

Soviet Prices Fantastic But Average Family Is Able To Make Ends Meet

By WILLIAM L. RYAN
AP Foreign News Analyst

Suppose you are a working man in the Soviet Union. You get 700 rubles a month in a factory. In an effort to make ends meet your wife works as a ditch-digger or at some other heavy job. Your combined income is 1,200 rubles a month.

You are not concerned at what that might mean in dollars. Your rubles will be spent as rubles, not dollars. The only real test of their value is their purchasing power—what they will buy.

Well, your family may spend about 750 of those 1,200 rubles for food every month. Your rent, 40 rubles for a single room, is low. But if you want to clothe your family properly you will have to cut the food budget even more

sharply—make do with bread, potatoes and cabbage.

You will wait a long time before accumulating enough for a Sunday suit at 1,200 rubles or more a month's income. You will think twice before buying a poor excuse of a Sunday shirt for 111 rubles, because baby needs shoes, and those cost 50 rubles.

That, in essence, is about the lot of many a Soviet family. Soviet publications and the information and calculations of experts place the average Soviet family income from wages at about 1,200 rubles.

Too Few Outlets

Why, asks the foreigner, is there so much spending in the Soviet Union? Why, then, are the restaurants and amusement places crowded? Why are the department stores in Moscow crowded?

There are answers for all these questions. In the first place, there is a large and constantly growing middle class making good money—far above the average. There are not enough store outlets and restaurants and amusement places to accommodate a city whose population—although there are no official figures available—must by now be 6,000,000.

The foreigner does not see abject poverty, except for occasional beggars. He does not even see people looking underfed. He sees many people fairly well dressed, but he also sees a parade of drabness, oneness and monotony.

Somewhat the average Soviet family makes ends meet even at the fantastic prices. Bread, potatoes, cabbage, cheaper vegetables make up the bulk of the diet. Only occasionally is there meat for families of the lower side of the Soviet wage ledger, nor can they afford much butter at about 12 rubles a pound.

A recent decree showed how low the average wage remains. It said that "because of the rise in the value of the Soviet ruble," union dues now could be lower, and established this scale:

For persons earning up to 500 rubles a month, a half ruble for each 100 rubles; 501 to 600, 4 rubles; 601 to 700, 5 rubles. After 700 the dues are fixed at one per cent. The implication is plain that most Soviet workers get less than 700 rubles a month.

Women Sweep Streets

The Soviet government says the ruble is worth 25 U. S. cents in international exchange. Judged on that basis, the American dollar will buy what it will buy, in comparison with the Soviet ruble is worth five to eight cents. Prices are uniformly high all over the Soviet Union, mostly fixed by the state.

Most families must have more than one wage earner. Women sweep streets endlessly with make-shift brooms fashioned of twigs or hack snow and ice from the roads. They carry a pitifully small wage but it supplements the income of other family wage earners.

Goods by official admission are shoddy, but in some areas the products seem fantastically bad.

Goods which would not be given a room in a Canadian or American home were scattered hither thither all over stores in Soviet cities. Listless sales people yawned behind the counters, not a bit interested whether the items were sold or not.

The South Easter



Damp wind is howling in from the sea; Dark clouds are gathering off there to lee; White waves are breaking; Where boulders are grating; Far out on old "Bald" the foam-patch to sea.

High overhead in the gathering grey Sea-gulls are screaming their stormy lay; Wild night is coming; Small boats are running; For shelter within the arms of the bay.

Out where they're piling 'neath leaden sky A schooner is driving—foresail half high; Buried—her stern, in The waves wild churning; She's making for Souris where breakwaters lie

Dark has come down with the biting gale; Rain on its breast like a lashing flail; Pelting the sea, And drenching the lee, Beating a time to the night-storm's wail.

—Daniel A. MacCormack.

Wide Price Range Seen In New Year's Celebration

By THE CANADIAN PRESS

Some partying Canadians will spend more than \$100 each on New Year's Eve celebrations, but most revelers will settle for a cheaper evening in a friend's home.

A Canadian Press survey shows that cost of the biggest celebrations across the country, including taxis, food and drinks, ranges from \$20 a couple in St. John's Nfld. to \$100 in Toronto.

"You can spend \$100 here as easily as rolling off a log," said a manager of a Toronto night club which caters to business executives. The club's New Year's party cover charge is \$25 a couple but the cost comes in the extras—three bottles of imported champagne rate a \$50 tab.

Comparative Costs

In between the St. John's-Toronto cost figures are: Vancouver, \$40 a couple; Edmonton, Regina, Winnipeg, Ottawa and Saint John, N. B., \$30; Halifax, \$25. There are no cost estimates from Montreal where a 10 p.m. provincial curfew will close night clubs at 10 p.m. and shunt celebrations into private homes.

The majority of Canadians will bring in the New Year on a much less lavish scale. Many plan to attend midnight movies and others across the country will go to house parties and drink nothing stronger than ginger ale.

In Vancouver, prices of New Year's Eve entertainment range from \$4 to \$15 a couple. Some

places serve a turkey dinner; others have only dancing.

Two big hotels in Vancouver were booked early for 1,400 persons, mostly young. Older couples prefer house parties.

In the Prairie cities, hotels serve supper at New Year's dances for about \$15 a couple.

International Flavor

The big spenders in Manitoba are expected to go to Minneapolis or St. Paul in the United States for their celebration.

Toronto night spots expect scores from the United States. One reports reservations from as far away as Calgary. The Royal York Hotel, which is accepting reservations from 450 couples, has some booked from Mexico.

Sample delicacies from the Royal York's 10-course menu: oysters on the half shell, eggs stuffed with caviar, sea turtle soup, sweet-breads, and roast pheasant. Oest is \$35 a couple for food only.

In Ottawa, most persons celebrate at house parties but the Chateau Laurier has a dinner and dance at \$16 a couple. Tickets have been sold out for days. Drinking spots in Hull, Que., across the Ottawa river are closing at 9 p.m. under a Quebec curfew law.

Montreal night clubs, long considered Canada's loveliest, will be quiet because of the curfew.

In the Maritimes, prices for hotel dances range from \$10 at St. John's Nfld., to \$13 at Saint John. Midnight movies and house parties are favorites in Maritime centres.

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IN THE PROBATE COURT

The 15th day of December A.D. 1953

In Re Estate of JOSEPH LONGAPHE late of Souris in King's County in the said Province, formerly of New Glasgow, in the Province of Nova Scotia, deceased, testate.

To the Sheriff of the County of King's County or any Constable or literate person within said County.

GREETING:

WHEREAS upon reading the petition on file of Lester O'Donnell of Charlottetown in Queen's County in the said Province, Attorney-at-law, the Administrator cum testamentum Annexo of the above named estate praying that a citation may be issued for the purpose hereinafter set forth; You are therefore hereby required to cite all persons interested in the said Estate to be and appear before the Judge present at a Probate Court to be held in the Court House in Charlottetown in Queen's County, in the said Province, on Thursday the 21st day of January next coming, at the hour of eleven o'clock forenoon of the same day to show cause, if any, why the Accounts of the said Estate, should not be passed and the Estate closed as prayed for in said petition and on motion of Gilbert A. Gaudet, Esquire, Proctor for said Petitioner.

And it is hereby ordered that a true copy hereof be forthwith published in some newspaper published in Charlottetown aforesaid once in each week for at least four consecutive weeks from the date hereof and that a true copy hereof be forthwith posted in the following public places respectively, namely, in the hall of the Court House in Georgetown in King's County aforesaid, at or near the Court House in Souris aforesaid and at or near the store of Matthew and MacLean Limited in Souris aforesaid so that all persons interested in the said Estate as aforesaid may have due notice thereof.

WITNESS His Honour, Harold Leonard Palmer, Judge of the said Probate Court at Charlottetown aforesaid, the day and year first above written.

By the Court.
(L.S.)
(Sgd.) Frances B. Vinnicombe Registrar.

New Subway For Toronto Planned

TORONTO, (CP)—The Toronto Transportation Commission hopes to build three more subways during the next 10 years to give the city a total of 19 3/4 miles of underground railway.

W. F. P. Duncan, TTC general manager, said Monday the proposed additions to the Yonge St. line, which goes into operation next March 30, would cost about \$113,500,000 at today's prices.

The Yonge St. north-south line, a 4 1/2-mile subway from Union Station to Eglinton avenue, will be the city's first.

Bush Pilot In Hero Role As Plane Marooned

NORWAY HOUSE, Man. (CP)—The story of a heroic bush pilot who delivered an Indian mother's baby in a marooned bush plane then almost gave his life attempting to shield them and two small children from the sub-zero cold was told today by the pilot of a rescue plane.

Paul Rickey, 37-year-old pilot for Central Northern Airways, had only a first aid kit, emergency rations, a few kitchen utensils and one sleeping bag in his light plane when he became lost in the wilderness of northeastern Manitoba last Monday.

His passengers were Mrs. Annmaria Harper and her two children, Elizabeth, 4, and Joseph, 6. Mrs. Harper was being taken to hospital at Island Lake, 300 miles northeast of Winnipeg to have another child.

The first night Mrs. Harper went into labor and Rickey delivered the child.

"Did Terrific Job"

Bert Clarke of Central Northern Airways who finally rescued the group Sunday told today how Rickey stripped off his shirt and underclothing to cover the baby, placed the mother and the three children in his own sleeping bag and went without sleep for six days in an effort to keep his passengers alive. The newborn child died Saturday.

"Rickey did a terrific job," said Clarke, who found him still able to walk but suffering from exposure and shock when he landed his ski-equipped plane on God's Lake, 340 miles northeast of Winnipeg.

"He was in the worst shape," said Clarke. "But the passengers were in excellent condition."

All were taken to Island Lake where Rickey was reported in "quite good" condition today. His hands were severely frostbitten, but he was able to get up and Mr. Clarke said he expected Rickey would be "O. K." in a couple of days.

Will Concentrate On Jet Aircraft

WASHINGTON, (AP)—The U. S. aircraft industry disclosed Monday it may quit building piston-engine bombers next year and confine production of fighting planes to jet aircraft.

This likelihood was expressed by

No Improvement In Arab-Israeli Relations Noted

By MAX HARRELSON

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., (AP)—The current round of Palestine debates is drawing to an end without having achieved any visible improvement in Arab-Israeli relations.

The discussions, however, have produced at least one other important development: They have led Russia to abandon its silence and assume a more active role in the Middle East dispute.

And, although Soviet delegate Andrei Vishinsky has tried to appear neutral, some of his statements have been regarded by other UN diplomats as pro-Arab.

This is doubly significant when it is recalled that Russia originally was one of the staunchest supporters of the Arab-opposed plan to partition Palestine. Russia was the only major power to advocate using force to help Israel fight the Arabs.

The current debates began Oct. 27. They dealt with two Arab complaints. One was brought by Jordan, charging Israel with the massacre of 53 persons in the border village of Kibya, the second, a complaint by Syria, charged an Israeli hydro-electric project would divert Jordan river waters needed for irrigation in Syria.

Frequent Huddles

The Security Council strongly censured Israel for the Kibya killings and called on UN Palestine truce chief Vagn Bennike to strengthen his truce observation machinery to prevent future incidents.

The council hopes to act today on the Jordan river dispute. The Big Three Western powers are backing a plan to toss the whole question back to Bennike and the mixed armistice commission for direct negotiations.

During the debate on the Kibya incident, Vishinsky sat day after day without saying a word. When the vote came, he abstained. This was in line with the Soviet practice of the last few years of keeping out of the Israeli-Arab dispute.

Ten days ago, however, Vishinsky and the Arab delegates began to be seen in frequent huddles. Then Vishinsky entered the debate for the first time. He offered no criticism of Israel, but he joined the Arabs in assailing the resolution sponsored by Britain, the United States and France. He even threatened to veto the key provision of the resolution. As a result the sponsors began a series of conferences with the Arabs in an attempt to find an acceptable formula.

It is too early however, to say whether Vishinsky's intervention means the Kremlin has decided to line up on the side of the Arabs as a regular policy or whether this was an exceptional case.

retired Admiral Dewitt C. Ramsay, president of the Aircraft Industries Association, in a year-end review. Ramsay reported that during 1953 the industry produced, for the first time, more airplanes powered by jet engines than by piston engines.

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I'm mighty glad you came along, son. I'm exhausted.

You've seen my report. I've had a pretty successful year, considering everything. On most people and things you meet, you'll see where I've been at work.

There's one warning I'd like to repeat, though. Don't expect to change these brick buildings. We "years" have been doing our best for generations and made little impression. In fact, it's worry over that problem that has made me an old man before my time. Good luck, son, and a . . .

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AND HE'S IN BIGGER TROUBLE WHEN ONE OF HER PALS HAS SOMETHING MOM HAS!

THE NERVE OF THAT CRINSELY WOMAN! BUYING EXACTLY THE SAME COAT I'VE GOT! I'LL NEVER WEAR MINE AGAIN!

Thank U SANDY CHERBIN, 514 EDWARD ST., BROOKLYN, N.Y.