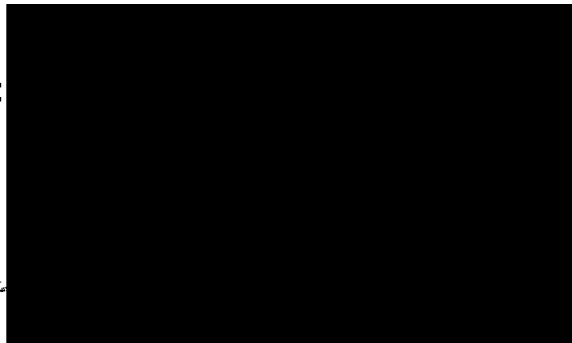


WASHINGTON
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Like They're Gone, Man!

DEFLECTIONS from communist countries to the Western world are to be welcomed at all times, but it is bound to evoke some second thoughts when a couple of Soviet jazzmen break away and announce they want asylum in the United States.

A drummer and a saxophonist did just that the other day in Tokyo. They slipped off from a touring Bolshoi variety troupe and told newsmen they hoped to get to the U. S. in time to play "real jazz."

But what secrets can these cats bring us by copping out on Moscow? A defector without important political information or scientific data can only be admitted as a square. America is not going to concede that communist hipsters are farther out than our own. In fact, we yield on that ground only to the Beatles—and even tho they're again in our country, they show no signs of defecting.

If these two Russians merely want a better pad in the U. S. let them come—but ideologically, we just don't dig it.

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NEWS

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Sax Spy Ring

THE conclusion-jumping record I must go to Izvestia, the official Soviet government newspaper. That devout defender of the Red faith complains that the American Central Intelligence Agency "uses any possibility of sending its agents into Socialist countries."

The proof? During the Benny Goodman Band's 1962 tour of the workers' paradise, a "prominent Soviet musician"—the paper didn't identify him—went backstage and told a Goodman bandsman he didn't like the way one piece had been played.

The American explained, according to Izvestia, that four musicians had been added to the band on the eve of their departure and therefore there hadn't been enough time to rehearse. To the conspiratorial mind, this proved the four were spies.

The assumption is not only absurd, but the supposed fact on which it was based is untrue. All 17 bandsmen were personally selected by Goodman, were thoroughly investigated in advance by the Soviet secret police and counterintelligence forces, and then practiced together for three weeks before leaving for Russia.

Even if this fantastic spying charge were true, it would prove only that American musicians have as much right to spy as Russian diplomats—and that the Soviet counterspy checker-uppers goofed.