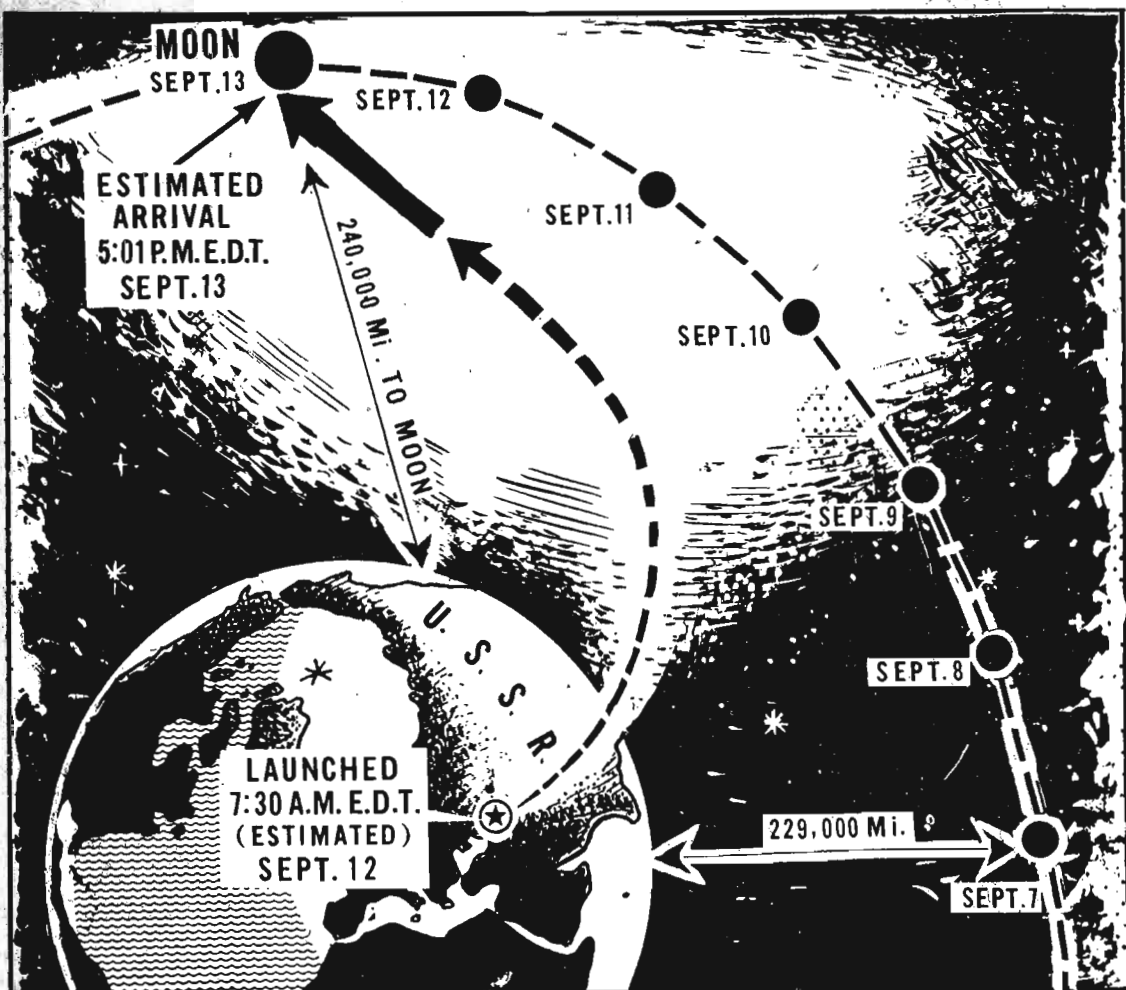


Bung's Beer Enters Race



Path of the Soviet rocket that hit the moon Sept. 13, 1959. Tass, official Soviet news agency, said of the event, "For the first time in history, a space flight has been achieved from the earth to another celestial body."

American businessmen say the achievement was vastly overrated; believe they now have something far more practical in the works.

The Light, Stratospheric Brew

By Herman Chauka

It's downright silly to talk about the Russians being ahead of us in the race for space. Maybe they have launched more and bigger satellites than we have and pulled off a few stunts like hitting the moon and photographing the back of it. But they haven't figured out any practical purpose for their space gimmicks.

anonymous official, a UPI correspondent reported: "Someday, perhaps, a rocket might go up with a nose cone full of fluorescent powder that will be ejected in the shape of words, like 'Bung's Beer Satisfies.' "The message would glint in the stratosphere indefinitely because there is no wind to erase it."

standard model or one of the new compacts. The rocket-writing project has met with some skepticism. A top Aerojet scientist argues that it might prove a bit expensive since the current list price of an Atlas missile is about \$3,000,000. He did concede, however, that American know-how could lick this problem. For example, the government could decide at any time that the Atlas line is obsolete and make a few available to Madison Avenue at bargain-basement prices.

Meanwhile, Aerojet has another crack idea snapping in the breeze at the top of the flagpole — put a time capsule into orbit containing information for future generations of the type customarily buried in the cornerstones of new buildings.

"It would obviously be much safer up there," sagely commented an Aerojet spokesman.

They are reportedly considering a satellite in the shape of a car, but are stalemated on whether it should be the

Need a Christmas Tree?

In its Christmas Day editorial, "The Undying Dream," the New York Times, an authoritative voice of American capitalism, offers a powerful defense of brotherly love, one of the key issues in the cold war.

atomic, has fallen into silence. Two days later, while the atomic artillery was still ringing in my ears, I ran across another item in the Times that helps explain why brotherly love is held so precious in the Christmas part of the world. Bill Silverstein, an advertising manager, is quoted: "The toy industry is in trouble. A survey just completed in three major markets shows a growing, if not full-grown, resentment leveled by the public at the toy industry—and in no uncertain terms. . . ."

They are reportedly considering a satellite in the shape of a car, but are stalemated on whether it should be the

California Betrayed A table-model TV is contending for a place in the new budget. Assuming that she shares a furnished apartment with two other girls, they may be able to swing it if all three of them cut out the movie going that was permitted in the 1950 budget.

Chief Maurice J. Gershenson of the Division of Labor Statistics will fan men through the state, pricing the two girdles, one summer hat, two pairs of shoes and various other items on Minnie's list. (Checking the U.S. government cost-of-living index

Whether he now thinks something should be done before a missile attack occurs, he did not say.

It Was Reported in the Press

Atlanta Vote — Willie B. a gorilla at the Atlanta, Ga., Grant Park Zoo, polled 390 write-in votes against labor-baiting, race-baiting Rep. James O. Davis, Democrat.

Texas-Economy — The Dallas County jail cut the cost of "three square meals a day" from 63.3 cents in 1959 to 55.9 cents in 1960.

View from Canada — "There is scarcely anything really cooperative about the defense of North America," says Dr. G.F.G. Stanley, a Canadian military authority. "The weapons are American. The strategic decisions are American. The fingers on the triggers are American. Whether Canadians like it or not, their country is becoming more and more America's front line of defense, an expendable land mass in the eyes of American strategists."

Foul — New York's air "is four, it irritates eyes, it stinks and it could very well be poisonous," says John L. Casey, Jr., chairman of the Citizens' Committee for a Better New York. He says authorities should do something about it.

Your Tax Dollar — When you get ready to pay your income tax next month you might bear in mind that out of every tax

dollar spent by Congress in 1960, 73.9 per cent went for the arms program and payments on past wars, with 56.4 cents going directly for military expenditures. Of the \$83 billion spent by Congress, almost \$63 billion went into the war hopper while less than \$5 billion was spent on health, education and welfare.

Proof Positive — "We tobacco people rank second to none in awareness of our public responsibilities, and we consider health of overriding importance," says William S. Cutchins, president of the Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. As evidence he cited the fact that the industry supported a research program "that is helping to bring facts to bear against the unproved charge" that smoking may cause cancer.

Underground Jim Crow — The Korean-born wife of an American soldier was denied burial in a Springfield, Mass., cemetery because of the cemetery's "all-white" policy. A spokesman said the cemetery's charter provided for the burial of "Caucasians" only.

Vital Statistics — According to FBI and insurance company studies, the average employee who taps his boss's till fits this picture: He is 35 years old; his average term of employment is

Thought for the Week "Whatever the appearances, from the appointment of the new Attorney General and the designation of a successor in the Senate for the President-elect, a man obviously does not have to be a brother, brother-in-law or old Harvard roommate of Senator Kennedy to get ahead in politics. But it doesn't hurt." —Editorial in the Dec. 22 Wall Street Journal.

nine years and three months; he works for six years and five months before his first theft and continues to steal for three years and two months before he is caught. According to our arithmetic, that means he keeps on stealing from the boss for four months after he's fired.

Help Wanted — The Army's Medical Research and Development Command wishes the public to know it is seeking an anti-radiation drug that will increase chances for survival in a nuclear war. About 1,500 compounds have been evaluated so far but progress is limited.

Equality for All — The U.S. ban on hoarding gold has been extended by President Eisenhower to include Hawaii, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Guam and the Canal Zone. Press secretary Hagerty said the move was intended solely to put all Americans on an equal basis.

Salvation for the D—d — A bill has been introduced in the British Parliament to make it an offense punishable by heavy

fine to print any of those four-letter Anglo-Saxon words. The bill would eliminate evasion by also prohibiting use of the first letter of such words followed by the customary dashes.

Labor Health Plan — The New Jersey CIO Council plans to establish a medical surgical insurance plan in opposition to the state's Blue Shield plan which it said was too costly and provided inadequate coverage. Spokesmen said the new setup would be similar to the Group Health Insurance Plan, used in New York.

It Figures — A federal judge excused Roland Levesque from jury duty in Providence, R.I., after Levesque said he believed a defendant must prove himself innocent. "I was in the service," he said, "and you were guilty until proven innocent."

Progress Reports — The State Department disclosed Dec. 20 that it will now permit government-employed scientists to attend international meetings which include scientists from

the People's Republic of China and "other unrecognized regimes" on the condition that they do not represent or speak for the U.S. government.

Busy Line — A very generous New York City law requires landlords to maintain a minimum temperature of 65 degrees during the day, with no heat required after 10 p.m. For a lot of rent gougers, even that's too much heat. During the recent cold snap, the City Health Department had to install a special trunk line (WO 4-3414) to handle more than one thousand no-heat complaints a day. Even with the new line you still get a busy signal, says a department spokesman, but don't get discouraged.

True Charity — Fifty children from the slums of West Dallas, Texas, were guests of honor at a Christmas charity party sponsored by suburban high-school students. As presents for the children, they collected toys, used clothing and bottles of cough syrup.

Post-Xmas Hint — It's too late for this year, but you can file this thought from the New York Times away for next season: "Nothing is more jovial for the Christmas breakfast than a glass or two of champagne."

Mood Is Changing



FARRELL DOBBS

Editor: During three coast-to-coast tours this year as presidential candidate of the Socialist Workers Party, I had a chance to get a fair idea of changing political moods among the American people.

The general complacency of recent years is being shaken by fear of nuclear war, feelings of economic insecurity, anger over denials of civil rights and concern about attacks on civil liberties. These acute problems are causing an increasing number of people to probe into the basic causes of their difficulties and to listen with an open mind to all proposed solutions.

In the course of my campaign activities I was able to talk with such people in various categories of the population: workers, secondary union officials, minority peoples, students, teachers, lawyers, doctors, engineers, technicians and, among others, an occasional small businessman.

osity about the Soviet economic system, people showed great concern about the dictatorial Stalinist rule. But even on this point there was inclination to accept out of hand capitalist assertions that dictatorial rule is an inevitable consequence of socialism. Instead thinking people asked:

"Why were the Stalinists able to impose a dictatorship over the Soviet workers? How could that be prevented in this country?"

So great were the apprehensions on this score that the probing for an explanation ran deep. An account of the contrasting historical factors involved was listened to attentively and then usually followed by the question:

"Exactly how would the socialists in power in this country go about the reorganization of the government and our society?"

Even the Reporters Even at press conferences a changing attitude was apparent. Newspaper, TV and radio reporters often stayed around after the formal interview to express their own opinions and ask questions on matters in which they were personally interested.

At campaign meetings the discussion period was generally lively. Questions asked and views expressed were in the main of a searching, thinking nature. Hostile attitudes of a "know-nothing" kind were comparatively rare.

Many subjects were probed: What can be done immediately to cope with the most pressing problems? Can't a long-range solution be found through reforms under capitalism? Won't the basic change advocated by socialists confront us with new dangers? Despite the hesitations over

basic social change expressed in the latter question, the discussions showed an increased tendency to conclude that something is fundamentally wrong with "the system."

Explanations were sought as to exactly how socialism can assure lasting peace, economic security, civil rights for all and genuine democracy.

More people seemed inclined to take capitalist propaganda against socialism with a grain of salt, especially where economic matters are concerned. They appeared impressed by the Soviet Union's growing industrial strength, its dramatic scientific advances and the fact that the Soviet workers are not plagued by unemployment. They asked:

"How would socialists set up a nationalized and planned economy in this country? Would it assure steady employment for all?"

Alongside this increased curi-

Typical Questions A general reply to this question brought forth in turn a series of more concrete inquiries: "Who would do the planning under socialism?" "Who would manage production and distribution?" "Who would decide where people should work?" "Would the workers retain the right to strike?" "If your party held power would you allow other political parties to exist?" "What would happen to independent newspapers and to the use of television and radio?" "What would be the rights of the individual under socialism?"

More questions could be listed but the above should be enough to illustrate the general nature of the growing interest in socialist ideas; also some of the key issues socialists must be prepared to deal with in their recruitment work.

Fraternally,
Farrell Dobbs

Letters from Our Readers

To the Memory Of Carl Skoglund

Editor: Carl Skoglund has taken his farewell from his many close friends, and departed for the eternal sleep from which he will never again be disturbed by those who hounded him nearly all his adult life.

Like Debs and other noble characters, he had to go to prison not for any crimes he committed, but for truths he told to those who toil at productive labor. But prison and persecution at the hands of reaction never swerved him from his goal of a better world, a world minus poverty, ignorance and war.

I first met Carl on a night train bound for Chicago nearly 40 years ago. He kept me up nearly all night with an outpouring of vital and interesting information about the labor movement. I went to bed marvelling at the depth of his knowledge and understanding, and from that moment on we always found common cause and understanding on the many problems that plague this changing world.

Together with his many warm friends and associates I honor his memory.

C. R. Hedlund
Minneapolis

Cuban Weather

Editor: I like to talk about Cuba. Being a cab driver I often get the opportunity to do just that.

People get in my cab and sometimes, after the inevitable discussion about the weather, will ask me what I think about the international situation.

I tell them I think it's great, and when they ask me what I mean by that I tell them, "Well, take Cuba for instance. . . ." And off we go.

If they don't get past point number one of conversation, I mention that the weather in Cuba is great, and off we go again.

Every now and then I get a few who are interested and who don't think that everything that's going on in Cuba is so terrible. For instance I get quite a few Negro fares who will say "That's right!" and some will buy a copy of Joe Hansen's pamphlet on Cuba which I conveniently carry.

B.F.
Detroit

A Post-Election Return for Dobbs

Editor: My wife and I were listening to various parties on TV just before the presidential election and we found ourselves agreeing with most of the speech given by Mr. Dobbs and we are wondering if a copy of the speech is still available and if you could also send us a copy of the latest issue of the Militant.

Mr. and Mrs. F.H.
San Diego, Calif.
[Sure thing. — Editor.]

Munch Money

Editor: The enclosed \$5 is a little gift for the staff. Buy a box of chocolates and munch while you work.

F.S.
New York

[Our warmest thanks. If it's all right, though, we'll just add it to the kitty to pay the printer. He's a pretty steady muncher.—Editor.]

"Uncle Sellem"

Editor: A friend of mine told me that his granddaughter is demanding a doll for Christmas. There's nothing unusual about that. But this little girl is demanding a doll that "Your Old Uncle Sellem" on the kiddies hour told her she wants. He suggested that all she has to do is tell Santa Claus this is the doll she wants, a real life-size walking doll that will be a constant playmate.

The entire family is scouring the stores in search of the "constant playmate."

You doubt that TV "sells" children so successfully?

A recent daily tells the same story, very appropriately under "advertising."

TV channels have been "alive" with advertising directed at children — a saturation campaign whose purpose was to whet the children's appetite for certain toys." The campaign has been successful and children are telling their parents that nothing but the "real thing" is to be un-

A Pattern?

Editor: In the Nov. 7 Militant is an article, "Settlement at GE Is Followed by Reprisals" and in the Nov. 14 Militant is "North Carolina Strikers Begin Terms in Prison."

All of this follows a pattern, and unless immediate attention is given to this problem it will become more serious. I think the present economic crisis may be the one from which the United States may not be able to emerge with the government essentially as it was before. Long years ago Plato said that greed, selfishness, stupidity and lack of standards would ruin any democracy.

D.R.
Baltimore

It Always Pays To Advertise

Editor: One of the interesting sides of the recent election campaign for socialism was the nice big buttons we wore, showing our support for Dobbs and Weiss.

The building I have lived in for a long time has turned up some very interesting people as a result of that button. Everyone now knows my politics and I have new friends.

One couple has been very much impressed and delighted