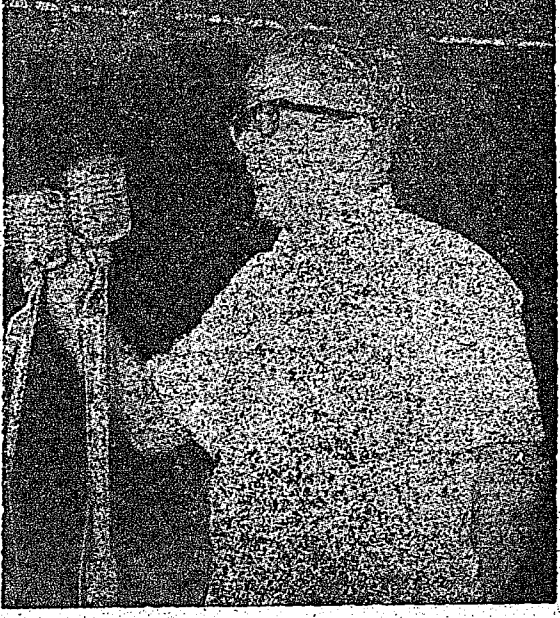
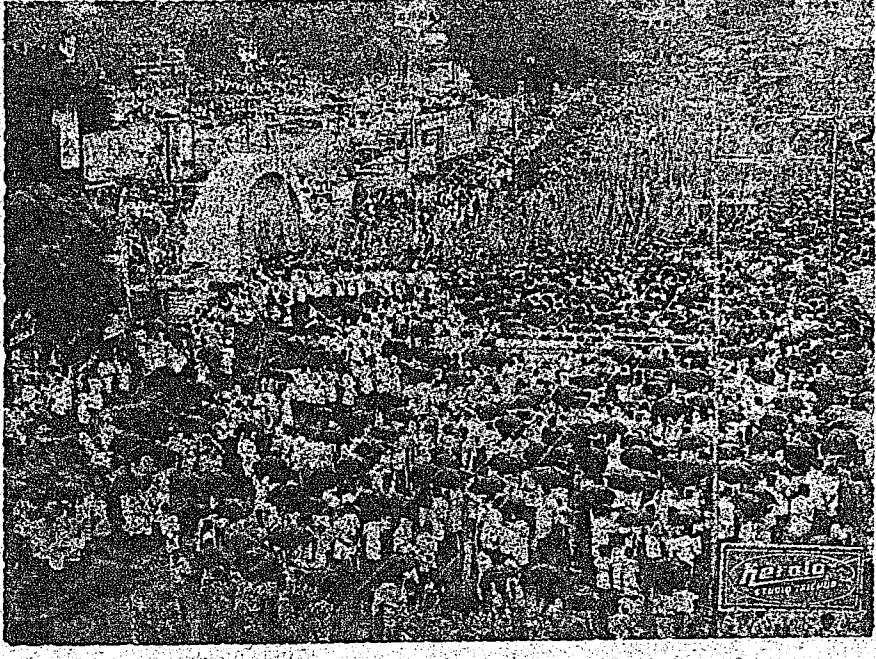


SATL-Per

MAR 17 1960

FOR NEW YEAR VICTORIES!



Procession at Trichur (left). C. Achutha Menon speaking (right).

Kerala Moves into Action AGAINST CONGRESS-PSP-LEAGUE SLANDERS

Moving around my constituency, as I have been doing for the last one week, I came across one line of propoganda resorted to by the Congress, PSP and the Muslim League, "E. M. S. is going to spend Rs. 3 lakhs for his election."

SIMILAR propoganda is being carried on by them in all constituencies, though the amount in this particular case is more specific.

Some of the anti-Communist papers spread the story that the Communist Party has collected Rs. 3 crores for its election campaign and that jeeps, mikkes and other means of propoganda are being rushed into the State from all over the country. Asoka Mehta stated at one of his press conferences in Kerala: "If jeeps and mikkes can win an election, the Communists are sure to win."

This propoganda line has three distinct aims:

- To spread confusion among the masses and prevent them from making contributions to the Party's election fund;
- To make a section of the electorate expect payment for votes and thus neutralise them, if not eventually make them vote for the Congress-PSP-League alliance, when they make payment;
- To justify large number of jeeps, mikkes and other means of propoganda which the Congress-PSP-League alliance is going to use as well as large-scale expenditure which they are incurring to win over a section of the electorate.

This last is a very important consideration. For,

they have already brought a large number of jeeps and mikkes from the neighbouring States and the Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee is at the moment distributing them to various constituencies. The candidates and their representatives have also started distribut-

non-party democrats because—

1) The mass of people who come forward to express their sympathy and support for the alliance know that what is involved in the election is the very survival of the Agrarian Relations Bill, Debt Relief Bill and other measures. They, therefore, consider the election battle as their own battle; it is they themselves and not the particular candidate, who win or lose the election.

patterns of election organisation corresponds to two lines of political propoganda resorted to by the two sides. On the one side is the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats, which comes out with a clear programme of improving the living and working conditions of the common people and developing the economy and culture of the State; on the other side is a purely negative programme of "keeping Communists out of power."

Moving from one end of the State to the other and looking at the walls on which are written election slogans put out by the two sides, one would be struck by this contrast between the negative and the positive.

Why should voters prefer the Congress-PSP-Muslim League alliance to the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats?

Answer is:

- To keep "Chinese agents" out of power;
- To avenge the pregnant woman who was shot dead by the Communist-led Government;
- To keep those who stole Rs. 16½ lakhs in Andhra rice

deal out of power.

On the other hand, the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats seeks the support of the electorate in order to:

- Have the Agrarian Relations Bill, Debt Relief Bill, Education Act and other beneficial legislations implemented;
- Build new and prosperous Kerala;
- Have a stable and popular Government.

It will be noticed that the Congress-PSP-League alliance has not a word to say on the living problems of Kerala nor has it any concrete and constructive proposal to solve them. It is only words of denunciation against the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats.

The hackneyed phrase of "Chinese agents" is so ineffective as a line of propoganda that some of the newspapers supporting the Congress-PSP-Muslim League alliance have cautioned against excessive use of that phrase. The lessons of Nowgong and Bhopal seem to have dimmed some sense into the heads of some of them, although there

* SEE PAGE 13

FROM E. M. S. NAMBOODIRIPAD

ing money for "preliminary expenses".

On the other hand, the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats has not yet been able to have even one vehicle and one mike for every constituency. As for money, they are collecting it from people and not distributing it to them. Voters are being approached not only for their votes but also for financial contributions from them. Constituency and village rallies organised by the Party and Party supported independents are occasions on which individuals and organised groups come and make their payments in cash as well as in kind—the latter taking variety of forms such as paddy, arecanuts, coconuts, vegetables, eggs, etc., etc.

All this is possible for the alliance of Communists and

2) This large mass of people who express their sympathy and support for the alliance have at their head election committees organised at constituency, village and block or ward basis in accordance with the electoral division according to which the voters' lists have been prepared. These are broad committees composed of men and women from various walks of life. Members of these block or ward, village and constituency committees themselves number a few thousands in every constituency. It is such an election organisation that moves around among the people and canvasses them not only for their votes but also for financial contributions.

As opposed to this pattern of election organisation which the alliance of Communists and non-party democrats have set up, the Congress-PSP-Muslim League alliance has its organisation based on a handful of local gentry in every village. They rely for their success in the election on the authority and power wielded by the local gentry, including the authority and power exercised by heads of mosques, temples and churches. This difference between two

*Wishing Peace
and Happiness to all our
Readers and Friends*



* **Article by M. Basavapunniah** *
* **-See Page 4** *
* **EMS Article & Campaign News** *
* **-See Centre Pages** *

h-0907

REOPEN THE U.P. UNIVERSITIES

THE closure of the Universities of Lucknow and Allahabad for an indefinite period, entry of the FAC (Provincial Armed Constabulary) in the Allahabad University and the closure of all the educational institutions in the district of Allahabad for a week manifests the serious crisis in education. Democratic public opinion cannot afford to sit as a disinterested and helpless spectator of such developments. It should assert itself to set things right, says the U. P. State Secretary of the Communist Party in course of a recent statement.

The University authorities and the State Government have used some aspects of students' behaviour as a handle to take this extreme step, and suppress student activities as a whole. The existing condition in the Banaras Hindu University lay bare the policy and the attitude of the Government.

We must take note of the growing frustration among students and the development of unhealthy tendencies among them. We must frankly tell the students that such aspects of their behaviour are indefensible and advise them that in the interests of a healthy students movement they should curb such tendencies. Not to use our influence to wean the students away from such suicidal tendencies would be cowardice and betrayal of the proud traditions of the students movement in Uttar Pradesh.

At the same time, it is highly improper and unwarranted that the healthier instincts of the students be ignored and this aspect of students behaviour magnified out of proportion and used as a stick to beat them, suppress their activities and cover up the genuine grievances and complaints of the students. The teachers, University authorities and the mentors of the educational policies cannot escape their responsibility for the growth of frustration among the students.

The falling standards of education, the factional quarrels in managing bodies which find their projection among the teachers as well as the attempt to drag students in the factional fight of the teachers and the managements cannot be overlooked and ignored.

The University authorities and the State Government may have the strength and the capacity to make the students a scapegoat in this affair but they cannot improve the situation without tackling the basic causes which have made the Universities the hotbed of intrigues and factional quarrel to the detriment of education and all that the Universities stand for.

The extreme and unwarranted step of closing down

THE ARMED CAMP AT BANARAS —HOW LONG WILL IT LAST?

★ by V. S. NAUTIYAL

On October 8, 1958, the U. P. Provincial Armed Constabulary laid siege to the Banaras Hindu University, made an indiscriminate lathi-charge upon its teachers and students, turned out all students residing within the 'Varsity campus and on instructions from the Government established the permit system for all those who wanted to go in afterwards when the University reopened in phases from January 1959 to March, 1959.

FIFTEEN long months have elapsed since then and many a change has taken place. Numerous teachers were turned out and about 350 students who refused to call the Police Raj a democracy were victimised through expulsion and rustication orders passed against them. A whole new army, consisting mostly of ex-servicemen, has been recruited by the authorities to maintain "law and order". Half of the University gates have been closed forever and the rest are well protected.

On the death of his father Dr. Bhagwan Das, the Governor of Bombay Sri Prakash, a prominent citizen of Banaras wanted to go to the Vishwanath temple, situated within the University compounds. He was told at the gate that permit was necessary for him to enter.

Praja Socialist leader Acharya Kripalani's car was stopped at the gate by the showkiddars and he too was asked to secure an entry permit for himself without which they could not allow him to go in. Prominent members of Parliament, MLAs and other citizens cannot go in if they do not have permits even today.

A former professor of the University, Dr. Pran Nath Tandon, while he was going to the bank was arrested and produced before a Magistrate who sentenced him to a fine of Rs. 70.

Eleven criminal cases are now going on against students connected with the University

A network of spies has been woven around the student hostels, lodges and delegations to keep the demi-dictators informed of what the boys are thinking. A student can be summoned any moment by the Chief Proctor to get a warning: "We can spoil your life."

An enquiry committee consisting of 12 members of Parliament headed by Sri Shilbanlal Saxena wanted to go to the University to find facts for itself. The authorities informed them that they could not be granted the necessary permission.

Hostel residents cannot talk to their neighbours after 11.30 p.m. Report must be made to the Warden of any outsider coming to the hostel. You cannot hold a meeting or assembly of any sort.

But the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh, whose building was burned down by angry students after the murder of Gandhiji have now reconstructed their Sangh Bhavan at the same spot within the University compound, in front of the Sanskrit Mahavidyalaya. For them, there is no restriction. In Allahabad, Sri K. M. Munshi patronised them once and here in the BHU Dr. V. S. Jha is their kind patron.

A new police station is proposed to be built near the main gate of the University for which land has already been acquired by the district authorities.

The Banaras Hindu University was once a pride of the nation. Its founder Mahatma Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya spent his lifetime in establishing this great seat of learning. But today it has been reduced to a concentration camp by the able rulers of our country. Right-thinking citizens and all those who are concerned with education should see to it that the torch which Malaviyajiji wanted to keep burning is not put out by the cold winds of Congress rule.

All elected bodies in the University are now abolished. The Court, the Academic Council, the Executive—all these bodies consist of members directly nominated by the President of India and the U. P. Government.

Nor do students have any elected body either. The union, the Parliament, the City Students' Union—all these democratic institutions have been abolished.

THE TROUBLE IN LUCKNOW

FOLLOWING an outburst of students' agitation, the authorities of the Lucknow University, reportedly on the 'advice' of the Ministry, have closed the institution sine die, drawn up the shutters of the Library and ordered the students to forthwith clear out of the hostels. A veiled threat to hand over the precincts to the police, as has already been done in the case of the Banaras and Allahabad Universities, is also being held out.

The trouble in the Lucknow University has, as a matter of fact, been brewing for some time. As is generally known, for a decade or more this unfortunate seat of learning, like many others, was controlled and run by the so-called strong-man of the U.P. Congress, Sri C. B. Gupta and his henchmen. He was its treasurer and unquestioned dictator. He had become notorious for packing the highest academic bodies of the University and the Medical College with contractors and businessmen.

The students and the teachers

and the public of the State had to fight a long and bitter battle to loosen his hold. The historic struggle of 1953 with the martyrdom of a student leader, is still fresh in the minds of the people of Lucknow. That struggle for academic freedom and the autonomy of the educational institutions became a part of the common people's struggle against the misdeeds of the Ministry. And Sri Gupta's strangle-hold over the University was ended only when he was ousted from power in the Government through two consecutive electoral defeats.

But, for the University, and other similar bodies, this freedom proved to be very short-lived. In almost no time its affairs passed into the hands of those who had replaced Gupta in the Ministry. In the name of anti-Guptaism a vendetta was launched in the University. A group of teachers linked up with the Ministerial group to serve their own ends. The liberators turned into new enslavers. They began not only to perpetuate the practices for which Gupta's

regime had begun to stink in everybody's nostrils, but do things which are worse. The present disputed incident provides only one example.

An Act was drafted with the willing assistance of some teachers which, instead of enlarging the University's autonomy, applied far-reaching curbs on it—only to suit the immediate needs of the power-hungry clique which had come atop in the Ministry. It was supported and sponsored by the Ministry because, through it, it had got a band of faithful servitors in the University to be used in the factional fight against the remnants of the Gupta group there.

Recently, the Government nominated five members on the Executive Council of the University—four gentlemen and a lady. They might be admirable supporters of the clique in power, but they are altogether innocent of the educational qualifications which entitle people to membership of such academic bodies.

★ SEE PAGE 11

JANUARY 3, 1960

RAJASTHAN CEILING LEGISLATION HELPS LANDED GENTRY

By H. K. VYAS

The Rajasthan State Legislative Assembly after sitting for about three weeks has now passed a law relating to ceilings on land holdings in the State. The law is named the Rajasthan Tenancy (Sixth Amendment) Act 1958. It would be interesting to examine this measure and the changes that it has undergone in its march from the original bill to the final stage of adoption by the Legislature.

It was in February 1958 that the Report of the Committee appointed by the State Government for examining the question of ceiling was published. It was discussed in the Legislature in April 1958. Some months later Revenue Minister Damodar Vyas announced that the Government had accepted the main recommendations of the Committee, and a bill framed on those lines would be presented and passed before the year was out.

Between this declaration and its actual carrying out, there has not only been the delay of almost one full year but, what is worse, the whole measure in this process has been altered almost beyond recognition as compared to the original bill.

The Ceiling Committee had taken the view that the basis for the fixation of ceilings on land-holdings should be an annual income of Rs. 2,400. It had fixed a family as consisting of seven persons. The actual figure of ceiling calculated on this formula was 15 acres in the canal irrigated areas rising with less productive soils to 50 acres, and even 250 acres in the arid regions of Western Rajasthan particularly Jaisalmer and Barmer. The average figure for reasonably good soil with some form of irrigation facility—canal tank or well—came to about 40 to 60 acres.

Progressive Bill

On the whole this could be considered a very reasonable and progressive approach to the question of ceilings. As a matter of fact the Note of the Revenue Minister, added to the Report as a foreword, forcefully exploded the myth spread by those who said that in a State like Rajasthan there was no need for a ceiling at all. This foreword stated that the number of landless in the State was about four lakhs. On addition there were about 18 lakhs who had a holding of less than ten acres. Land had thus to be found for these 22 lakhs. As compared to this figure, though nominally the land available with the State Government stands at the figure, of about one crore of acres in the records, "more than 80% of this lies in the desert region of Jaisalmer and Barmer and is therefore not suitable for real allotment." On this basis both the foreword and the Report argued the case for a ceiling.

On the lines of the Report a Bill was actually prepared, and presented to the Legislature in October 1958. Even in that bill there were some snags. For example, it did not specifically state what was to be done with the land that would be recovered after the imposition of ceiling. It also provided for a number of exemptions, amongst them being well-managed mechanised farms. Notwithstanding all

supporters were actively canvassing against the proposed bill, wanting its liberalisation and he and his associates were not averse to the prospect of their succeeding if they could without compromising their position openly. Thus it was that a powerful force inside the Congress consisting of MLAs and others too actively worked against the proposed Bill. It is not without significance that one of the deputations that met the Ceiling Select Committee was of the landowners of Ganganagar which included the big landed gentry headed by Mastan Singh, and which also included Congressmen.

These two pulls acting on this issue in the same direction, coupled with the tactical desire of the Chief Minister to somehow manage to please both on this question, all together set the pace for changes—rather vital and sometimes fatal—in the proposed bill.

Reactionary Changes

The bill thus emerged from the Select Committee in almost a transformed form. For this the responsibility should rest on the leaders of the State Congress, all of them, because as the foregoing narrative would show, they all sided with these changes, their motivation for doing so being different for each element.

What are the main changes made by the Select Committee? The Committee has revised the figure of ceiling upward, and very much so. It has adopted the formula of 30 standard

acres. One standard acre has been defined as land which can produce in the year 10 maunds of wheat or its equivalent in price of other produce. Lest the actual figure of ceiling in the canal-irrigated lands may not come to less than 30 ordinary acres, the Committee stipulated that in case the calculation of ceiling comes to less than 30 ordinary acres, the latter figure shall be the ceiling. Thus the ceiling as proposed in the bill has by this one stroke been revised upward by at least 100% (30 instead of 15 acres).

That is not all. The Committee made the average family to consist of only five members instead of seven as in the original Bill. This means that in the name of family members additional land may be kept. The Committee also stipulated that for purposes of this calculation all CHAHRI (well-irrigated) land should be treated as equivalent to BARANI (unirrigated) land. If all these changes made by the Committee are taken together, the figure of actual ceiling in areas like Nagaur and Pali Districts would come to about 400 acres for an average family.

There would be hardly any holdings more than this figure in these areas. Similar would be the situation in the other districts. All these changes made by Select Committee have been now incorporated in the bill.

There were many other changes made by the Select Committee. It had recommended that all transfers made before the commencement of this Act should be considered valid. It had also recommended that compensation be paid for excess land taken on the basis of Land

Acquisition Act. If both these recommendations had been accepted the law of ceiling would have in a way become a matter of commercial transaction because it would have amounted to purchasing the excess land at market price, and legalising all the sales and transfers that have been made with a view to evade this law.

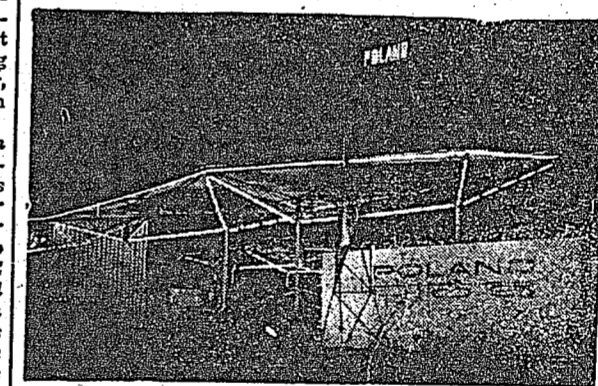
Though not accepted in full, a major part of these recommendations have been accepted. Thus all transfers made before October 25, 1958, when the bill was introduced in the Assembly have been legalised. Even after this date till February 25 1959, when the report of the Select Committee was presented to the Assembly, all transfers made for partition and to landless have been considered legal.

In regard to compensation, a formula slightly higher than the original proposal has been worked out. The original bill proposed payment of compensation on the lines of the Tenancy Act. That comes to about 16 to 20 times the land revenue. The Bill as passed stipulates that compensation for the first 25 acres be paid at 30 times the land revenue, and for every successive 25 acres at 25 times and then 20 times of the land revenue. All in all these too are major concessions.

The crux of the ceiling law is what provision is made for its actual enforcement and for prevention of its circumvention. In this respect the most vital question is whether the law legalises all the sales and transfers made during the last few years to evade this law. In this respect the bill as passed very significantly falls in its purpose.

It is known that the Ceiling Committee was appointed in

★ SEE PAGE 12



COME and VISIT

POLISH Pavilion

AT THE WORLD AGRICULTURE FAIR

SEE POLAND'S PROGRESS

in Farming and Agricultural Industry

STEEL ROLLS OUT FROM BHILAI

BHILAI, December 27.

The second blast-furnace at the Bhilai Iron and Steel Plant was commissioned at 11.15 a.m. today.

The charging of the furnace was done in 7 hours instead of the 12 hours usually required.

All the mechanisms and equipment are functioning normally.

THE first blast-furnace at Bhilai was inaugurated early this year and since then it has produced 310,000 tons of pig iron.

With the two blast-furnaces in operation the Bhilai Iron and Steel Plant will produce over 2,000 tons of iron daily. Some of it would be fed into two open-hearth furnaces for being made into steel. The output of the second blast-furnace would be available for distribution to foundries, and Bhilai should therefore be ready to keep up steady supply for pig iron foundries all over the country.

The Bhilai Iron and Steel Plant will have three blast-furnaces. The third will be completed in 1960.

Meanwhile, the rolling mills of Bhilai started rolling billets, and the first goods train carrying steel billets from Bhilai has already left for Bombay.

A meeting was held at the Steel Plant site on December 24 today to mark the commissioning of the billet mill.

The meeting was opened by the plant's Director N. C. Shrivastava after whom the project's Chief Engineer N. V. Goldin, spoke and a short statement was made by the Soviet Ambassador to India, I. A. Benediktov.

Soviet Leader Speaks

Head of the Soviet Government delegation that is now visiting India, S. A. Skachkov, Chairman of the State Committee of the USSR Council of Ministers for Foreign Economic Relations, then speaking said:

"Allow me, on behalf of the Government of the Soviet Union and the Chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers Nikita Khrushchov personally, to extend cordial congratulations to the fraternal Indian people, to the Govern-

ment of India, to the workers, engineers and technicians—the builders of the Bhilai Steel Plant."

He observed that it was not only in the construction of the Bhilai plant that the Soviet Union co-operated with India, and that an agreement had been signed between the two countries on the construction of a whole series of large industrial enterprises in India during the third Five-Year Plan period.

Strengthens Independence

He added: "We sincerely rejoice in India's achievements in strengthening her economic independence... We are confident that co-operation between our countries will be further extended in the present conditions of a relaxation of international tensions. Our countries are unanimous in the most important thing, in a constant inflexible striving for peace and the development of relations of equality and friendship between all nations. The friendship between our great peoples is of great importance for the cause of peace."

In conclusion, a speech was made by the Indian Minister of Steel, Mines and Fuel Sardar Swaran Singh. He said that 1959 was a historic year in the development of India's iron and steel industry. Three state-owned metallurgical plants had been commissioned in the country during the year. The commissioning of a continuous-action billet mill had completed the first stage in the construction of the Bhilai plant. The Minister said he was happy that Bhilai metal would reach the Indian market before the year is out.

U.S. WORKERS FOR PEACE

* FROM OVERLEAF

think that the U. S. people, like those of other lands, are ready to welcome any signs of thaw in the cold war."

● The Mine Worker Union Journal, in dealing with the contest between the Socialist and capitalist world asks, "Are we going to answer them with 'fighting' speeches and flag waving? Or are we going to ACT to solve the economic problems that face us."

● The Minnesota state conference of Parents-Teachers Associations—a very influential body—demanded a halt to further H-Bomb testing and a thaw in the cold war.

● A new organisation founded a few months ago, the American Student Peace Union has established branches in 20 midwest universities. Their statement of purposes includes their belief "that war can no longer be used to settle international differences... to seek constructive alternatives to the

present international situation..."

● The national board of the Methodist Church adopted a resolution supporting complete disarmament, banning of nuclear tests and re-establishment of trade with China.

Highlighting the just concluded 17th national Congress of the Communist Party in the U. S. A., the newly elected General Secretary Gus Hall said in his opening address that the struggle for peace is the "central issue of our day". Warning against the two exaggerations that the cold war has already been abolished, or, that not even a thaw had yet set in, Hall emphasised

"How fast or how far it (the break in U. S. foreign policy) will move in this new direction depends on the American people and on the pressure they exert. It is to this end that we must apply ourselves with all the energy, skill and ingenuity at our command."

KHRUSHCHOV-NEHRU MESSAGES

LAST week the Bhilai complex attained the stage of completion when actual rolled steel started pouring out. To mark the occasion Prime Minister of U.S.S.R., N. S. Khrushchov sent the following message to Prime Minister Nehru:

With a feeling of great joy the Soviet people have learned that the builders of the Bhilai Plant have gained a new victory of labour and have put into operation the second open hearth furnace, a blooming mill and a continuous billet rolling mill, having completed thereby the construction of the whole metallurgical cycle at this biggest industrial enterprise. From this memorable day on the plant will start producing for the country rolled steel, which is so necessary for her economy.

With great satisfaction we have also received the report that new units will be put into operation at the plant within the next few days: the second coke oven battery and the second blast furnace, which will at once permit to considerably increase the production of pig iron and steel.

I am availing myself of this happy occasion in order to convey to you, dear Mr. Prime Minister, and through you to all the people of India the most cordial congratulations on be-

half of the Soviet people, the Soviet Government and on my own behalf.

The Soviet people, who have traversed a great path of struggle for the turning of their country from an agrarian country into a highly developed industrial one, well understand the tremendous importance for the Indian people of the first successes achieved in the industrialization and the strengthening of the economic independence of India.

From the bottom of our hearts we send warm greetings to the Indian workers, engineers and technicians who have, in collaboration with the Soviet specialists, scored a remarkable victory in the construction of the Bhilai Steel Plant—a symbol of the inviolable friendship between our peoples.

We also note with pleasure the fact that an atmosphere of friendly joint work of the Indian and Soviet specialists has developed at the Bhilai Steel Project and that in the process of the construction there grow and perfect themselves Indian national cadres of qualified specialists who will make their worthy contribution to the construction and operation of future industrial enterprises of their home industry.

We are confident that in the course of further Soviet-Indian economic and technical cooperation the

spirit of creation and business cooperation born at the Bhilai construction will assume an all-round development.

Permit me once more to heartily congratulate you and through you the Indian people on outstanding success achieved in Bhilai and to wish the Indian people well-being, happiness and prosperity.

PM's REPLY

Prime Minister Nehru's reply sent on December 25 reads as follows:

Dear Mr. Prime Minister, I have received your message of the 22nd December about the Bhilai Plant with pleasure and I thank you for it. The day when the Bhilai Plant will start producing rolled steel is indeed a memorable day for us. The success of this giant undertaking is not only a landmark in India's industrial progress, but is also a symbol of the cooperation of Soviet and Indian specialists which we welcome so much.

We look forward with confidence to further Soviet-Indian economic and technical cooperation in the great task we have undertaken of building up a new India.

Thanking you again and with warm regards and good wishes for the New Year.

I am,
Yours sincerely,
(Sd.) Jawaharlal Nehru.

By Wire From Jnan Bikash Moitra

PIG IRON POURS FROM DURGAPUR

STREAMS of molten pig iron poured down from the first blast furnace of Durgapur steel plant as President Rajendra Prasad pressed the button to inaugurate production in the presence of 50,000 people—workers, technicians, peasants from surrounding villages and guests. With Durgapur, all three public sector plants now are in production.

It is the biggest rebuff to those who ridiculed this programme as overambitious.

Two air-conditioned trains brought VIPs from Calcutta. The show was very big but the workers who had a major share in building the blast furnace were mere onlookers.

Going round the steel plant which sprawls over an area of 2½ square miles one has mixed feelings. The plant is no doubt a huge undertaking and a milestone in our industrial development but also a sharp reminder of the great headway to be made in steel production and designing and manufacturing all component parts of a steel plant.

Speaking on the occasion, President Rajendra Prasad described the Durgapur region as the Ruhr of India and expressed satisfaction that

there was little likelihood of the plant's present employment of 35,000 being reduced to any considerable extent. It is, however, reliably learnt that the total complement when the plant is completed will be about 10,000.

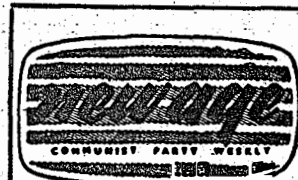
Welcoming the President, Swaran Singh, Minister for Steel, Mines and Fuel envisaged rapid expansion of steel production, as the basic aim was to raise the living standard of our people. He remarked that the year 1959 had been one of substantial achievement for the public sector in iron and steel.

Earlier, talking to Pressmen, Boothalingam, Secretary of the Steel Ministry, envisaged a 10-million ton steel target in the Third Plan and stated a fourth steel plant in Bokaro would be essentially Indian.

C. J. M. Alport, United Kingdom Minister for Commonwealth Relations who was present felt proud that thousands of workers in the famous industrial cities of Britain had been associated with this enterprise. He expressed the earnest hope that, "The steel and iron which it produces may be devoted to peaceful development of an India at peace in the world."

The blast furnace which the President opened on December 29 has a daily capacity of 1,250 tons of pig iron but is now producing only 340 tons due to lack of necessary mechanical arrangements which may take another six months to complete.

Durgapur, December 29.



EDITOR : P. C. Joshi

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