

Scapegoats Are No Answer

BEING Minister of Agriculture and Food Industry are the two hardest jobs today in the Soviet Union which is ruled by a handful of revisionist renegades.

As though he had the ability to realize Khrushchov's "goulash communism," Brezhnev, at the time he took over, bragged that he would "improve" the Soviet economy, which Khrushchov had turned into a mess. More than five years have passed and it is not difficult to discover, even from the obviously fudged figures published by the Soviet Central Statistical Board, that the 1969 per capita output of potatoes in the Soviet Union fell 7 per cent compared with 1964, the year Khrushchov fell. The situation regarding beef is also bad. The per capita head of cattle in the Soviet Union in 1969 dropped 5 per cent compared with 1965. Per capita output of agricultural and other animal products are also on the decline. For instance, the number of pigs dropped 12 per cent and sheep 4 per cent. Vegetable production tumbled 12 per cent compared with 1964 while grain production also dropped. To add lustre to their showy activities to commemorate the centenary of Lenin's birth, this handful of Soviet revisionist renegades, who flaunt the banner of Lenin while committing evil deeds in betraying him, have sent a great number of persons to buy beef and other foodstuff from Western countries. The hard fact is that potatoes in the Soviet Union today are becoming more scarce and getting beef in the market is very difficult. The so-called "communism," the early realization of which Khrushchov so greatly vaunted, is nowhere to be found and no longer mentioned.

The phoney communism plugged by Brezhnev and his kind has been discredited in the eyes of the Soviet people who have shown strong dissatisfaction and indignation over their perverse acts. With the throne of the new tsars tottering, Brezhnev and his lot have made the Minister of Food Industry their scapegoat in an effort to mollify the dissatisfied people and to hold on to their reactionary rule. Thus was Zotov removed from his post not too long ago, making it the second time the head of food industry was replaced since Brezhnev came to power. Brezhnev and his like levelled many charges against Zotov, claiming that he should be held responsible for "the long-term failure to make full use of the productive capacity" in many enterprises, that he "is lagging behind in fulfilling the plan for labour productivity," and that "there was a considerable delay" in the fulfilment of the plan for putting projects under construction into operation. It seems as if the Minister of Food Industry is to be blamed for all the current grave economic difficulties and food shortages in the Soviet Union and his replace-

ment would bring potatoes, beef and joy to everybody. Ministers may be replaced, but the quantity of food cannot be increased. As revealed in the communique of the Soviet Central Statistical Board, compared with the corresponding period last year, output of the country's food industry sank further in February even after the new minister took office.

Everybody knows it is precisely because this clique of a handful of renegades headed by Brezhnev has usurped the leadership of the Soviet Party and state, restored capitalism in the Soviet Union and suppressed and exploited the broad masses of the Soviet working people that the Soviet economy has landed in unprecedented chaos. And it is precisely because Brezhnev and his bunch strenuously push the Hitler-like policy of "guns instead of butter" to serve the needs of social-imperialism's expansion and aggression abroad that the Soviet Union's economic woes have become even more serious. You can't make bricks without straw. Since the production of meat, potatoes, vegetables, etc. has slumped greatly, how can the "productive capacity" in factories under the Minister of Food Industry be "made full use of"? Is Mr. Brezhnev's magic so great that he can "make full use of" the food mills' "productive capacity" and turn out goulash without potatoes and beef?

Actually, Brezhnev's sleight of hand in finding scapegoats is not his invention, but one handed down to him by Khrushchov, his venerable master.

The great leader Chairman Mao has pointed out that one of the characteristics of Khrushchov and company is that they "cover up their errors... and claim all the credit for themselves and shift all the blame on others." When Khrushchov held sway and made an awful mess of Soviet agriculture, his scapegoats were the Agricultural Ministers. During his years of rule, being Agricultural Minister of the Soviet Union was the toughest job. Whirled around as though they were on a merry-go-round, six Agricultural Ministers were replaced one after another in this period. However, these scapegoats, after all, could not carry the blame due Khrushchov, and he was swept into the garbage heap of history.

Today, Brezhnev has once again picked up Khrushchov's unworkable magic weapon and repeatedly made responsible officials in the food industry his scapegoats. But how can this help Brezhnev avoid Khrushchov's fate? The chief criminals are the handful of renegades headed by Brezhnev who have ruined the Soviet Union, the world's first socialist country, in such a way that life has become impossible for the people. Nobody else can take the blame for the towering crimes they themselves have committed.