

ing finding himself in the category of Mensheviks, whom he denounced as "pseudo-Marxist lackeys of the bourgeoisie" for their belief that it was too early to establish socialism in Russia.

Sometime between 1917 and 1922 the suspicion might have dawned on Lenin that the effort to establish a noncommodity form of economic organization was utopian, with or without a transitional period. This has indeed dawned on many present-day economists in the Soviet Union, but orthodox Marxists continue to define socialism or communism as a noncommodity form of production. The conflict (in economics) between the modern-day revisionist and orthodox Marxists can be understood in these terms. Revisionists realize that it is impossible (in a modern economic context) to organize production in a noncommodity form and that efforts to do so are at the expense of economic rationality, yet they cannot say Marx was utopian and still hope to be recognized as Marxists. Therefore, they attempt to revise Marx and identify markets or commodity production with socialism.

The programmatic content of Marxian socialism calls for the replacement of a commodity with a noncommodity form of production. In my article my purpose was to show that the policies of "war communism" were an effort to establish socialism. After decades of a reign of mythology, I looked at the evidence provided by Lenin. That evidence is unequivocal. I suspect that resistance to the evidence is basically a matter of reluctance to acknowledge the power of ideology to introduce and maintain folly as a force in Soviet economic history.

TO THE EDITOR:

I am seeking information about a Russian writer named Sergei Gussiev Orenburgsky, born in the later 1860s, author of two novels, *Land of the Fathers* and *Land of the Children*. The latter was published in English translation by Longmans, Green in 1928 (the translator was Nina Nikolaevna Selivanova). It is thought that he came to the United States in the 1920s and lived for some years in New York City. It would be much appreciated if anyone possessing such information could write me at the address shown.

MRS. GRACE CALÍ
Buzon 466, Quebrada Vuelta
Fajardo, Puerto Rico 00648

TO THE EDITOR:

Like one of your correspondents (March 1971 issue), I am beginning to become disenchanted with the contents of the *Slavic Review*, but for a different reason. Whereas Mr. Lupinin says that the *Slavic Review* is not historical enough, in my mind it is now too historical, and what is more, far too literary. When I first subscribed to the *Slavic Review* eight years ago, there seemed to be a much larger proportion of articles dealing with contemporary Soviet affairs, particularly Soviet politics, than now. I regret the shift in content. Perhaps articles of the previous kind are just not being written these days; I do not know. At any rate, while the *Slavic Review* has maintained its usual high standards, I find that it is moving far enough away from my interests to encourage me to read it in the Library rather