. Fifty-two percent of Washington is Negro. According to the official census of 1950, it is here precisely that 27,727 houses were listed in the column of those "unsuited to normal residence" (p. 86).

BALTIMORE, MD.

Baltimore, in the state of Maryland, with a population of almost a million, is the sixth city of the United States by its size and the third port of the country in freight turnover. It has about 2,000 industrial enterprises. A local metallurgical plant owned by the "Bethlehem Steel Company" corporation employs thirty-four thousand workmen. Baltimore has a large auto assembly plant belonging to the "General Motors" corporation, the conveyor of which delivers daily 950 "Chevrolet" cars. The Baltimore inhabitants are proud of their John Hopkins university, one of the oldest institutions for higher education in the country. Alas, there is one more noteworthy sight in this city to which the inhabitants refer without the slightest enthusiasm—the sadly notorious Baltimore slums (p. 147).

THE SOUTH

Leaving Baltimore behind, the diesel-express crosses with a crashing noise the bridge over the Susquehanna, the wide deep river falling into the Chesapeake Bay, and tears along at a speed of 100 kilometers an hour over the fertile plain where farmers grow sweet corn for canning. Somewhere here, in the yellow cornfields, near the city of Elkton stands a stone obelisk which serves as conventional borderline dividing the country into the North and the South. Many bitter tragic pages in the life of the American Negroes are linked with this invisible border, the "Mason-Dixon" line. It is picturesquely described as a line of demarcation between Negro hell and Negro purgatory (p. 147).

CLASS DIVISIONS

America has long been known for its contrasts. One cannot but notice them even when getting superficially acquainted with the country. The pointed spires of the Baltimore skyscrapers, the gay elegant homes of the local rich, have just flitted past our eyes, and now, here, right next to them, come miles of stone boxes depressing in their monotony, covered with smoke, and rundown with age, under the roofs of which the city poor eke out their existence.

Let us note the brief report on N. S. Khrushchev's trip from Washington to New York which appeared on the following day in the newspaper New York Times. The author, G. (H.) Schwarz, a man not unbeknown, with an agile pen and unlimited imagination as far as anti-Soviet inventions are concerned, tried to describe in the most idyllic colors the route followed on the trip by the head of the Soviet Government. "Nature itself contributed toward making it possible for the Soviet Premier to see the United States in its most attractive aspect," he wrote. But some paragraphs down even G. (H.) Schwarz was compelled to remark in an aside: "Slums which struck the eye particularly when the train passed through Baltimore, were encountered along the way. But the rays of the sun seemed to adorn somewhat the hideous exterior of the decrepit homes with laundry hung out to dry in their back yard."

Don't harbor any delusions, Mr. Schwarz. Sunshine, however bright, can never make the depressing sight of city slums the least bit attractive. There is

no way in which you can escape the fact that millions of people lack a decent roof over their head and are compelled to live in hovels in the wealthiest country of the capitalist world, a country where not one roof in an entire century has suffered from the explosion of enemy bombs or missiles.

No one would have the temerity of suspecting the U.S.A. Democratic Party National Committee of wishing to darken colors and cast a shadow on the American way of life. Yet in a recent report it wrote in black on white that 15 million Americans live in slums, 13 million houses (one-fourth of the total number of residential buildings in the U.S.A.) cannot comply with established standards of sanitation, and 7 million city houses are unfit for residence because of complete decay. "One of every eight New York inhabitants lives in an incredibly miserable dwelling: up to ten people share one room which is alive with rats," gloomily notes the American magazine Newsweek (p. 147).

WILMINGTON, DEL.

As the train approached the city of Wilmington, one of the American newspapermen suggested that we look out to see the "kingdom of the Du Pont family." Frankly speaking, it was difficult to see at first glance in the outline of this small city anything particularly noteworthy distinguishing it from other American cities. The same flat roofs over the dwellings, red brick factory and plant buildings, grey warehouses. And just as in thousands of other cities, there is in Wilmington, probably, a Main Street with the indispensable attributes of city life in America: a drugstore, a cafeteria, a movie theater, and a Woolworth store selling products of broad consumption. Recalling the books of Sinclair Lewis who portrayed with mastery the dreary, monotonous life of the American province, we thought that precisely in a city like Wilmington, an average city lacking individuality, one may find characters from his novel "Babbitt," the title of which has become a definition applied to the average American (p. 149).

NEW YORK CITY

The trip from the official to the nonofficial capital of America took 3 hours and 32 minutes * * * New York * * *. No one remains indifferent to the sight of this city. In some it produces a feeling of dislike, in others—of exaltation. Some call it a poem of stone and steel, others—a soulless monster. It is unlike the other cities of the world and has the reputation of being an "orphan" among them.

The newspaper New York Herald Tribune in an editorial devoted to the arrival of N. S. Khrushchev in New York, wrote as follows: "There are as many opinions about our city as there are people living in it and as there are tourists visiting it. We are not inclined to affirm that we live in a perfect city. There are many who dislike our noise and dirt, the rattling subway and the fantastic pace of our street traffic. We are concerned over the problems of slums and youth behavior." (The newspaper refers to the catastrophic growth of juvenile delinquency in New York.)

What then is New York—this show window of America, as the authors of many guidebooks to the city usually describe it?

While telling of its sights they invariably recall an episode in history, which to this day remains, in their words, "an unsurpassed miracle of private initiative and enterprise." In fact, with undisguised pride, one of the "city fathers" told the head of the Soviet government that New York was founded on "business principles." In the interest of truth, it might not be amiss to digress somewhat into the past of the greatest city of America.

In the early part of the Seventeenth century on the spot where now tower immense New York skyscrapers stood only pitiful Indian wigwams belonging to the Iroquois tribe. In 1626, Peter Minuit, the Dutch governor, concluded with them, as asserted by experts of American business, "the most profitable business transaction" in the history of the U.S.A. He filched from the simple-hearted, trusting Indians a large island in exchange for a few bottles of gin and a handful of glass trinkets priced at 24 dollars. Later the Indians called this island Manahatta (the Manhattan of today, the central part of New York) which means in Iroquois: "We were duped." Apparently, even at the dawn of the development of private enterprise it proved sometimes difficult to draw a line between a "business transaction" and deceit, between "a miracle of private initiative" and open robbery (p. 153).

CAPITALIST PUBLICITY

It is important to stress that publicity, as far as America is concerned, is not only a purely business conception. Publicity determines the psychology of society, it has entered the life of the American so universally and so solidly that it seems to have become a trait of national life. There is nothing surprising in this situation when one compares just two figures: America annually spends the fabulous sum of 10.5 billion dollars, i.e., one-fortieth of its total income on publicity and publicity broadcasting, while spending 16 billion dollars on the education of the growing generation (p. 263).

AMERICAN STANDARD OF LIVING

One cannot but see that a relatively high standard of living has been reached in the United States. But, as known generally, millions of people in the same America live in conditions of poverty and even misery. Sidney Lens states, for example, that "the earnings of one-sixth of the taxpayers—heads of families and single individuals—are less than 40 dollars a week * * *. Of the 6.5 million Negroes working in the United States in 1950 (the most recent statistical figure), a good two-thirds made less than 30 dollars a week."

Lens emphasizes that, in this manner, the much lauded standard of living of the Americans belongs to the field of statistics rather than reality. One-third of the nation which under the Roosevelt government was poorly dressed, badly nourished, and lived in bad conditions, still continues as of today to make barely enough to keep itself alive.

One can only add that, while it is considered in the United States that the country has come out of the profound crisis which shook it in 1958, when columns of unemployed filled Washington, there are still in America, and this we emphasize, 3,400,000 fully unemployed people just according to official statistics.

Under U.S.A. conditions unemployment for the average American is a deadly, desperate period of existence. The twenty or thirty dollars a week which the American receives only during the first months of his unemployment disappear as rapidly as hopes inspired by publicity, and man remains face to face with his fate. He can try and tear himself from the horror of misery and despair, trusting on himself alone and on his own strength for social principles and the social system proclaim: each for himself.

At first glance American cities look bright and elegant. The electric brilliance of publicity lighting gives them this appearance. But with daylight, they acquire the look of a tired musical comedy dancer after she has removed her makeup. Without makeup life, American life, produces an impression far more complex, painful, and even oppressive than would seem to a lighthearted tourist.

One must spend a quarter of one's earnings on living premises—from 75 to 100 dollars for a barely endurable apartment, 500 dollars for the right alone to give birth to a child in a clinic, 750 to 1,000 dollars a year to study at a good university. Is not this the reason why millions of teenagers in wealthy America are unable to get a high school degree and, the more so, higher education? Is not this the reason why in this wealthy country thousands and thousands of teenagers roam the streets, often coming under the influence of gangster groups, become drug addicts, and the degree of moral depravity cannot sometimes be encompassed by normal human vision. Recall the words of the same Sidney Lens who said: "The United States holds the world record in the number of murders per hundred thousand inhabitants." These are, perhaps, the most important traits in the life of this so-called happy society (p. 266).

SAN FRANCISCO

The San Francisco suburbs appear at last, built up by tiny cubic houses ranging from one to two stories in height. As we learnt subsequently, their construction is rapid: a bulldozer arrives, levels out the land, road and waterpipes are laid, and right there and then scores of even sized tiny houses are scattered along the road, like dice out of a box. All of them are standard: there are but seven or eight styles and they differ only in color and the way they are painted. Some Americans like to live in this kind of home: inferior quality but they own it, even though one has to pay the company over a period of many years for this small home.

But in the eyes of the Soviet man, there is something endlessly sad in the way people squeeze themselves into these small-sized houses, crushed as in a vise on either side by similar tiny buildings owned by others. There is no real yard, no small garden, but only the asphalt of the sidewalk—a stone burrow for humans among hundreds of similar burrows (p. 274).

2. "S 'BEREZKOI' PO AMERIKE"

The article entitled "S 'Berezkoï' po Amerike" ("In America with the Berezka Company") appeared in two installments in the Moscow monthly Moskva, the official publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and the Moscow branch of the Writers' Union (circulation 43,000) in Nos. 7 and 8, 1959. The article was written by Ekaterina Sheveleva who, as an interpreter, visited America on two occasions, with the Moiseev ballet company and, some months later, with the "Berezka" company. Sheveleva, now correspondent of the Moscow Trud in India, speaks English fluently.

Of particular interest are photographs which illustrate this article:

И этот снимок опубликован в американской прессе.

Вот они — трудовые руки Америки, которые сделали эту страну сильной и богатой.



Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 7, 1959, page 193. Caption: "This picture also was published in the American press. Here they are—the toiling hands of America which made this country strong and wealthy."

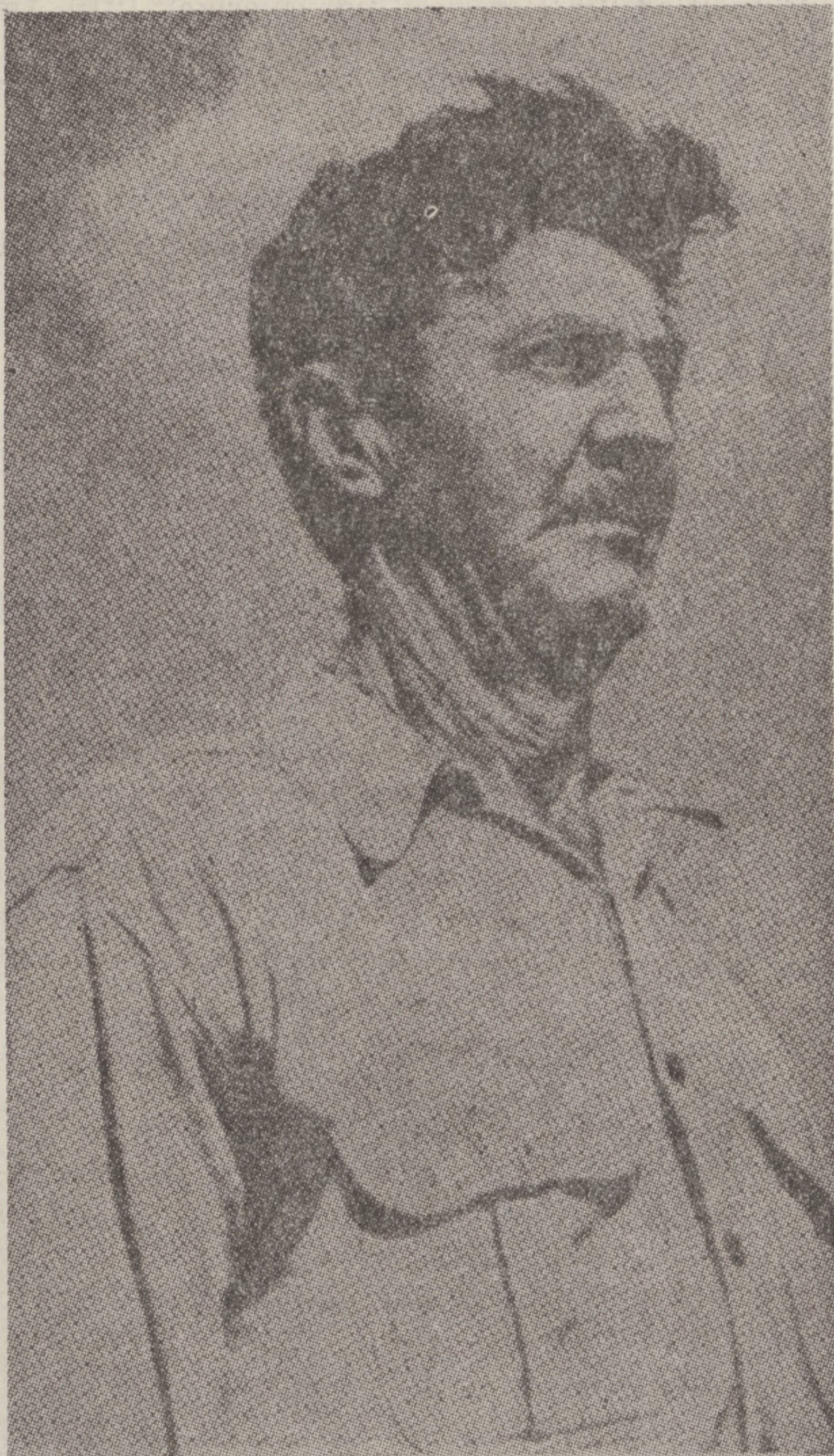


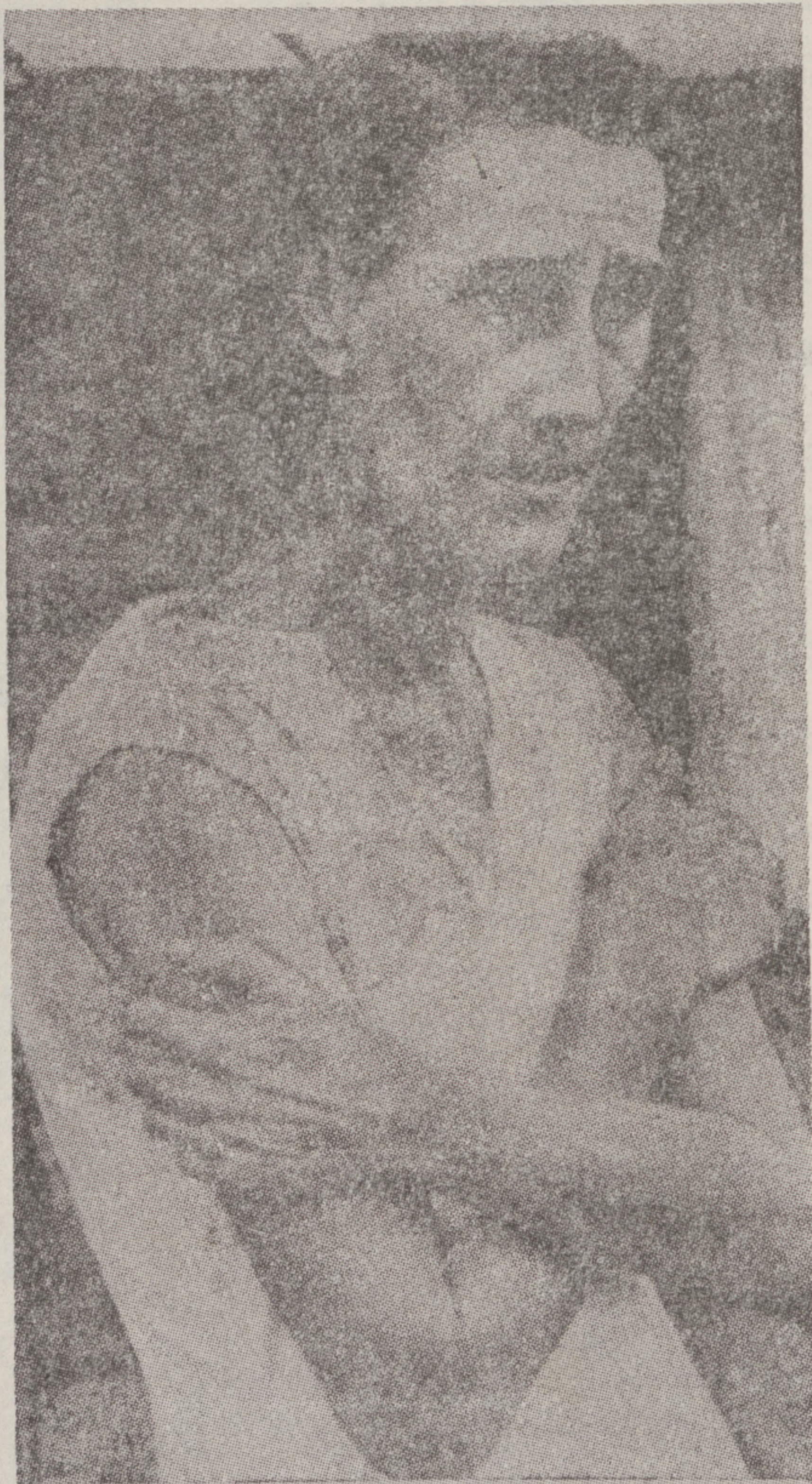
Фото из американского журнала
«Пикчюр»: рабочий человек Америки.
Он хочет работы, мира, простого
человеческого счастья...

Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 7, 1959, page 192. Photograph used to illustrate article entitled "With Berezka in America" by Ekaterina Sheveleva, a poet and newspaperwoman, who visited America twice, first with the Igor Moiseev Ballet and later with the Berezka Ballet as an interpreter. Caption: "Photograph from the American periodical 'Picture': a Workingman of America. He wants work, peace, plain human happiness."

Не все в Америке пользуются услугами механизированных прачечных,—
белье сушится там и на улицах...



Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow No. 7, 1959, page 191. Caption: "Not everyone in America utilizes the services of mechanized laundries—laundry is dried there out on the streets also."



И эта женщина вряд ли сторонница
«холодной войны»!
Фото из «Фамили оф мэн».

Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 7, 1959, page 193. Caption: "Neither is this woman a partisan of the 'cold war'." Photograph from "The Family of Man."

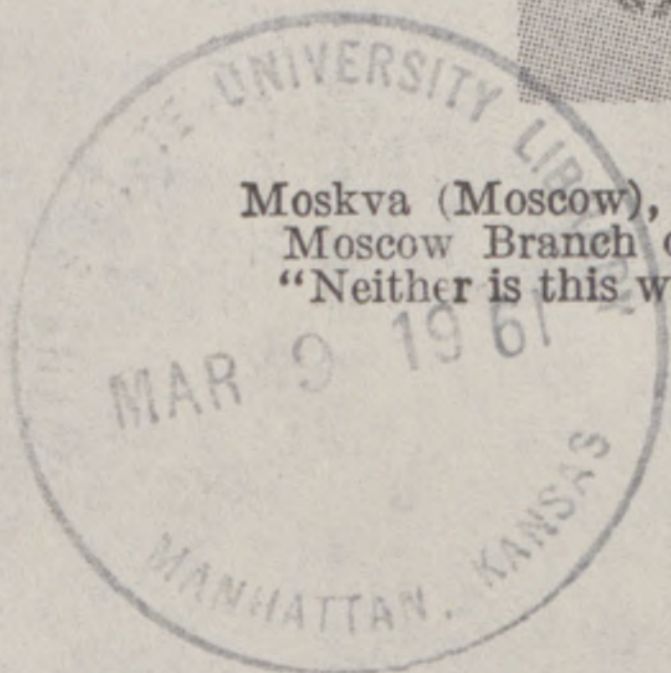


Рисунок из американского юношеского журнала «Война атомного века». На нем изображены американские солдаты, «готовые к убийству», как сообщается в подписи к рисунку



Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 190. Caption: "An illustration from the American youth periodical 'War of the Atomic Century'. It represents American soldiers 'ready to murder' as is stated in the illustration." (Note that placard reads "Ready to attack.")

Френ Родс из Янгстауна (штат Огайо)
и его семья живут на 36 долларов в
неделю... А ведь вскоре он может ли-
шиться даже этого нищенского посо-
бия по безработице!



Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 196. Caption: "Fran Rodes from Youngstown, Ohio, and his family, live on \$36.00 a week * * * but soon he can be deprived of even this pauper's unemployment relief!"



«Детский сад» на американский лад...
Но дети — всегда дети, они улыбаются,
хотя завтра их родителям нечем будет
их накормить!

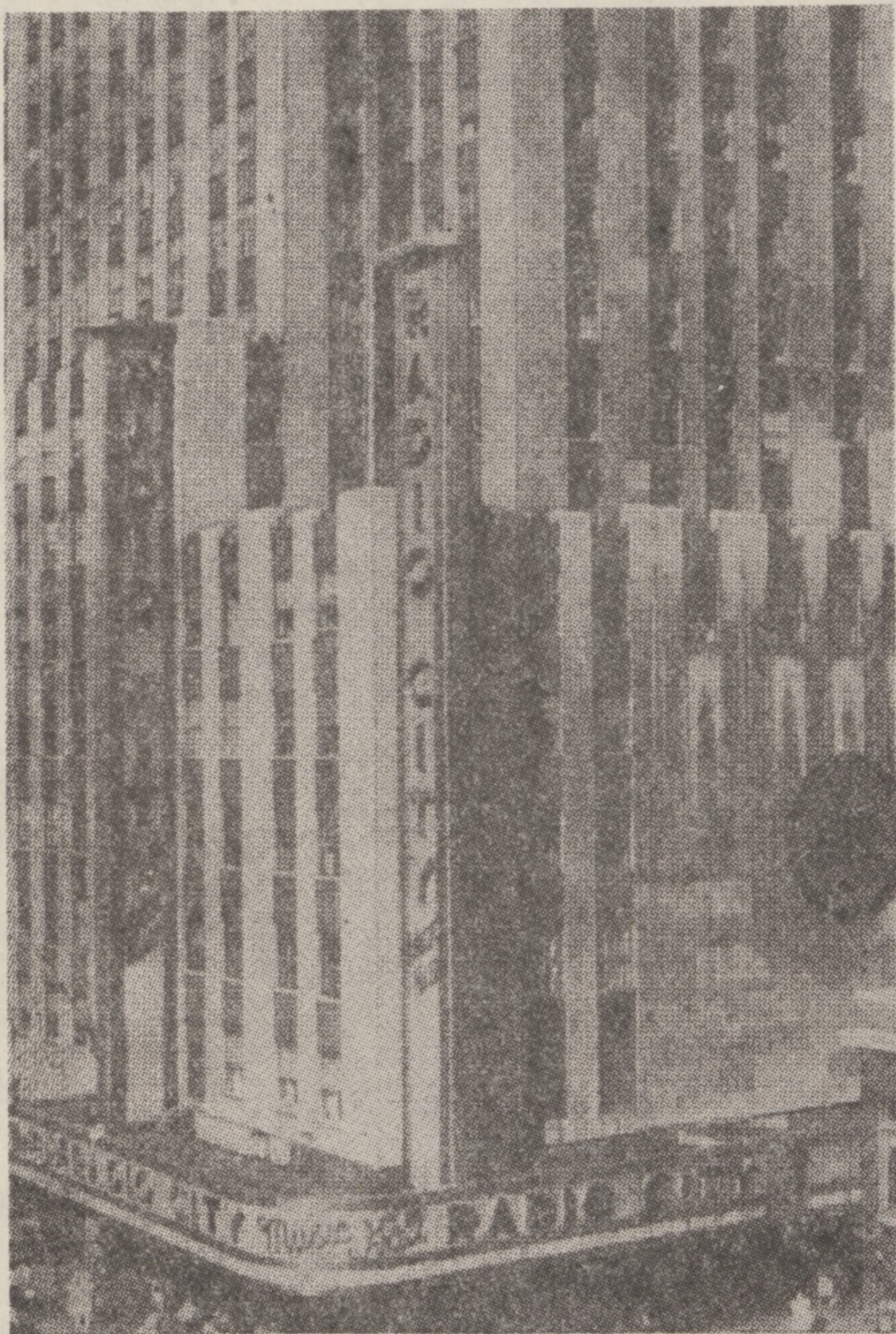
Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 196. Caption: " 'A kindergarten' American style * * * but children are always children, they smile although tomorrow their parents will have nothing to feed them with!"



Безработные Детройта в очереди за пособием



Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 188. Caption: "The unemployed of Detroit waiting in line for relief."



Громадное здание «Радио-сити».
Вверху — небоскреб во всю свою вы-
соту; внизу — вход в него...

В этом оборудованном по последне-
му слову техники гигантском театре
техники много, а искусства мало.

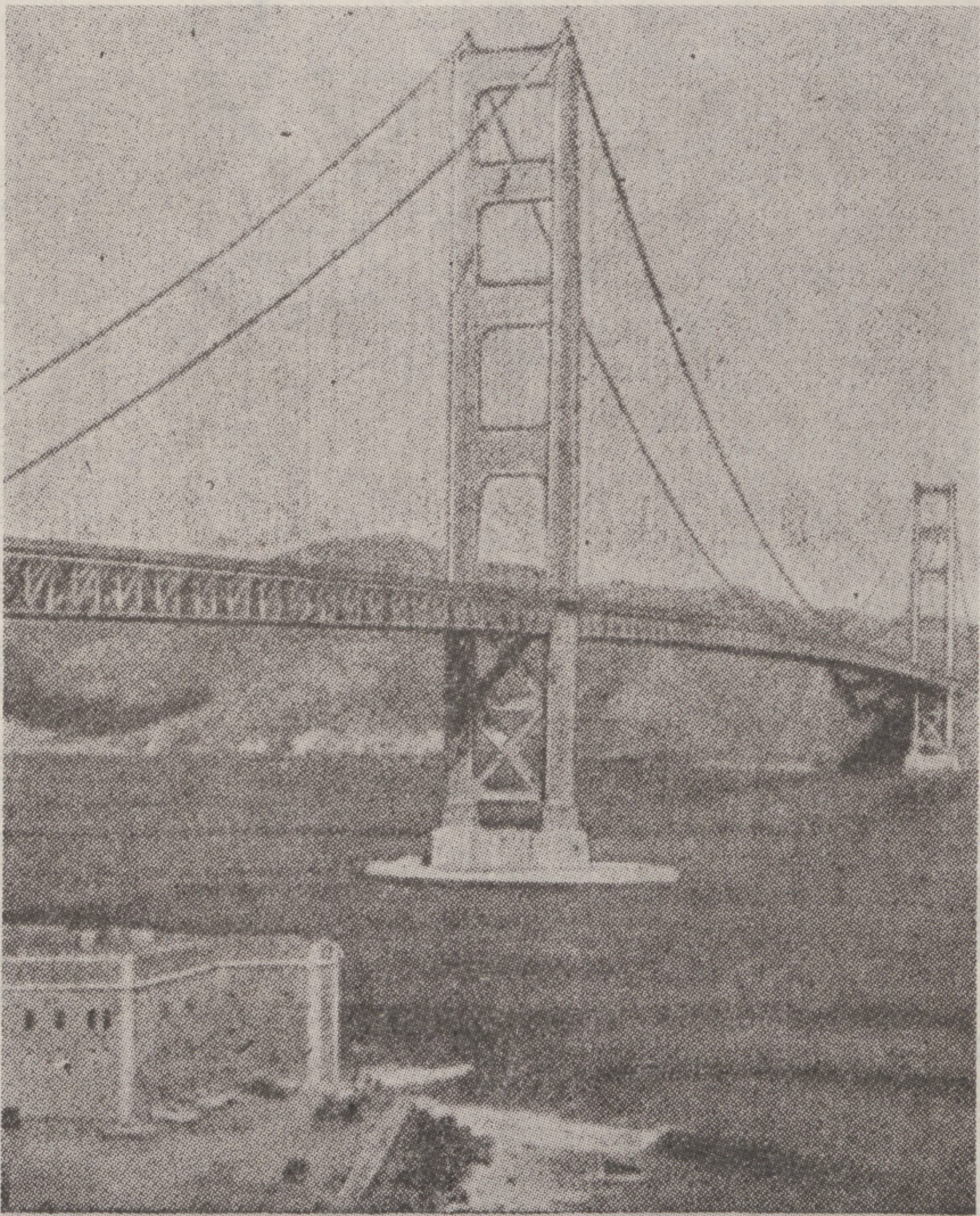
Переверните страницу, и вы увиди-
те, как вымуштрованные девушки, по-
хожие одна на другую, точно сошед-
шие с конвейера, работают с точностью
бездушных автоматов.

Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 7, 1959, page 185. Caption: "The tremendous building of 'Radio City'. * * * the entrance to the building. In this gigantic theatre equipped in accordance with the latest technique, there is a lot of technique but there is little art. * * * trained girls who look so much alike that they seemed to have come off a conveyor, work with the precision of soulless automatons."

В центре Нью-Йорка можно увидеть и пикет забастовщиков. Этот снимок сделан на углу 57-ой улицы. Бастуют работники торговой фирмы, которая продает автомобили.

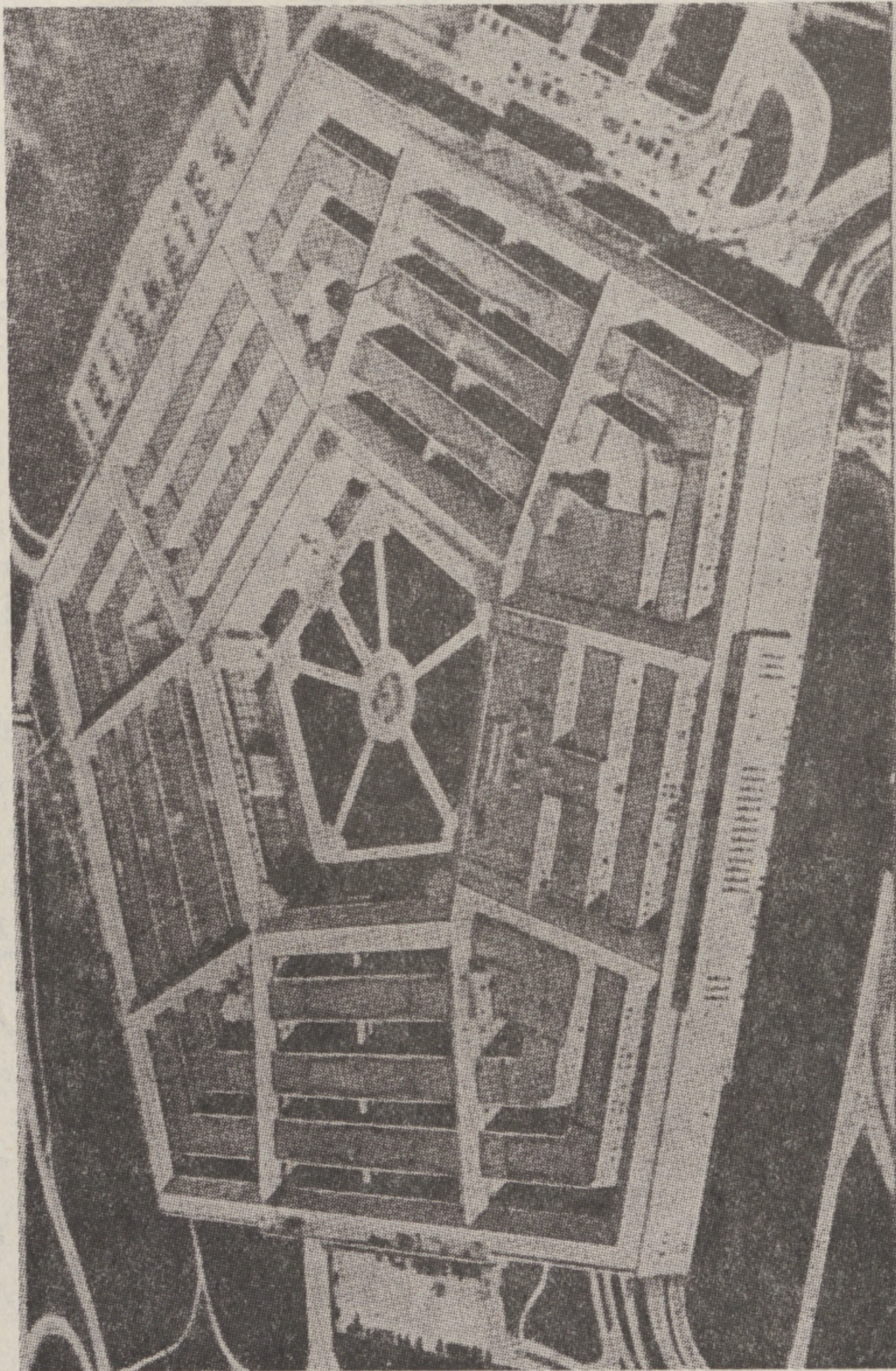


Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. Caption: "One can see strike pickets in the center of New York. This picture was taken at the corner of 57th Street. On strike are the workers of a business firm selling automobiles" (No. 7, 1959, p. 188).



«Золотые ворота» — знаменитый мост в Сан-Франциско, или «Мост самоубийц», как его называют иначе, — с него часто бросаются те, кто разочаровался в американском «образе жизни».

Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 195. Caption: "The 'Golden Gate(s)'—famous bridge in San Francisco, or the 'bridge of suicides' as it is otherwise called—often those who are disappointed in the American 'way of life' jump from it."



Пентагон (пентагон — по-гречески пятиугольник) — здание, где находятся руководящие военные учреждения США. Кое-кто утверждает, что здание это чем-то напоминает зловещую паутину, которую плетут поборники «холодной» войны...

Moskva (Moscow), Monthly, Official Publication of the Union of Writers of the RSFSR and of the Moscow Branch of the Union of Writers, published in Moscow. No. 8, 1959, page 186. Caption: "The Pentagon (in Greek, a figure with five corners) — the building where are located the directing military institutions of the U.S.A. There are some who assert that this building reminds one in some way of a menacing web spun by the promoters of the 'cold' war."

Excerpts from "In America with the Berezka Company," appearing in the Monthly magazine Moskva in issues No. 7 and 8, 1959:

ONE DOLLAR IN HIS POCKET

* * * Our salary was waiting for us in Washington, and, on the last day in Philadelphia several members of our group, myself included, were left literally with one dollar in our pocket. We walked about and remembered that some of the Americans we had met had assured us that an American unemployed always has a dollar in his pocket * * * (p. 184, No. 8, 1959).

There is a lot of merchandise on Broadway and none of my Moscow friends will believe, perhaps, that the simplest and most needed article cannot always be found in New York. Carl Upiner, a student and resident of New York refused to believe me, for example, when I said in a conversation, among other things, that in his city, known for its abundance of merchandise, I am unable to find the most ordinary thick notebook to note down impressions of the trip. We had a bet with the student, as to whether such a notebook can be found in New York. And I won: an ordinary thick notebook cannot be found!

It appears that with one dollar in one's pocket, one immediately wants to buy things that cost over a dollar, usually the simplest things. Suddenly one is in dreadful need of a pair of more or less warm stockings because Philadelphia is cold in wintertime. And stockings, by no means of the best quality, are a dollar and twenty-five cents. Again, one notices that one's shoes need repair, and this costs no less than two dollars and fifty cents. One would like to eat away from the cafeteria where it usually seems one is chewing on dacron or nylon, in other words, some chemical substitute for which the United States is so notorious * * *. One would like a better meal, and this costs no less than five dollars * * *.

The number of Americans with just one dollar in their pocket is not small! And it would, perhaps, be appropriate to give them a thought in Philadelphia * * *. Indeed, with a dollar in his pocket, an American cannot attend a concert of the Philadelphia orchestra, nor, of course, can he study music, art, or sculpture * * * (p. 188, No. 7, 1959).

UNEMPLOYMENT

A paradox of the capitalist world: machinery, the purpose of which is to improve the life of man, becomes his enemy. The government appeals to industrialists to suspend any further installation of mechanization and automatism. This increases unemployment! A shorter workday is—a misfortune. It increases unemployment. The abundance of products in itself is—a misfortune, excess of supply over demand, overproduction. This leads to unemployment * * *.

Today in the U.S.A., to rent out a parking lot is more profitable than to rent out apartments or rooms. Many house owners evict their tenants, tear down the houses, and turn the empty space into a parking lot. "Pursuit of happiness" in the capitalist world teaches man to be shifty, pitiless, and to profit from the misfortune of others.

And another everyday detail about the family: "Do you know what people eat here when they are not wealthy? Soup. We have now been eating soup for three days" (p. 189, No. 8, 1959).

THE BASKERS AND THE FBI

The Baskers' home in the city suburbs is like a small fairytale castle. Helda told us that not long ago Federal Bureau of Investigation agents had come to this "castle"—by car, naturally, not on foot. Two of them. One about twenty-five, the other older. They parked their car opposite the little "castle" and waited. When Bob Basker got back from work, the gentlemen from the FBI stopped him on the threshold, showed him their badges (by turning back their coat lapel) and demanded to be invited into the house. Inside the small home the "visitors" went through all the books asking questions more or less of the following kind: "Do you get the Daily Worker?" (The Daily Worker, by the way, has long since ceased to exist. Alone remains the Sunday edition which the Baskers know only from hearsay). Neither Helda Basker nor her husband were Communists nor were they in any way connected with the activity of the U.S.A. communist party. Possibly, the FBI merely wanted to scare rank and file American toilers, stop them once and for all from engaging in political activity of any kind, and from

participating in the activity of the Committee of American-Soviet friendship (p. 183, No. 8, 1959).

QUAKERS

* * * Philadelphia is the center of the Quaker movement. The Quaker organization is progressive, it stands for the prohibition of atomic armament and takes active part in cultural exchanges. * * * The Quakers acted against American aggression in Lebanon. * * * There is something very touching in this Quaker organization, particularly touching in their stubborn faith in goodness, in the simplicity and purity of life. This, possibly naive faith can be felt in everything * * * (p. 183, No. 8, 1959).

THE AMERICAN FAMILY

At last I found time to visit Bob Condon. His workshop is not far from Broadway, on the corner of Second Avenue and 50th Street. I walked and as I moved away from Broadway, New York began to look less and less like the New York to which we had become accustomed while living in the very center of the city. I could not help but think that quite recently a description of the New York slums appeared in the newspaper *The New York Times*. Ira Henry Freeman, a newspaperman, described what happened to district attorney Edward S. Silver who wanted to take a look at the homes in his section. "Conditions here are so bad that it is difficult to imagine human beings living in such houses," said Mr. Silver. * * * On November 24, mayor Wagner accompanied by the chief judge of the so-called county of Queens * * * visited certain parts of New York. "The apartments they visited," wrote the press, "amazed them by their overcrowded conditions, by the indigence, the dilapidated furnishings, the dirt, absence of air, and absolute lack of sanitation" * * *. After the frank statements of the New York newspapers I was not surprised when I walked into Bob Condon's room, long, narrow, and without any windows * * * (p. 191, No. 7, 1959).

A SAN FRANCISCO FAMILY

In San Francisco we had met the family of Mrs. Conrad. Her husband is a pilot working on private planes. Betty Conrad has ten children, she is one the "heroic mothers" of America. Only, as she pointed out, no one here considers it of great merit to have such a large family * * * The family lives very modestly. Max Conrad makes up to ten thousand dollars a year. "We have no car—only a bicycle—for the whole family—we can't afford a car." True enough, in the modest Conrad home, as we noticed, many things were absent which, according to American publicity, should be found in the home of every self-respecting family. There was no automatic electric stove in the kitchen, no washing machine of the most recent make, no television. But there was something else in the home: the sense of happiness and of the poetic substance of life * * * Mrs. Conrad gave us details of their everyday existence: "* * * Molly is out delivering the cheesecake she baked. This is how she makes a little bit of money" (p. 181, No. 8, 1959).

3. "KUDA ZVONIT PO TELEFONU?"

A RUSSIAN POET SEES AMERICA

The article "Kuda Zvont po Telefonu?" ("Where Should One Phone?") written by Yu. Gavrilov, appeared in the *Moscow Literaturnaya Gazeta*, official organ of the Board of the Union of Writers of the U.S.S.R., on April 2, 1960. It reports the impressions of Stepan Shchipachev, a Soviet poet, who visited the United States in February–March 1960, as the head of a writers' delegation. Shchipachev, as the chairman of the Moscow Writers' Union carries considerable weight in the Soviet Union. The article is relatively short.

Excerpts

(1) A high standard of life is fine, the benefits of civilization in one's living conditions is also fine, rock-and-roll—well, with reservations, but then a man finds himself without a job (an everyday occurrence—several millions of Americans can confirm this to you), what then? "Where should one phone?"

(2) Wherever we were, we sensed everywhere that we are advancing along a road which has been cleared of the obstacles of unfriendliness and suspicion. Cleared with energy and resoluteness, as our Premier Nikita Sergeevich Khrushchev knows how to do and as he did in the U.S.A. The Americans enraptured by his indefatigable striving for peace and mutual comprehension, seemed to have been awakened by him and now reveal an ever-growing interest in all that is Soviet * * *.

(3) I cannot omit mentioning the Slavic department of the Library of Congress. It is an exemplary institution where any book may be found. I even saw there my early works, the existence of which, I may say, I hardly remembered.

(4) A lack of ideal, of dreams, of a desire and need to look into the day of tomorrow is, as we became convinced, a trait typical of American youth. We look ahead into centuries, and they * * *.

(5) Stepan Shchipachev described a visit to an Indian reservation, where about one-half of the population, notwithstanding the effort made to conceal this from the Soviet writers, proved to be indigents living in very modest huts on very modest means. One could see at the reservation a whole people becoming extinct and disappearing.

THREE WEEKS IN THE UNITED STATES ON A GOODWILL MISSION

The following excerpts are taken from an article appearing in the Moscow Pravda of March 27, 1960, by Dmitriy Polyansky, chairman of the Soviet Council of Ministers and candidate member of the Central Committee Presidium of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, a high-ranking official. His article is entitled "Three Weeks in the United States on a Goodwill Mission." It deals with the experiences of a delegation of Soviet leaders who recently visited the United States in response to a visit to the Soviet Union in the summer of 1959, of a group of American governors. We quote in part:

We wanted to see with our own eyes how American people live, what their strivings are, and at the same time to tell of the successes of our country and of the peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union.

The importance of all this for strengthening friendly ties between our peoples is obvious.

* * * * *

INDUSTRIAL PLANTS

Members of the delegation and their advisers visited the Fairless steel plant in New Jersey, the Wisconsin steel company in Chicago, and the Geneva Steel plant in Utah; the Roebling cable factory in Trenton; the Sangamo electric company in Springfield; a rubber and technical parts plant in Denver; a sawmill in Idaho; an electric power station in Richfield; mines in West Virginia and Illinois, and the largest copper mine, in Utah. The comrades visited the New York iron and steel institute and the Union Carbide scientific center near Charleston.

Frankly, some of these enterprises represented nothing but America's yesterday. They used a considerable amount of outdated equipment with small productivity. At the same time we saw in the coal and metallurgical branches of industry a wide application of mechanization and automation, of new technological processes insuring a high labor productivity. It is sufficient to state that the 24-hour output of coal in the mines which were visited by our comrades was an average of 14-18 tons per worker.

True, growing mechanization of work under the conditions of the capitalist system causes poverty among the working people. We saw this in West Virginia, where tens of thousands of workers of the coal industry are unemployed. Their families are, according to the local press, forced to lead a poor existence and for a long time have been unable to find a way out of their difficult situation.

* * * * *

HOUSING

The delegation saw also how housing construction is carried out in the United States. As a rule, apartments are tasty and comfortable, but they are very expensive. Therefore many of them are empty. At the same time a considerable

part of the population lives in poor housing conditions. The system of private enterprise is not capable of supplying many millions of low-income American families with housing. As was recently announced in a report of the U.S. Democratic Advisory Council, 22 million Americans are now living in slums, and there is no hope that their situation will improve.

AGRICULTURE

The delegation paid particular attention to U.S. agriculture. Our group visited a number of farms, viewed large poultry factories, and acquainted itself with the organization of work at the Beltsville agricultural center near Washington. We attended a sale of cattle, and visited shops for the sale of agricultural machinery and equipment. We also visited citrus fruit groves in Florida, a fruit packing plant, and the largest orange juice production plant.

As is known, the United States is the richest capitalist country in the world. It has achieved the highest level of per-capita goods production. Its wealth however, is in the hands of a few people. This is also characteristic of agriculture. The high degree of mechanization and the growing labor productivity means the concentration of production and the ruin of small farmers. It is sufficient to state that during the past 16 months some 200,000 farmers were ruined.

It is also interesting to note that there is an increasing frequency of cases in the United States where small farmers unite for group tilling of land and the joint utilization of technical equipment. The trend toward the establishment of farmer's "associations" to organize the sale of production and the construction of enterprises for the production of combined fodder is increasing. All this is done to withstand the struggle of competition and to escape ruin.

* * * * *

EDUCATION

We visited many teaching institutions in the United States. Those which were shown to us have everything for lectures and are well equipped. Our contact with them showed, however, that the reactionary circles succeeded during the cold war in considerably isolating secondary and higher teaching institutions of the country from everything connected with the study of the Soviet Union. As a rule, scientific literature lacks material on the Soviet period in the history of our country. This explains the lack of knowledge among scientists and students about elementary facts of life in our country.

The students and a considerable part of the lecturers are scantily informed on the Soviet system of education, on gratuitous teaching and state grants for students of higher teaching institutions. For many of them, our accounts of these were not generally known facts, but true discoveries. And not without reason—the United States the majority of the higher education institutions are private. A student must pay for tuition along 700–1,200 dollars annually. It is not necessary to point out that only children of wealthy parents can afford this.

* * * * *

AMERICAN TOWNS

When we arrived in West Virginia we were received with exceptional warmth and sincerity. A Charleston paper, addressing words of welcome to the Soviet guests, wrote frankly: "We want you to know that we are far from perfect. It is true that millions of families have cars, refrigerators, and television sets—a fact of which Americans so frequently and grossly boast—but we doubt whether there is a single town in America which has no slums, with its population living in want and dirt."

That is a fact. It is not only written by the American press but is openly stated by outstanding U.S. public figures. Ultimately, it is also proved by the multimillion army of the unemployed.

MEDICAL AID

We could not help noticing, for example, that so far medical aid is given in the United States only for pay and that fees are rather high. We saw that in this country recreation centers exist only for the rich—average people cannot get there because they cannot afford it. In Florida the delegation also saw manifestations of racial discrimination—signs reading "For Whites Only," "For

Colored Only." We saw also that for the same work women here get less pay than men; they are seldom promoted to leading posts, and there are very few of them in the legislative bodies. Naturally we knew all this before our trip across the ocean, but, as the saying goes, it is better to see once than to hear about it a hundred times.

WARMONGERS

In meeting us, average Americans often expressed their inimical attitude toward the cold war and the arms race. They spoke with hate of those who, out of perfidious interests, are ready to push the world into the abyss of a new catastrophe of war.

During a visit to the thermal powerplant in Richfield, foreman Bowdren said: "The American people do not need war. I believe that it is high time to scrap all weapons." Viewing production at the Sangamo electric company in Springfield we got to know worker Robert Lepine. He had a heavy pinion in his hands and replied to our question on the attitude of the workers toward war with the very clear and laconic statement: "I would gladly use this thing here to smash the head of anyone who would like to unleash a new world war."

Old farmer Joseph Skoramovskiy in Florida, who had come with his family many miles to see the Soviet guests, expressed this thought in a somewhat different manner. "In my opinion," he said, "it is necessary to pile on one ship all those who advocate a hot or cold war, together with atomic and hydrogen weapons, sail it to the middle of the Atlantic Ocean and sink it to the bottom." This idea of the American farmer pleased all those who surrounded us. They expressed approval and support. Everywhere we felt this same attitude toward war.

* * * * *

One must stress that in talks with representatives of various circles of the American public, and on a number of other occasions, we still felt remnants of the cold war. People striving to act on the basis of the bankrupt positions of strength policy still have not disappeared in the United States. * * *

4. "AMERIKANSKIE DNEVNIKI" ("AMERICAN DIARIES") BY BORIS POLEVOI

The book "Amerikanskije Dnevnikij" appeared in Moscow, in 1956, and records the 1955 visit of Boris Polevoi to the United States. Polevoi is a prominent figure in Soviet propoganda and has written a number of works. As an illustration of his propoganda value to the Soviet cause, one need only mention that the Library of Congress lists, among other works, one of his books "A Story About a Real Man" in twelve different editions.

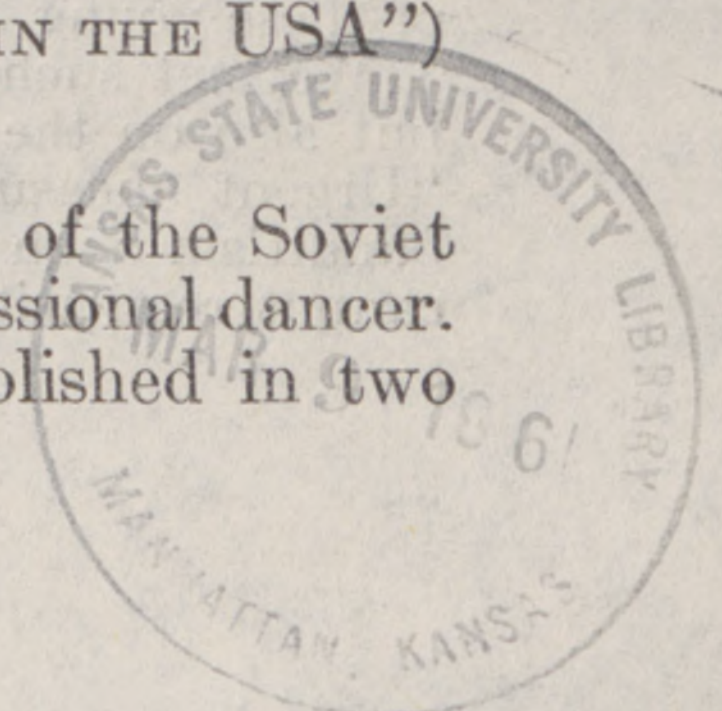
Polevoi's reaction to his visit is summarized in the following paragraph:

LAND OF CAPITALIST EXPLOITATION

Your country, John Smith, is beautiful, interesting, and wealthy. But when we were asked today by a reporter whether we would like to live in the U.S.A., we answered unanimously in one voice: No! I must confess to you, John Smith, that when we travel in capitalist countries, we, Soviet people, always become filled with a still greater love for our motherland, and the further we are from it, the more desirable it becomes, and the stronger is the longing to go home. Actually, is it likely that one of us, men of the socialist world, would wish to return into the world of a past already forgotten in our country, the world of the exploitation of man by man, the world where people live in a constant fear of depressions and crises, without stable faith in tomorrow! (pp. 383-384).

5. "VOSEMDESJAT DNEI V S. SH. A." ("EIGHTY DAYS IN THE USA") BY IGOR FILATOV

Igor Filatov visited the United States as a member of the Soviet Folk Dance Company and speaks of himself as of a professional dancer. His article "Vosemdesyat Dnei V S. Sh. A." was published in two



issues of *Znamya* (the Banner), official publication of the Union of Writers of the U.S.S.R. (circulation 102,000 copies) in No. 5 of May and No. 6 of June 1959. The article is mainly concerned with the enthusiasm generated by the Soviet dancers wherever they appeared and the many friends the company made while in the United States.

Filatov's writing ability seems uncommon in a professional dancer.

CITY LIFE IN AMERICA

The generally accepted reaction to New York is to say that this city is deprived of beauty in the commonly accepted sense of the word * * *. It is a city which is least of all adapted to relaxation. A person loving peace and quiet cannot live here even a week * * *. The flashing publicity lights of various colors, the flaring and dying traffic lights, and the police whistles awaken in you a feeling of internal agitation * * *. The piercing howl of the police siren constantly bursts upon the manyvoiced symphony of the street, and a blaring car with a red revolving lantern on its roof speeds by. No regulations nor laws exist for this "frenzied" car. The whole traffic stops as if at the magic wave of a wand at the sound of the strident, reckless, ear piercing howl of the siren, and the car carrying sturdy policemen in white helmets and with rubber truncheons on their hip, races by with the speed of lightning * * *. The frenzied howl of the siren is serious evidence, among other evidence, of the tremendous number of crimes committed in the States. Day and night hundreds of police cars dash in various directions through the town. And the following day, glassy eyes of corpses gaze at the reader from the front page of the newspaper and detailed descriptions of bestial crimes are presented to his attention * * *.

We seldom visited the suburbs and the poorer sections * * *. No one made any effort to show us the "reverse of the medal." We came as performers and entered America by the "front entrance" * * *. We would be distorting truth, however, if we said that during our visit to this country we only saw the gala side of life. We saw need. We saw Harlem and the unemployed standing in line for relief, we saw the look of despair and hope in the eyes of men seeking work, and the rags of an invalid playing the banjo by the mirrored doors of a motion picture theater on Broadway. And we mention this, not because we insist on emphasizing precisely this side of life, but because its outward manifestations cannot escape the eyes of a person even if he has entered not by the back entrance but by the gala entrance carpeted with rugs.

CHICAGO

In the section of Chicago close to the slaughterhouse we saw not only the less comfortable sections of a large city.

We saw here the hunched backs and the sullen faces of men, and they told us much more even than the run down houses and the dirty sidewalks (No. 5, pp. 136-159).

LOS ANGELES

Every night, on our way back from the performance, we travelled almost the entire length of the main street. It is flooded with publicity lights of every color. There are very few people on the street, particularly when compared with New York and Chicago. Everyone is behind the walls of the numerous restaurants and nightclubs, where men with a "flexible dollar," businessmen, Hollywood stars, highranking adventurers, are leading a fast life. What a variety of restaurants there are on this street. A Swedish restaurant is in the neighborhood of an Italian, next to the gypsy restaurant is a strange building, the small gothic towers of which are crowned with Russian cockerels and ponies * * *. At the entrance to the "Grill," the French restaurant, there is a crowd of well groomed young men. "This is the haunt of homosexuals," is the explanation we are given. Many of these young men not only oil their hair, but use rouge and lipstick.

We met such representatives of western civilization not only in Los Angeles, but also on the streets of New York, Chicago, San Francisco, and other cities. "Urgent measures are needed," demand the newspapers, "debauchery and banditism reign in our schools." And the monstrous facts are cited, of which one cannot read without a shudder. But the shelves of bookstores continue to be

gay with the bright covers of comics, and the muzzle of a gun continues to face one from motion picture theater posters.

Our last four concerts in New York became a true demonstration of friendship. Friendship upon which no propaganda can have any influence. Our success in America was not merely the success of an artistic company. Our success was a political success, a vivid evidence of the trend of a people toward friendship and mutual comprehension. All this we saw, and became convinced thereof, and this is our most vivid and profound impression of the trip to the U.S.A. (No. 6, pp. 171-199).

6. "NEW-YORK-KOLIZEI" ("NEW YORK, THE COLISSEUM") BY I. BOLSHAKOV; SUBTITLE "THE SOVIET FAIR IN THE UNITED STATES"

The article entitled "New-York—Kolizei" appeared in No. 7 of July 1959, of the periodical *Inostrannaya Literatura*, official publication of the Union of Writers of the Soviet Union. The article is devoted particularly to a description of the Soviet Fair held in the United States in 1959. Bolshakov, the author, participated in the preliminary negotiations dealing with the organization of the Fair.

SOVIET FAIR

The exchange of fairs, in the summer of 1959, came as a result of the Agreement concluded on January 27, 1958, between the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A., "On Exchanges in the field of culture, technique, and education." * * * The exhibits clearly demonstrate the advantages of the socialist over the capitalist system. One of these advantages lies in the absence of unemployment in the U.S.S.R., while every visitor to the fair is well aware that in the U.S.A. the number of unemployed exceeds 5,000,000. In the U.S.S.R., three-fourths of the national income goes toward satisfying the individual material and cultural needs of the toilers, while in the U.S.A., the lion's share of the national income falls into the hands of a small group of financial and industrial magnates. (pp. 250-253).

7. ARTICLE BY VLADIMIR NIKOLAEV IN "MOLODAYA GWARDIYA"

The article of Vladimir Nikolaev appeared in two issues of *Molodaya Gvardiya*, the monthly literary and art, and social and political publication of the Central Committee of the All-Union Communist Union of Youth (No. 4 for April, and No. 5 for May 1959), under the title "America—On an Unofficial Basis." The author, a man of 35, visited the United States as a member of a youth delegation invited to America by the Committee of Young Quakers of the U.S.A.

STOCK EXCHANGE BLUES

Our five companions promised to show us America as it is, to show us the most important, that without which there is no, and can be no America. It is therefore quite natural that we found ourselves at the start of our trip in the main building of the New York Stock Exchange * * * (No. 4, p. 225).

* * * * *

"Both you, farmer Smith and you, employee Brown, can, if successful, become a Mr. Rockefeller tomorrow," this is what stock exchange publicity proclaims at the top of its voice to the whole country and the whole world. It screams hysterically, as loud as it can, day and night: in the movies, over the radio, over television, in hundreds of newspapers and magazines * * *. I once heard the speaker of a radio broadcasting station say that it is good and profitable for your children to be imbued, almost from infancy, by the spirit of enterprise and to start making money as adults do. In order to be more convincing in conclusion they sang a children's song which began approximately as follows:

"Hush-a-bye, baby,

"The bank pays out money * * *"

A modern American lullaby.

But before starting on Mr. Rockefeller's career, shares must be acquired * * *. And for this purpose money is needed, dollars * * *. And so people try to make money in any way they can, in order to make afterwards money from money * * *. One makes money * * * by kidnapping children from wealthy parents and then extorting dollars for them * * *. As known this method is most popular over here (No. 4, p. 227).

HORRORS OF INSURANCE

Together with the craving for gain, it is fear which constantly obsesses the American. He is afraid of sickness, of having an automobile accident, he is afraid of an accident at the plant, he is afraid of inevitable old age, he is afraid of a crisis, but the most important of all is that he is afraid of losing his job.

How can one ward off these horrors if only in part?

Publicity, the American's principal source of information, teaches him that this can be done only by getting insured.

And the American gets insurance. His ideal is to insure himself against everything in the world. Against illness, accident, for security in his old age; he wants to insure his property, his home * * *. But one needs money for all of this. And the American pays every month, every quarter. He pays for himself, his wife, and his children, he pays to protect himself from some possible future illness or accident, pays for an old age pension in the future, and so on. But even all of this does not fully protect him from the vicissitudes of life. For example * * * Mal Miller, while insured, must nonetheless pay 779 dollars of his own money for treatment * * *. To get insurance means to pay and pay out money. But what happens if you are seriously ill over a long time? Or if you lose your job? Unemployment relief in the State of Pennsylvania ranges from 10 to 30 dollars a week. This beggarly sum can be obtained only for a limited time, one cannot make ends meet on this amount, and of course, needless to say, one can afford neither insurance nor treatment * * * (No. 4, p. 230).

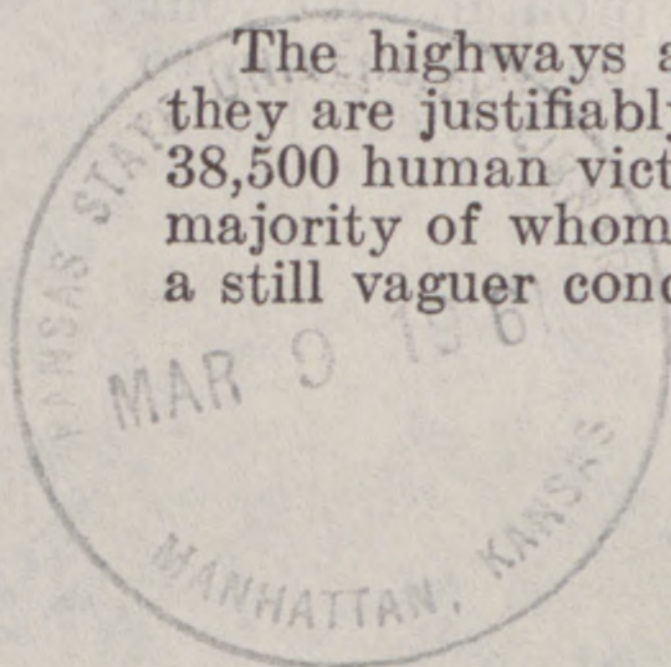
POLICE EVERYWHERE

Every policeman is acquainted with the principles of medicine. Every policeman can, for example, render assistance at childbirth. Poor people often take advantage of this fact. Not everyone by any means can pay a doctor for assistance at childbirth, and to bring forth a child on the street, assisted by a policeman, is considered an accident and therefore is free of charge.

One can only envy the technical equipment of the police. In big department stores, for example, all the products are displayed on counters * * *. Everything gives the appearance of being founded on honesty: salesclerks are not numerous, nor is a policeman visible, they seem to trust you. Actually, the experienced eye of a policeman follows you the whole time: the lens of a televisor is installed in the big chandelier over your head, and the policeman on duty watches you attentively through this device * * *. The policeman is endowed with great powers. Pitilessly he fines drivers and pedestrians, and charges very considerable amounts. Often and with impunity he puts his truncheon into action. The policeman is authorized to shoot straight at a man's head if the man fails to stop at the first bidding. And yet, with such a police force, one encounters in the U.S.A. the most extensive crime, including not only unorganized juvenile, children's and teenager delinquency, but professional crime which has long since become a branch of business. Shooting bouts often flare up in New York, for example, in one or another section of the town: this is a battle of competing gangs. The police arrive at the place of battle, shooting increases, several blocks are sectioned off by the police, pedestrians run for cover, and motion picture operators and photo-reporters hurry to take sensational pictures. In their pursuit of publicity and scoops or in the struggle between competing American press circles, stories exposing the volume of gangsterism and of its ties with the business world and even with politics are often leaked (No. 4, p. 231).

TOO MANY AUTOMOBILES

The highways are truly beautiful and the automobiles are truly excellent—they are justifiably a pride of America * * *. But at the same time, there are 38,500 human victims a year. Why is this? Because 50 million Americans, the majority of whom has a very vague conception of auto driving regulations and a still vaguer conception of automobiles as such, are at the wheel of 50 million



cars. A car for an American is in no way a luxury, but an indispensable article: as a rule the distance to an American's job is calculated in dozens of miles. The abundance of automobiles by no means indicates that all Americans are rolling in money. The fact is that most of the cars traveling over the roads of America are secondhand cars, with a number of years of operation behind them. Due to their overproduction, these cars may be obtained freely everywhere at a price considerably (several times) lower than when they leave the plant. But to buy a new car becomes a problem. Many makes of car cost several thousand dollars.

And thus, the car, summoned to help mankind, has become in the U.S.A. a threat * * * to man. Everywhere today one can see signs of the alarm caused by the mode of operation on American highways * * * (No. 4, p. 232).

TOTALITARIANS VIEW DEMOCRACY

A good half of the electors in the U.S.A. does not vote. Some of them are victims of various electoral restrictions, but the majority simply avoids going to the polls not wishing probably to waste their time for nothing. Apparently realizing this situation, the authors of the pamphlet "Why do People Vote?" appeal to the reader as follows: "Contrary to widely spread opinion, the average political leader is a thoroughly reliable and honest person * * *." It thus follows that in the U.S.A. the opinion is widely spread that American political leaders are unreliable and dishonest persons, in whom one should place no confidence. The authors of the pamphlet themselves testify thereto: "In 1958," wrote the Reporter, the New York periodical, "just as in every other electoral year, we go to the polls to vote for one or two competing candidates, both of whom have been inflicted upon us by the bosses * * *." The newspaper New York Times expressed peculiar opinions regarding the two candidates: "They are billionaires and therefore will not steal." This testimony is very noteworthy when one takes into consideration that the elections to the position of governor of the state of New York are regarded as a kind of preparation for the presidential elections of 1960 (No. 4, p. 233).

U.S. LIBRARY—REACTIONARY

In Washington * * * we had a most curious interview with Ernest Griffith, the director of the special reference service attached to the American Senate. The large group of employees whom he supervises engage in the compilation of various references in reply to inquiries from senators. During the conversation, Griffith placed before us several dozen such references prepared recently. Among them we noticed a 72-page pamphlet which discussed the solution of the national problem in the Soviet Union. Not a single, even most reactionary, American newspaper could compete with this "scientific" publication. From the first to the last page the pamphlet was filled with the most outrageous anti-Soviet libel * * * (No. 4, p. 234).

WEALTHY WARMONGERS

Some make money publishing comics, others by stealing children from wealthy parents, and a third group makes money by fanning the armament race and by producing reactive missiles, and atom and hydrogen bombs. Concerning this form of American business we had a talk in Washington at the Brookings (literally: Brooklyn) Institute * * *. Here are some of our questions and the answers thereto: * * *

"Are there any so-called pure producers of armament, industrialists who engage exclusively in arms production and receive profits only therefrom?"

"Yes, there are."

"Can they influence the government in any manner?"

"They can."

"Can they participate in government?"

"Yes, they can," confirmed not too willingly the persons who spoke to us, after we had cited several generally known examples (No. 4, p. 236).

A producer of arms, a man who needs war, is in government. Is that again the "price of democracy?" We also learnt at the Brookings Institute that periodical crises are likewise the "price of democracy"! The erudite participants in our colloquy were unable to answer the question as to whether further crises will take place in the U.S.A. * * *. "The crises as such," they explained to us, "are a consequence of democracy, of private enterprises which gives birth to anarchy in industry."

American democracy, generally speaking, appears to be a pretty expensive thing! (No. 4, p. 237).

AMERICAN LEGION UNDER FIRE

Certain very peculiar manifestations of American democracy at times clearly perplex even those who usually stand up for it. When we arrived in Chicago, our eyes were immediately attracted by headlines, about a yard high, in the local newspapers: "How to watch the parade of the American Legion * * *"

Our companions led us to the street followed by the parade * * * and went away right there and then. Usually, they never left us * * *. From their attitude and separate remarks it was clear that they were ashamed of their compatriots, permitted by American democracy to unite in organizations as reactionary as the American Legion (by the way, the same democracy pitilessly throws American Communists into prison). The parade of the Legion this demonstration of the forces of American reaction, is a very curious spectacle reminiscent mainly of the finale of some cheap comic opera. State after state march along in columns. One of these is preceded by a decorated platform with three semi-nude beauties. They are followed by armed and gouty old men, adorned with decorations and in the military uniforms of their forefathers. One of the columns is led by a real clown who seems to have run over from the circus ring. Then come maidens in the uniform of comic opera soldiers, in bootlets, tight white riding breeches, golden helmets and, of course, with guns * * *. This brought immediately to our mind the documentary films, obtained as trophies, which recorded fascist parades * * *. If one discards certain typically American excentric extremes, the outline of the American copy is basically very similar to the original (No. 4, p. 237).

A BLACK PICTURE IN THE SOUTH

Death sentence to a Negro for the theft of a ridiculously small sum of money, the private home and "Cadillac" of an American pastor at High Point, an old Negro thrown by whites from a bus, a white policeman killing with impunity a Negro teenager, books and pamphlets summoning the Negroes to obey and love the whites, and race-haters blowing up a school for Negro children—such is American life which gives birth to racial discrimination which persecutes the Negro from his cradle to his grave (No. 5, p. 186).

BUSINESS AND GOD

The American God, whichever of the numerous religions and sects existing in America he may represent, is first of all a highly businesslike and practical God * * *. The two or three hour "dry law" in the state of New York is perhaps the greatest sacrifice which Americans make to religion * * *. Religion and business, the Lord's mercy and the State Department, condemnation of millionaires and a favorable attitude toward those who strive to become one of them—God and the present come into conflict in these and other contradictions and, as witnessed by life, it is only God who makes compromises * * * (No. 5, p. 191).

CONCLUSION

To understand fully the propaganda impact within the U.S.S.R. of published reports concerning Soviet visits to the United States, one should bear in mind that (a) Soviet literature favorable to the United States is nonexistent in the Soviet Union, and (b) the reports published are presented as authentic documents confirming allegations hostile to America appearing in the U.S.S.R. For a person not familiar with the subject the volume of anti-American propoaganda material circulating in the Soviet Union is difficult to visualize.

At least 20 books and pamphlets, in addition to numerous articles in Soviet periodicals and daily press, appeared on the United States in Russian (not counting the material published in other languages) during February–May 1960. The circulation of some of the books published exceeds 50,000 copies. All portray the United States as ruled by monopolies, all describe the "hard lot" of the American workman, and the "decline" of culture. All try to show capitalism in the U.S.A. as facing collapse and claim that communism, as a more "progressive" system will inevitably win in the so-called peaceful competition with capitalism.

Non-Russian Communists, progressives, and fellow-travelers are widely used to supply Soviet literature with material unfavorable to the United States. They range from the American Albert Kahn to the Italian Maurizio Ferrara. In 1 year only (1959) Inostrannaya Literatura published the critical contributions of the following American writers:

Phillip Bonosky
 Paxton Hibben
 Edward Alsworth Ross
 Harry Freeman
 Albert Rhys Williams
 William Z. Foster
 William Hard

Charles Humboldt
 Anna Louise Strong
 Philips Price
 Lorrain Hansberry
 Mitchell Wilson
 John Howard Lawson
 Victor Perlo

Portrayal of life in the United States in its darkest colors is further enhanced through the publication of American books in translation selected either for their gloomy outlook on life in the free world or for their attacks on American conditions. The eighth edition of Dreiser's "American Tragedy" appeared, for example, in 1960 with a circulation of 75,000.

Whenever deemed profitable the material presented is falsified to fit in with Soviet propaganda objectives. Thus, no mention is made of the actual date of publication of the first edition of a book in order to produce the impression upon the reader that the conditions described in the book are prevalent as of today. (Such is the case with Steinbeck's "Grapes of Wrath" and some of Upton Sinclair's works.) History is also falsified, particularly the history of American-Soviet relations. The U.S.A. is presented to the Soviet reader as (a) enemy No. 1 of the Russian Revolution and as chief promoter of armed intervention against the U.S.S.R. in the 1918-21 period; (b) principal enemy of peace in the world and supporter of the "cold war"; (c) warmonger preparing for another military venture against the U.S.S.R. and the "world Socialist system."

It is natural that under these conditions, eyewitness accounts of visits to the United States become of tremendous importance since they inspire more confidence in the reading public than does fiction or studies based on Soviet materials. They are known to be contemporary. Their detailed description of American cities and people lend a touch of authenticity to their statements and they carry greater conviction than any other propaganda material produced by the Soviet authorities.

700-odd Soviet tourists, and they are used lastingly for the... the following...

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(NOTE.—The Senate Internal Security Subcommittee attaches no significance to the mere fact of the appearance of the name of an individual or an organization in this index.)

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