

FORTY BUSY YEARS

SPACE-DOG HIGHLIGHTS NOVEMBER 7

THE Special Branch is soon going to start thinking either that I have a private phone line through to the Soviet space research institute or else that they take instructions from me. Because I ended my last World Stage with the prophecy that at the November 7th celebrations this week "a lot of the cheering will be for a new fellow-traveller for Sputnik."

And now there is a half-ton hunk of iron 930 miles—almost the distance between Johannesburg and Cape Town—in the sky and travelling at a speed which covers that same distance in three minutes. There's a high dog and a fast dog in it. Stook exchange prices, naturally, fell again. U.S. scientists and technicians are continuing to battle feverishly to get a satellite, even a teeny-

WORLD STAGE

By Spectator

weeny little satellite, into the heavens. But things are now moving so fast that most of us would pay about as much attention to a 24-pound satellite as we do to a Baby Austin. What we're waiting for now is a rocket to the moon. And a satellite with a man in it. If anyone wants us to go out to look at an unmanned satellite it will have to be mighty big, or play the guitar, or do conjuring tricks.

UNANIMOUS PRAISE
The tenor of scientific comment on the announcement of the dog-in-the-moon was almost unanimous. If Sputnik was proof that Soviet science had an edge on the U.S., this latest feat was ample demonstration of a substantial lead. A top West German scientist estimated the lead as several years.

SOME OF THE POINTS NOTED BY WESTERN SCIENTISTS:
● The U.S.S.R. has rockets capable of carrying up to three tons. The West has nothing remotely near realisation which can carry anything like such a load.
● The U.S.S.R. must have found a superior fuel unknown to the West.
● The U.S.S.R. is able to guide its rockets accurately. The U.S. rockets often have to be crashed almost as soon as they are fired because the guiding mechanism is imperfect.

BUT ONLY FORTY YEARS AGO—WHEN THE MEN RESPONSIBLE FOR SPUTNIK MUST ALREADY HAVE BEEN OF SCHOOL-GOING AGE—CZARIST RUSSIA WAS A PRIMITIVE, INCREDIBLY BACKWARD COUNTRY, INCAPABLE EVEN OF PRODUCING A TRACTOR, OR MOTOR-CAR.

The transformation of this country from a land where ninety per cent of the population was illiterate, where the great majority of the people lived under conditions even worse than those of the people of the Transkei, to the Soviet Union of today, began, in the view of almost every political writer, with the coming to power of the Communists, led by Lenin, in the Socialist revolution of November 7th, 1917—forty years ago this week.

This new government declared that it had come into power only because it was placed there by the working people, backed by the peasants. And it set itself the target of building the world's first Socialist state.

IMPOSSIBLE?
From their writings at the time it is clear that the Russian leaders believed that the workers in the highly industrialised states of Europe would follow the example of the Russian workers. When this did not happen there were some among them who, appalled by Russia's economic weakness and isolation, said that it was impossible for the Soviet Union to build socialism alone.

But the majority, with amazing optimism, declared that socialism could be built in the Soviet Union even in the face of all the obstacles. And although the opinion of the western Press was quite unanimous in the belief that the Soviet government could not

possibly last—BOLSHEVIKS FACE COLLAPSE was a headline that appeared again and again—it is still in power at the time of writing.
It must be remembered that, short as forty years may seem, the Soviet Union did not in fact have anything like a full forty years to devote to building its economy.

WAR OF INTERVENTION
In the first place the Soviet government did not even inherit the level of economic development, pitiful as it was, of the Czarist days. For her factories and wealth were plundered or destroyed by the armies of fourteen countries, including the U.S., Britain, France, Germany and Japan, which launched a full-scale war on the revolutionary government.

As a result, the output of heavy industry in 1920 was only one-seventh as high as that of Czarist Russia. Pig iron production was only 2.7 per cent of the Czarist figure, cement 2.4 per cent, soap 7.1 per cent, cotton textiles 4 per cent. Steel production had fallen to a negligible 200,000 tons a year.

And then, after the Soviet people had set to with a will and had fulfilled and over-fulfilled the ambitious five-year plans which established the basis for their new life, they saw those years of achievement laid waste by the Nazi armies. They drove out the nazis. They repaired the damage. They made new five-year plans. They fulfilled them and over-fulfilled them.

MUCH TO PLEASE THEM
Looking back this week at forty years of intense self-sacrifice and struggle the Soviet people had much to be pleased about at this week's anniversary celebrations—and not only in the field of scientific achievement.

● Industrially the country has come up from nowhere to a position second only to the United States, and far ahead of Britain, Germany and France, behind which countries she once trailed. Industrial output is three and a half times as great as before the war, 33 times as great as in Czarist times. Those 200,000 tons of steel are now produced in less than two days. The U.S.S.R. is now responsible for one-fifth of the world's total industrial production.



● In Czarist times there were 200,000 experts with a specialised higher education. Today there are six million, and the universities and institutes are sending out a further three-quarters of a million each year, more than the combined total of all the western countries.
● In Czarist times there was an army of unemployed. Today there is full employment.

● In Czarist times the Russian colonial territories in Asia were subjected to racial discrimination and national oppression. Today people from these territories play a leading part in all spheres of activity, scattering to the winds the age-old lie about "inferior" peoples and demonstrating beyond any possible doubt that all branches of thought and achievement are within the reach of all peoples, irrespective of the colour of their skin.

● Militarily, the Soviet generals claim, the country is well able to look after itself.
● And politically, the growth of Soviet influence is causing crisis after crisis in western diplomacy.

Commentators all over the world are setting out these facts. Most of them, unlike Spectator, are not content merely to put down the facts without comment, but are assessing them and interpreting them and concluding either that communist rule is either a very bad thing or a very good thing.

BUT WHAT STANDS OUT 930 MILES IS THIS: THAT THE EVENTS IN THE SOVIET UNION ARE IMPORTANT AND THAT EVERY INTELLIGENT MAN OR WOMAN IN THE WORLD IS INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING AND DISCUSSING THE MERITS AND DEMERITS OF COMMUNIST PARTY RULE. ALMOST ALONE IN THE WESTERN WORLD THE STRIDING GOVERNMENT INSISTS ON PLACING A BAN ON SUCH FREE DISCUSSION. THE SUPPRESSION OF COMMUNISM ACT IS ONE OF THE TYPICAL WORKS OF NATIONALIST BARBARISM.



Some of the Bata workers who handed in their resignations after their shop steward's dismissal.

WORKERS WERE SPIED ON IN THE TOILET

Mass Resignation Brings Victory At Bata's Factory

DURBAN.

WHEN a shop-steward was dismissed at the Bata Shoe Company, Pinetown, last week, his fellow-workers responded decisively—233 handed in their resignations.

Despite a warning that the workers would be considered strikers and arrested, they refused to sacrifice their unity for their jobs.

The result of their solidarity was that in less than two days they won a total victory. The shop-steward was reinstated and other demands by the workers were accepted by the employers.

GRIEVANCES
Although the Bata workers are the highest paid in the leather industry, for some time they have had

grievances which led to the crisis last week.

Their main objection was against the rigid discipline imposed in the factory. The present owner, Mr. Bata, is a relative of the late financial king of Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia, and the firm is a member of the World Bata Organisation.

The workers had to submit to rules and regulations unprecedented in local industry. Every worker had to have his photograph taken when he commenced work. The photograph was placed in a file which contained a chart recording the offences committed by the worker.

Whenever workers had discussions with members of the management, a tape-recorder was used and every word uttered was taken down. Even the toilets were kept under strict surveillance. A European ex-jail warder was employed to time the workers when they went to the toilet. He had the right to climb a ladder and peer into the toilets to ensure that the men did not loiter or smoke.

COMMITTEE ABOLISHED
But what angered the workers most of all was the abolition of the Grievances Committee which they had formed. The Committee consisted of shop-stewards and workers from each department. Its function was to receive the workers' complaints and to discuss them with the management.

The workers became highly suspicious, however, when the management decided to change the name of the Committee to Liaison Committee.

A constitution for the Liaison Committee was drawn up by the Company lawyer and every member had to abide by its rules. The constitution laid down that the managing director must be chairman of the Committee and the workers were informed that in future their grievances must be sent to the union as they would not be permitted to discuss them at Liaison Committee meetings. Only matters relating to social and sports activities and improved production would be dealt with.

MEETING CALLED
The workers showed no interest in this committee and consequently the management requested that a meeting of the workers be held to ascertain whether or not they wanted the Liaison Committee.

Mr. R. Loganathan, the leading shop-steward and the man who was dismissed, was asked to call the meeting. Only 70 workers attended, the rest refusing to do so because they said they were interested neither in the meeting nor the Liaison Committee. Mr. Loganathan spoke of the futility of the Committee.

Seventy workers voted against the Committee's continued existence and four in favour.

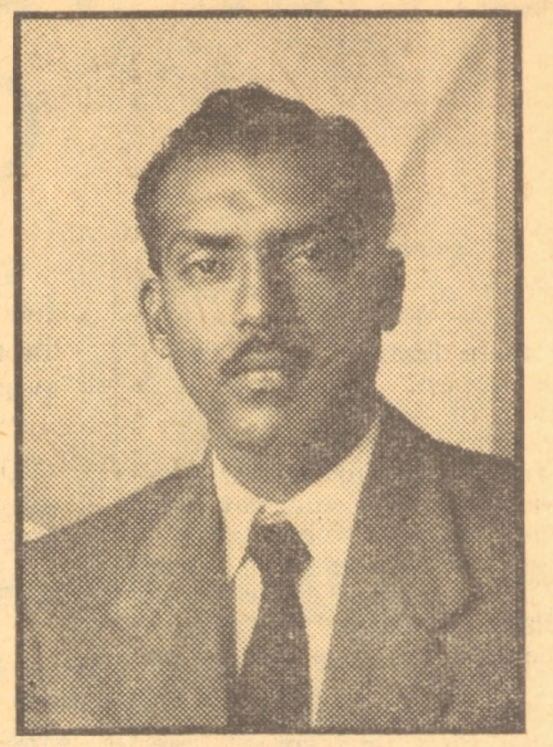
Mr. G. Padayachee, who seconded the resolution for the abolition of the Committee, was dismissed the following day.

When the decision of the workers was conveyed to the management a member replied that he would consult the workers himself at another meeting to be called within a week. A tape-recorder, he said, would be used.

The union secretary endeavoured to persuade Mr. Loganathan to accept a job which they had found for him elsewhere. He refused and insisted that the union demand that he be reinstated at Bata's.

When it became obvious that the union intended doing nothing about the matter, a further 200 workers handed in their resignations and the 147 who remained at their machines were ready to resign if necessary.

The workers were compelled to seek the assistance of a lawyer who was sent to the factory to negotiate with the employers. When he entered the managing-director's office a tape-recorder was brought in and switched on. The lawyer objected and said he would agree to its use only if he were allowed to take his own recording of the discussions. His request was turned down and he walked out of the factory.



Mr. R. Loganathan, whose dismissal caused a crisis at the Bata factory last week.

On the following day the Company had to choose between a complete close-down or negotiations. The Company's lawyers approached the workers' lawyer for discussions which were held the same day.

The workers' grievance were satisfactorily settled in a short time. Last Monday all the workers, including Mr. Loganathan, returned to work.

Lutuli States ANC Election Policy

(Continued from page 1)

to keep our people along our chosen path of non-violence.

BLOODY UPHEAVALS
On the other hand a further stretch under the Nationalists might well make inevitable the further growth of hatred and intolerance, and lead to chaotic and perhaps bloody upheavals desired by no sane South African, least of all by us of the Congress movement.

Our desire for a United Party victory is, therefore, based not on any confidence in that party's policy, or on any illusions about its intentions, but upon our understanding that nothing could be more disastrous for all sections of the population than further years of Nationalist paragon.

QUESTION: Do you think that the United Party is missing an opportunity of forging a united Opposition by refusing to conclude an election pact with the Labour Party?

ANSWER: The main service the U.P. can do for South Africa at present is to get rid of the Nationalists. And to do so they should ally themselves with all available forces. By all forces I mean the Labour Party, the Liberal Party, the Congress of Democrats and all other groups with the vote. I include the Non-Whites also among these forces because, properly harnessed, the Non-White people can and will be a decisive force in the final defeat of Nationalist rule in South Africa. I do hope that in the process of this co-operation the United Party and other groups which are not pro-Congress, will become less segregationist in their outlook and work for the establishment of a truly democratic South Africa.

QUESTION: What are your views on the policy platform on which the United Party is preparing to face the election?

ANSWER: The United Party's "new look" policy regarding political and other rights for the Non-White people is most disappointing. We are not to be bluff or fobbed off by any version of the archaic 1936 Smuts-Hertzog "Native" legislation, or attempts to present dud forms of "representation" in Parliament as a substitute for democracy. We shall not be side-tracked by schemes for creating a privileged African middle class whose intention is to leave the masses leaderless. The promise of freehold rights for urban Africans must remain hollow and unsubstantial without

based upon liberty, equality and fraternity.

PEOPLE'S CLAIMS
It can nevertheless be brought home to the full by the freedom-loving forces of the country if they do not accept a merely passive "spectator" role in the elections, but immediately form an active and vigorous United Front, and campaign militantly for their claims:

- for increased wages for all workers and the reduction of the cost of living;
- for the right to freedom of speech and organisation, and the ending of political censorship and the persecution of Congressmen and other democrats;
- for the abolition of the pass system and forced removals of settled communities;
- for the right of all South Africans to a voice in the government of the state, the local councils, and the determination of wages and working conditions.

In a word, our claims to democracy and freedom and a South Africa founded upon justice and racial harmony.

QUESTION: What forms must Congress campaigns and activity take during the next vital pre-election months?

ANSWER: We should, therefore, reject the idea that the Congress should "lie low" during the election period. We should rather regard the

period as one of intensive activity, of campaigning by the written and the spoken word, of united mass action, to educate the people, both Black and White.

WE should intensify our extra-Parliamentary forms of struggle such as the campaign against the extension of the pass laws to women, and the passes generally; the campaign for a national minimum wage of £1 a day and an all-round increase in wages for all workers; the campaign against the Group Areas Act and forced removals, and so on.

ANSWER: The immediate defeat of the Nazi-Nationalists, and the assertion of the rights of all South Africans to freedom and democracy.

This central real issue of the elections, with its implied total rejection of the ruinous policy of apartheid, will not be placed before the electorate by either of the chief parties to the election.

OUR CONTRIBUTION
Our best contribution to the enlightenment of the people, both enfranchised and disfranchised sections, is to make it clear beyond doubt that the overwhelming majority of the South African people reject and despise the Nationalists and their hateful policies and actions, and that to place them again in office would be an irresponsible and reckless action whose harmful consequences cannot be measured.

Our slogans during this period would be
AWAY WITH THE NATS!
FREEDOM IN OUR LIFE-TIME!

New University In Indonesia

DJAKARTA.

President Sukarno and Prime Minister Djuanda recently attended the inaugural ceremony for the Padjadjaran University in Bandung, Indonesia.

President Sukarno said that the founding of the University was an important event as Indonesia needed specialists for national construction.

This is Indonesia's sixth University, with an enrolment of 2,515 students.

ETHNIC GROUPING CAUSE OF BLOEMFONTEIN RIOTS

Many Killed and Wounded In Clashes With Police

From Billy Mokhonoana

BLOEMFONTEIN. ON Sunday October 27 the Basutos and Zulus of the Bloemfontein municipal compound fought against each other for an unknown reason.

The authorities said it was because the Zulus wanted to take revenge for what happened to Zulus in the Dube rioting in Johannesburg but there are only 300 Zulus in the compound, while there are more than 3,000 Basutos, so that doesn't seem to make sense.

I interviewed a number of victims in the hospital but they all gave me different causes for the riot. Immediately the riot started, the police came in dozens armed with ten guns, rifles, revolvers and riot sticks. They were watched by 10,000 Non-European onlookers as they advanced to undertake "Operation Ethnic Grouping Riots."

They opened fire, and could be seen enjoying the shooting, because some were laughing while they were shooting.

Dozens fell to the ground—some shot in the neck, some in the stomach and some in their legs. Some who tried to crawl away were shot several times. I saw one who was shot three times, and he threw himself in the air.

NO DETAILS
Details of the casualties were never given, though one newspaper said six were killed. I phoned the hospital and was told the police had given instructions that no information was to be given to anybody.

When I phoned the police they said they were not giving a full report. However, it was reported by the hospital that 30 had had emergency operations to remove bullets and for other treatment. The police removed the bodies of all those who were killed on the spot.

Then the second round started

and the police ran to where the trouble was starting. They shot and shot and shot. The onlookers became very angry and started throwing stones at the police and the rioters. They also stopped and stoned passing cars and buses.

ONE Zulu who was shot and was fleeing from the scene was run over by a car driven by a European. While people were trying to help him, a policeman went up to the driver of the car and asked him whether his car was damaged. He apologised to the driver and said it was just an accident. The Zulu meanwhile had a broken leg and was taken to hospital. This incident also angered the crowd.

TERRIBLE CONDITIONS
Nobody will dispute that the riot was caused by ethnic grouping, but there were also other factors. The condition of the compound is terrible. It is dirty inside, and some of the buildings are of corrugated iron without windows. The people have no recreation, no sports ground. They go to work and when they come back they are put in the compounds for the night and the next morning they go to work again. What sort of a life is that for a man? They live just like cows which go and plough in the day and at sunset are returned to their stalls until ploughing starts next morning again.

The people of the compound want to mix freely with the other people in the location, but they are not allowed to enter the location without a permit and they feel like outcasts. Some say: "The authorities want our bodies but they do not want our souls."

WHY SPUTNIK CAME FROM RUSSIA

SOVIET WORKERS ARE ON TOP OF THEIR JOB



Masses of Technologists

A system of planned priorities plays an important part in making possible these feats of rapid design and construction. There is no frittering away of resources in doing a little here and there. Many factories are far from being up-to-date—Mr. Trippe describes a Leningrad plant for making gauges where there is a good deal of line shafting (dating from 1932) and many almost obsolete machines. Factories like this are doing the best job they can in adverse circumstances, and waiting their turn for modernization.

But when that turn comes enormous facilities are placed at their disposal—and that is one of the reasons why the completely modernized factory, up-to-the-minute in every detail, goes from drawing board to production in two years or less. Take the matter of technical staff, for example. Most of these plants are themselves very amply provided—the Ordzhonikidze machine tool factory has 400 designers and draughtsmen; Krasny Proletarii had 300 engineers at work designing their new lathe line. But in addition to this, when a big job is

Dr. S. Lilley, the British expert on automation, continuing his summary of articles by Norman Stubbs and Peter Trippe in the technical journal "Metal-working Production," reports them as saying:

"The Soviet has found the key to the production of capital equipment on an unprecedented scale and every single man in every single shop is behind it. The same spirit does not exist here."

better provided with technical manpower than any other country.

After describing in detail one of the higher technical institutes—the Machine Tool Institute in Moscow, with its 3,000 students, Mr. Trippe writes:

"We expected to see something unusual, but we were completely unprepared for what we actually found when we got there. For here again is something well outside any scale with which we are familiar; and yet again, we realized how it was that Soviet engineers could talk in terms of astronomical production figures and rates of expansion as if there was nothing extraordinary about them . . . we felt that they had conditioned themselves to achieving programmes which, to us, would seem impossible, but which to them were perfectly normal."

And all this is apart from the extensive facilities which most factories lay on to enable their own workers to improve their qualifications. One Moscow factory employing 4,000 workers has more than forty full-time teachers in its own technical school, which is attended by 700 of the employees—nearly a fifth of the total!—as part-time or evening students.

Standardization

The availability of engineers and designers partly explains the speed with which new production lines can be got into action. But of course the machines have to be built as well as designed. Often they are quite new designs and highly specialized designs, and yet the hundreds of machines required to set up a modern production line are produced and delivered within a few months of the receipt of the blue-prints. The "secret" here is partly good planning, partly enthusiasm, and to a large extent standardization. The building of described earlier, is spread over a the special machines for a job like the automatic ball-bearing factory large number of machine-building plants.

Without a great deal of standardization, it would be impossible to ensure that the products of these various factories would (as it were) fit together—and so the only possibility would be to rely on one or a very few machine-builders and put up with the delays resulting from their limited capacities. Standardization allows many firms to cooperate in producing the equipment for a complete new factory in a few months. Needless to say, it also lightens the designer's job.

But it does not (as we are often told) limit variety. On the contrary it encourages it—largely because it allows the building of a large variety of machines comparatively cheaply out of unit heads and standard components, with only a minimum of components specially designed for the job.

Standardization is the basis, in an even more obvious way, for the new drive towards providing a set of units which can be built into flexible automated lines (as described above).

The two authors of these articles believe that this will be the main form of automation of the future—for the "tailor-made" transfer line is too expensive and too inflexible for very general use. But this raises problems. "Notably, it calls for a degree of standardization from makers which, on the face of it might appear to be contrary to their own immediate interests. This problem does not exist in the U.S.S.R. There is no private enterprise there:

"Does this therefore imply that we in the West are at a disadvantage? Certainly not. But we must surely accept it as a challenge. It is not enough to believe in free enterprise. We must also prove that it works. While we are arguing the pros and cons, and carrying out a multiplicity of developments along parallel lines to produce a multiplicity of non-standard units, Soviet development engineers are busily turning out the type of standardized machines which may well give them ascendancy over the West in the production engineering techniques of the immediate future.

"What is being achieved there can surely be achieved here. Private enterprise, to survive, must show, by voluntary co-operation between makers themselves as well as between users, no less than between makers and users, that it can achieve a unity of purpose of its own free will which is at least equal to that

obtained by the state-controlled methods of the U.S.S.R."

This last quotation will make it clear that Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Trippe are far from being Socialists who see Soviet engineering through rose-tinted spectacles. They believe in free enterprise. But they differ from a good many other believers in that their belief does not prevent them from describing fully and frankly what they saw and heard.

Pride in Work and Competitive Spirit

One result is that they report as observed facts, with little comment, a great many points about the relation between man and machine, which others may or may not (according to their outlook) care to interpret in more political terms. Here is an example of how a different attitude to work makes it possible to treat a production problem in a quite different way. On the Krasny Proletarii lathe-building line, apart from a final test:

"We saw very little evidence of inspection, and this observation applies to every plant we visited. It seems certain that detailed inspection after each operation, as we know it, does not exist, and one never sees inspectors as such. It seems likely that far more responsibility for inspection is left to the man on the machine than here, and our personal opinion was that provided the man was qualified to make the inspections required, it could be done with complete safety.

"Without exception, every operator we talked to throughout the Soviet has a sense of personal pride in, and responsibility to, the work he was doing and a strong sense of responsibility both to his colleagues and to his plant as a whole."

Incidentally, the authors did take the trouble to check up with users

and found that, even with a minimum of inspection, the machines produced are fully satisfactory and accurate. Mr. Trippe continues:

"It is necessary to emphasize also the competitive spirit that exists, because we believe it accounts to a great extent for the achievement of sustained outputs on levels such as that at Krasny Proletarii. This is something which is quite apart from any political aspect, or any indoctrination which they may have received. It is simply that each man has identified himself with his work and with the plant he works for . . .

"There is also the strongest competitive element between plants making similar products. . . . Every shop has its target on a board or poster on the wall. And both that target and their output in relation to a 'rival' works, are followed in the same way as they would follow their local football team. It has been said that you can go into almost any factory in British industrial cities on a Monday morning and tell whether the local football team has won or lost by the atmosphere on the shop floor; you could tell in the same way if these Soviet plants had exceeded their targets or fallen short, and whether or not they were keeping pace with their rivals.

"This is not to suggest that they work at a fever pitch; they don't give the impression of working as hard as we do here. But the indisputable fact remains that the work gets done. We do not intend to try and analyze why this is so; our purpose and survey is simply to observe and report what we found.

"As a purely objective statement, we must therefore say that the attitude to work which we found in the Soviet was completely contrary to what we had expected. There was no evidence of fevered working because they were afraid of the consequences otherwise; neither do we believe that, any more than the average man in this country, they are thinking in terms of political idealism. But they believe that they are on to something big as an industrial nation—and that they are

(Continued on page 7)

Why Go To The Moon?

JOHANNESBURG.

The November issue of "Fighting Talk," no on sale, is a special issue devoted to space flight travel, and carries articles by two leading Soviet scientists on plans for space rockets to Venus, Mars and the Moon; and an article "Why Go to the Moon?" which outlines the benefits to mankind from the setting up of a base on the Moon.

Fighting Talk sells at 6d. an issue and is on sale at all branches of the C.N.A. Single copies or subscriptions for 7s. 6d. a year can be obtained from P.O. Box 1355, Johannesburg.

on hand, they call on the services of a number of centralized research and development agencies which have large specialist staffs. So that when the automatic ball-bearing factory was planned, some 2,000 or 3,000 designers were involved.

One of the most important of these centralized agencies is E.N.I.M.S. (The Experimental Research Institute for Metal-cutting Machines) in Moscow. It has a staff of more than a thousand scientific workers; and these are backed up by another thousand or so non-scientific workers in the Stankokonstrukt-sia plant, a development works directly associated with the institute. Yet this organization deals only with metal-cutting machines. Other similar institutes deal with such matters as the cutting tools, or abrasives, or metal-forming techniques; and these, between them, employ another 2,500 to 3,000 workers. The availability of such masses of technologists and technicians goes a long way towards explaining how the new lines can be built and set to work so quickly.

But experts do not grow on trees. And behind all this lies the story of the enormous Soviet effort in education. With secondary education to the age of seventeen already compulsory in the cities and soon to be universal, with nearly two million students in higher educational institutions, with 6,500,000 specialists (with higher or specialized secondary education) already at work and another 4 million to be added to them by 1960, the U.S.S.R. is far

UP MY ALLEY

IT seems that anti-Nat feeling among the women who command the railway station book-stalls is catching on. I was waiting for the eight-thirty on one of the suburban stations the other morning when I overheard the woman behind the counter launching a tirade against the Cabinet and a local Afrikaans paper that made my flesh crawl.

"Neither the Nats nor their papers can be depended on for the truth," she opined, in conclusion.

The customer she was talking to looked around and said: "Better not talk so loud. There might be a member of the Special Branch hanging around."

TWO big celebrations coming off this week. I shall have to buy a packet of starlights for the little man at home for the Fifth, and a large - - er - - cake for myself for the Seventh. It's not funny that on the Fifth all the kids will be celebrating because a character named Guy Fawkes committed Treason and got skewered. And if anybody does too much celebrating on the Seventh, that might be construed

as treason, and they might get skewered.

I've got a funny feeling around



By ALEX LA GUMA

my neck, but it's only because my tie's too tight.

THEN there is a dumb brunette I know who said, when I told her that the Soviet Union has just constructed an atomic ice-breaker: "But you can buy an ice-breaker at the bazaars for a shilling. We've got one in our fridge."

IN the States they talk with pride about what they call "Southern hospitality," and I'm not referring to the kind that includes lynching. I wonder what the two American Negro journalists thought of "Southern African hospitality" when the authorities made them spend a night in the Fort after they had been forced to touch down at Jo'burg on the way to West Africa.

They probably said, "Phooey!", or on the other hand they might have said, "Just like way back in the good old Southern States."

A NAT in the Divisional Council here started blowing off steam when a Coloured Councillor raised objections to apartheid on the beaches.

"The sooner he goes to Ghana the better," howled the Nat.

I bet if he applied for a passport to go he wouldn't get one.

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