STALIN IS SPEAKING IN FRONT OF WORKERS:

"I am prepared to give my blood away, drop by drop, for the good of the working class."

An anonymous note is passed from the audience:

"Dear Comrade Stalin! Why drag things on? Just give all of it away at once."

STALIN'S LOST PIPE

Stalin lost his pipe. He called Beria, chief of the KGB:

"What is the matter? Why is everything disappearing?"

Beria went pale. Two hours later he called with the news:

"Forty-seven people have been arrested. My first deputy is conducting the investigation."

One hour later Stalin told Beria that his pipe cleaning brush had also disappeared. At the end of the day, Beria reported:

"Eighty-five suspects have been arrested. I am personally heading the investigation."

The next morning the cleaning lady found both lost items. Stalin called Beria with the good news.

"What a pity," responded Beria. "All the suspects, except for one, have confessed..."

STALIN'S WILL

After his death in 1954, it was found that Stalin had left three sealed envelopes with three wills.

One of the envelopes was marked: "Open immediately." Once opened, the will read: "Put me in the mausoleum with Lenin." So they did.
The second envelope was marked: "Open when things start going bad." After the new government saw what a mess agriculture was in, the envelope was opened. The will inside read: "Blame everything on me." So they did. (During the XXII Party Congress.)

The third envelope was marked: "Open when things go really bad." The will was opened during the Hungarian uprising (1956). It read: "Do everything just as I did." So they did......

KHRUSHCHEV AND BULGANIN ON A PLANE

Khrushchev and Bulganin (Khrushchev's initial crony) are flying in an airplane. Suddenly, Bulganin says, I think I will drop a thousand ruble bill. Someone will find it and be really happy."

Khrushchev says, "I will drop a thousand rubles in ten-ruble bills. That way a lot of people will be happy."

The pilot says, "I wish I could drop both of you. Then, the whole nation would be happy."

EVICTON OF NINA KHRUSHCHEV

Armenian Radio is asked, "Why have they evicted Nina Khrushchev (Khrushchev's wife) from Moscow?"

The Radio replies, "Because she kept a hog (Khrushchev's nickname) in the downtown apartment."

KHRUSHCHEV IN A MODERN ART EXHIBIT

Khrushchev is reviewing a famous modern art exhibit in Moscow.

"What is this stupid square with red dots in it?"

"That is a Soviet factory with workers, Comrade Khrushchev."
"And what is this rag with green and red paint on it?"

"That is a picture of a cornfield, Comrade Khrushchev."

"And what is this ass with ears?"

"That is ... that is a mirror, Comrade Khrushchev."

**POLITICAL JOKESTER CAUGHT**

A man who was caught telling political jokes was arrested and brought to Khrushchev's office.

"What furniture, what carpets!" the man said admiringly.

"Soon everyone in the country will have things like this," said Khrushchev.

"Comrade Khrushchev, please! Either I will tell the jokes, or you will, but just one of us at a time!"

**PERSONALITY CULT**

Question to the Armenian Radio (1971): "Is it true that we have a Personality cult again?"

Reply: "There is a cult, but no personality."

**BREZHNEV'S EYEBROWS**

Armenian Radio is asked: "What are Brezhnev's eyebrows?"

"Stalin's mustache on a higher level."
BREZHEV GIVEN RANK OF GENERALISSIMUS

Armenian Radio is asked: "Is it true that Brezhnev will receive the rank of Generalissimus?"

"Yes, it is true. He will also receive a title of Peoples' Actor, if he manages to pronounce his new rank correctly."

ATTEMPT ON BREZHEV'S LIFE

Armenian Radio is asked: "Could Lieutenant Ilyin, who made an attempt on Brezhnev's life, have hit his chauffeur?"

Reply: "Yes, he could have, by a ricochet from Brezhnev's forehead."

BREZHEV AT A HIGH LEVEL CONFERENCE

A high-level conference is taking place. Participants decide to take a break for a cigarette.

DeGaulle pulls out a silver cigarette case. On the top is an engraving: "From grateful France - to the President!"

Lyndon Johnson also pulls out a silver case. On its top is an engraving: "From a grateful people - to the President of the United States."

Brezhnev pulls out a golden cigarette case covered with diamonds. On its top is an engraving: "To his Imperial Majesty Alexander II - from the Russian nobility."

DUBCEK'S WATCH

After Czechoslovak leaders were released from Moscow in August 1968, Brezhnev tells Kosygin, "What a great watch Dubcek was wearing!"

"Lem' me see it," responded Kosygin.
BREZHNEV'S NIGHTMARE

Red Square is filled with Czechs eating Jewish matzoh with Chinese chopsticks.

ANOTHER BREZHNEV NIGHTMARE

The Chinese learned how to fight like Jews do, and Jews learned how to multiply like Chinese do.

BREZHNEV OPENS THE 1980 OLYMPICS

While opening the 1980 Olympic Games, Brezhnev starts reading from the notes, "O-o-o-o-o!"

An assistant quickly corrects him, "Comrade Brezhnev! That is the Olympic Emblem. The text of the greeting is below."

BREZHNEV AND MARGARET THATCHER

Brezhnev meets Margaret Thatcher and starts reading from his notes, "Dear and honorable Mrs. Indira Ghandi!"

An assistant corrects him, "Comrade Brezhnev, this is Margaret Thatcher!"

Brezhnev starts again, "Dear and honorable Mrs. Indira Ghandi!" The assistant corrects him again.

Brezhnev flares up, "I know this is Margaret Thatcher, but look what's written here!"
BREZHNEV SPEAKS BEFORE THE PARTY CONGRESS

Brezhnev starts a speech at the Party Congress. As usual, he is reading from his notes:

"Today, we are assembled here to give a last send-off to the devout son of our Party (he slows down), General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of USSR (even slower), Marshall of the Soviet Armed Forces, Chairman of Supreme Soviet of USSR, Leonid (pause) Ilyich (pause) Brezhnev."

Brezhnev intensely looks at his notes, looks over his suit and says, "Pardon me, Comrades, again I accidently exchanged jackets with Comrade Andropov."
(Summer. 1982)

SOVIET FOLK QUOTE

"Brezhnev is dead. Actually, he had been dead for long time. It's just that Chernenko did not tell him about it."

AMERICAN CORRESPONDENT INTERVIEWS ANDROPOV

An American correspondent interviewing newly "elected" Andropov: "Do you think that the Soviet people will follow you like they have followed Brezhnev?"

Andropov replies, "If they don't follow me, they will follow Brezhnev."

NEW SOVIET TIME UNIT

In 1983, a new time unit was adopted in the Soviet Union: one androp, which equals ten years (the most familiar prison term in USSR is ten years, Ed.)
ANDROPOV "ELECTION"

At the Central Committee Plenum, Andropov, who was just unanimously "elected," announces: "Everyone who voted, you can now lower your hands and walk away from the wall."

ANDROPOV'S SPEECH

In his first speech, Andropov says, "As always, we will struggle for peace and state security in the whole world!" (KGB stands for State Security Agency)

INTERIOR DESIGN PROBLEMS

A worker is presented with a new room to live in. The room is bare except for portraits of Lenin and Trotsky and one nail, sticking out of the wall. The worker looks at the room and sighs, "I don't know which one of these to hang and which one to put against the wall."

LENIN'S DEEDS

Old Rabinowitz looks at the slogan proclaiming that, "Lenin is dead, but his deeds live!"

He sighs, "I wish Lenin was alive and his deeds dead!"

LENIN'S WORKS

At a ceremonial meeting, awards are being presented for excellent work on a collective farm.

"For excellent performance in the field, Comrade Ivanova is being presented with a sack of grain!" Everyone applauds.
"For excellent work on the farm, Comrade Petrova is presented with a sack of potatoes!" Everyone applauds.

"For excellent Communist social propaganda work, Comrade Sidorova is presented with a full collection of Lenin's works!"

There is laughter, and someone yells, "That bitch deserves it!"

GRANDFATHER LENIN

A bunny crossed a road in front of a kindergarten schoolbus. A teacher asked the children, "Who was that?" The children were silent.

The teacher said, "Come on, about whom do we sing all the children's songs?"

In unison the children responded, "It's grandfather Lenin!"

LENIN MEMORIAL

A memorial board on a building reads, "In this building, Lenin hid with Inessa Armand* from the persecution of Nadezhda Krupskaya.*"

(*Inessa Armand was Lenin's co-worker and lover; Krupskaya - his wife.)

LENIN'S EXHIBIT

Lenin: "Nadezhda, where are my underpants?"

Krupskaya: "While you were asleep, Lunacharskiy (Minister of Culture) came by and took them for the exhibit in the Museum of Revolution."
LENIN'S KINDNESS

Krupskaya telling children about Lenin:

"Dear children! Everyone knows about Lenin's great kindness. I will tell you about one typical incident. Once, Comrade Lenin decided to shave. A little boy was standing nearby. Lenin was sharpening his blade and kept glancing at the boy. After he had shaved, he started to sharpen the blade again and again. He kept glancing at the boy. Finally, he finished, wiped the blade and put it away in its case. But, he could have slashed the kid!"

REAL SCIENTISTS

"Are Marx, Engels and Lenin real scientists?"

"No, Marx, Engels and Lenin are not real scientists. Real scientists try their theories out on guinea pigs first."

COMMUNISM

"What is the best way to explain Communism?"

"With the fists."

THE LONGEST JOKE OF 1961:

The program for building Communism as adopted by the XXII Party Congress.

BUILDING COMMUNISM

It is possible to build Communism in just one country, but it is impossible to live in that country.
BUILDING SOCIALISM

"Have we built Socialism yet, or is it going to get even worse?"

COMMUNIST GOALS

An old woman is being told how it will be when the U.S.S.R. finally attains Communism: "There will be plenty of food and goods, and people will be allowed to go abroad..."

"Oh, you mean like under the Tzars!"

THE ARRIVAL OF COMMUNISM

Armenian Radio is asked, "How will the Soviet people find out about the arrival of Communism?"

Armenian Radio replies, "The arrival of Communism will be announced in the newspapers and on the radio. We are not sure if TV will still exist."

DURING COMMUNISM

A hundred years from now, during Communism, a child asks his grandmother, "What is a line?"

Granny replies: "We had lines during Socialism. People would stand one behind another, waiting to buy butter or sausage."

"What are butter and sausage?"
MONEY AND COMMUNISM

During a political study session someone asks the question, "Will there be money during Communism?"

The instructor replies: "No, for there will be distribution of goods according to everybody's needs."

Comment from the audience: "Still no money, even then!"

SHORTAGES AND COMMUNISM

"What kind of announcement will be put up in the stores, under Communism, when the goods run out? For instance, butter?"

Announcement: "The citizens are not experiencing a need for butter today."

MOVING TOWARDS COMMUNISM

"Why have the food products disappeared from the stores?"

"Because we are rapidly moving towards Communism, and it's bad for your health to eat while walking."

THE COMMUNIST HORIZON

"What is the definition of the Communist horizon?"

"As with every horizon, the Communist one is an imaginary line that keeps moving away as you try to approach it."

MORE MOVES TOWARD COMMUNISM

"Why are there still problems with the supply of meat to the stores?"

"Because we are moving towards Communism with such speed that cattle cannot keep up with us."
THE COMMUNIST MAN

"What will a man of the Communist future look like?"

"He will have very small and weak hands, because all the physical labor will be done by machines. He will have very small and weak legs, because he will only use a well-developed transportation system. He will have a very small stomach, because he will eat only high-calorie pills. He will also have a very large head, because he will spend a lot of time trying to figure out where to get those pills."

SELF-ARREST

"Will the police and KGB still exist during Communism?"

"No, police and KGB will not be necessary during Communism, because by that time all citizens will know how to self-arrest."

HISTORY OF THE COMMUNIST MOVEMENT

Question: "How were and how are the Soviet people moving towards Communism?"

Reply: "Under Lenin - like on foot through a tunnel: everything around was dark, but it seemed like there was a light ahead.

"Under Stalin - like in a bus: one person was in charge, everyone else sat and shook.

"Under Khrushchev - like in an airplane: everyone was nauseated, but there was no way to get out.

"And now - like in space: we don't know why, don't know where, and there's nothing solid around."
COMMUNISM IN THE U.S.?

"Is it possible to build Communism in the U.S.?
"Maybe, but why? And who the hell needs it?"

COMMUNISM IN THE NETHERLANDS?

"Is it possible to build Communism in the Netherlands?"
"It is possible, but what for? Have the Dutch harmed you in any way?"

COMMUNISM IN MONACO?

"Is it possible to build Communism in Monaco?"
"Yes, but who would wish such a large disaster on such a small country?"

COMMUNISM IN PARIS?

"Can Paris be turned into a Communist city?"
"Yes, it can, but it would be a pity!"

COMMUNISM IN THE SAHARA?

"Is it possible to establish Communism in the Sahara desert?"
"Yes, it is possible."
"What would happen then?"
"Nothing would happen for the first ten years, but after that there would be a shortage of sand."
ON THE AGENDA....

....of the Collective Farm meeting were two questions:

1. The building of the barn, and
2. the building of Communism.

Due to the shortage of timber, the discussion turned to the second question.

WHAT IS COMMUNISM?

"A punishment for the Socialist Revolution."

A HIGH TEMPO!

Kalinin, a member of the Soviet government in the 1930's, was speaking to delegation of peasants from a collective farm. At the end of the meeting, one of them came up to Kalinin and said, "I understood everything, except for the meaning of the word tempo."

Kalinin led the peasant to the window, pointed at a passing streetcar, and said, "See that streetcar? The next one will be passing in about fifteen minutes. Now, during Communism, there will be a streetcar every minute. That would be a high tempo!"

The peasant returned to his poor village where no one had ever seen a streetcar. When telling the other peasants about his visit to the Kremlin, he again stumbled upon the word tempo. He looked out the window and saw a funeral procession going down the street.

He explained to the peasants, "See this funeral? The next time they carry a body may be in a month, or even a year. Now, during Communism, they will carry a dead body every minute. That would be a high tempo!"
THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN TROUBLE AND CATASTROPHE?

If a truck splashes mud on your new pair of pants, that would be trouble, but not at all a catastrophe.

However, if an airplane carrying all of the Soviet government would crash, that would be a catastrophe, but no trouble at all.

FLEXIBLE INTELLECTUALS

An intellectual got caught under a steamroller and was flattened. The driver of the steamroller grabbed the intellectual, rolled him up and brought him home to his wife. She decided to use him as a door mat.

Soon, the intellectual got dirty. The wife put him through the laundry and hung him out to dry. The intellectual caught cold and died.

A FREE EXIT FROM THE COUNTRY....

...was suddenly announced in the U.S.S.R.

All of the border railroad stations immediately became overloaded. A train carrying the Academy of Sciences members was on a dead end track. The academicians protested to the stationmaster.

"Hold on," he said. "First, I will send off a train with the Central Committee, then a train with the KGB, and then it will be your turn."

"Are you telling us they are leaving, too?" asked the astounded scientists.

"Of course, all of them!"

"Dear man, please, send them all off immediately, as far away as possible, and return us to Moscow!" said the academicians.
SOPHIA LOREN IN THE KREMLIN

Brezhnev is receiving Sophia Loren in the Kremlin.

"Sophia, I am so enchanted! I will grant you any wish!"

"Mr. Brezhnev, would you please release anyone who wants to leave the country?"

"Sophi, dear, you really want just the two of us to be left all alone!"

COMMUNIST INTELLECTUALS

Stalin thought, "What is the matter with the Soviet people? No matter what I do, they still don't protest!" So, he gave an order to flog everyone in the country.

The next morning, Stalin saw a huge demonstration. People were carrying banners reading, "Through flogging - to Socialism!"

Suddenly, a delegation of members of the Academy of Science separated from the masses and approached Stalin. They wanted to be flogged ahead of everyone else so that scientific work would not be slowed down.

SOVIET WORKERS

When Nixon was visiting the Soviet Union, he asked Brezhnev why no one is ever on strike in the U.S.S.R. Brezhnev replied that all of the Soviet people completely support decisions of the Party and the government.

"That couldn't possibly be!" said Nixon.
"See for yourself," replied Brezhnev. The next day, Brezhnev called an all-workers meeting with Nixon present and announced that starting the next day all salaries would be cut by fifty percent. The audience applauded.

"And," Brezhnev said, "starting tomorrow, every twentieth person will be mobilized for the new construction project in Siberia!" The audience applauded.

Brezhnev continued, "Also tomorrow, every tenth person will be hanged!"

There was silence, and then someone quietly asked, "Should we bring our own ropes, or will the trade union provide them?"

AN AMERICAN AND A SOVIET WERE ARGUING

"We have total freedom of speech," said the American. "I can walk out in front of the White House and yell: 'Down with Reagan!'"

"So what!" replied the Soviet. "I, also, can walk out on Red Square and yell: 'Down with Reagan!'"

FREEDOM AFTER

An instructor is reading a lecture during the political indoctrination session for the Soviet citizens.

"The Soviet Constitution guarantees freedom of expression."

A listener asks: "How about freedom after the expression?"
"IS MAIL CENSORED IN THE U.S.S.R.?

"No, but anti-Soviet mail is not delivered to the addressees."

DIFFERENCES

"What is the difference between the regular democracies and the Socialist democracies?"

"About the same as the difference between regular chairs and electric chairs."

LIFE

A census was being taken in the Soviet Union. An official asked an old man, "How old are you?"

"Twenty one."

"Come on, let's get serious here. you are an old man!"

"That's true, but the last sixty years haven't been a life!"

GREEN INK

An Armenian was repatriating from Italy back to Soviet Union. He made an agreement with his brother, who was staying in Rome, that if life in the U.S.S.R. was better than in the West, he would write his first letter in black ink. But if the life was worse, he would write it in green ink.

The first letter that the brother in Italy received was written in black ink. It said, "Everything is excellent. I got an apartment, a job, everything is in abundance. If there are any shortages, it is only of the small things. For instance, for the life of me, I could not get hold of any green ink."
RED FLAGS

An Armenian, who repatriated back to the Soviet Union, fell through an open manhole. He climbed out and started complaining, "In Europe, they always place little red flags near the open holes!"

"So what is the matter with you, didn't you see a large red flag on the Soviet ship you boarded in Italy?"

SOVIET KINDERGARTEN

A teacher in a Soviet kindergarten told the children, "In the Soviet Union, everyone dresses well and eats well. In the Soviet Union, everybody has lovely and comfortable apartments. All Soviet children have a lot of nice toys..."

One child started crying, "I want... I want... to go to the Soviet Union!"

PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE

A group of foreign tourists were standing in the Soviet zoo next to a cage where a wolf and a lamb were peacefully sleeping side by side.

A tour guide said, "You see, peaceful co-existence is possible even in conditions like this. All you have to do is not spare any effort..."

An old zoo employee murmured, "I don't spare my efforts. I bring in a new lamb every morning!"
SEEING AND HEARING

A worker in a Soviet hospital asked for an appointment with both an ophthalmologist and an ear doctor.

"Why? Do you have both seeing and hearing trouble?"

"No, but I don't see what I hear in the news, and I don't hear in the news what I see."

LIVING WELL

A sociological questionnaire is given to Soviet workers.

"How is your life? What do you read?"

One accountant answered: "I live well. I read Soviet newspapers and magazines. Otherwise, how could I know that I live well?"

HOW DO YOU...

...fill a refrigerator with scarce goods?

Unplug it from the electrical outlet and plug it into the Soviet radio.

ON THE RADIO

The Voice of America asks Soviet Radio: "Is it true that your stores are empty?"

Three days later Soviet Radio replies: "And you lynch blacks!"
TRUTH AND NEWS

What is the difference between "Pravda" (truth) and "Ilsvestia" (news)?

"Pravda" does not have "isvestia" and "Ilsvestia" does not have "pravda."

A POLICE REPORT:

"A dead body was found two hundred meters from the street. Aside from receipts for a subscription to 'Pravda', 'Propagandist's Notebook' and five Soviet lottery tickets, no other traces of violence were found on the body."

HOW DO WE FIND OUT ABOUT THE NEWS IN THE WORLD?

From the denouncements by TASS.

SLOGAN AT THE MINE:

"Communists' place - under the ground."

THE LOST CHILD

A Soviet policeman tries to calm a lost child: "Don't cry, we will announce your name on the radio, and Mom and Dad will come to pick you up."

"Please." the child cried, "announce it on BBC, because Mom and Dad don't listen to any other radio stations."
FUTURE HISTORY

"What will our future be like in two to three years?"

"I haven't the faintest idea. We don't even know what our past will be like in two to three years."

A POLITICAL PROPAGANDIST...

...was speaking in a mental institution about the merits of Soviet life. As he finished, everyone applauded, except for a man standing in the corner.

"What is the matter with you?" asked the lecturer.

"I'm not crazy. I'm just the janitor!"

DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A DEMOCRACY AND A DICTATORSHIP?

A democracy is when people openly show their dissatisfaction with their government.

A dictatorship is when people openly show their dissatisfaction with someone else's government.
PHILOSOPHY

Armenian Radio is asked: "What is philosophy?"
Armenian Radio replies:
"Philosophy is like a hunt for a black cat in a dark room.
"Marxist philosophy is like a hunt for a black cat in a dark room when the cat is not in there.
"In the Marxist-Leninist philosophy the cat is absent, but from time to time one of the participants screams in the dark that he has found the cat."

"DO YOU SUBSCRIBE TO PRAVDA?"

"What do you think I use in the bathroom, a radio?"

RUSSIAN IDEA OF UTOPIA

A man is sitting in a restaurant. He calls a waiter. "Bring me the latest edition of Pravda!"

The waiter replies, "I am sorry sir, but that newspaper has ceased to exist."

A minute later, the same man says, "Waiter, bring me an issue of Pravda!"

"I'm sorry sir, but like I said before, Pravda does not come out anymore!"

After several minutes, the man again requested, "Waiter, bring me a Pravda!"

"Look, how many times do I have to repeat myself - Pravda does not come out anymore!"

"Please, friend, keep saying it, keep saying it!"
SOVIET ESKIMOS

A correspondent is interviewing an old Eskimo in the U.S.S.R.: "Tell me, in a few words, how did you live before the October Socialist Revolution?"

"Hungry and cold."

"And how do you live now?"

"Hungry, cold, but with a feeling of deep gratitude."

SOVIET POWER

Alexander the Great, Caesar and Napoleon were watching a Soviet military parade on Red Square.

Alexander the Great said, "If I had had Soviet tanks, I would have conquered the whole world!"

Caesar said, "If I had had Soviet troops, I would have conquered the whole world!"

Napoleon said, "If I had had the newspaper Pravda, the world still would not have known about Waterloo!"

THE RACE

Reagan suggested to Chernenko that, instead of keeping both nations in their expensive competition, they have it all out in a running competition.

Chernenko agreed, and they both ran. Reagan won.

The next morning, Soviet newspapers reported, "Yesterday, in the short-distance run, Comrade Chernenko took second place. Reagan ran next to last."
THREE SPARROWS....

...were sitting on a roof in Zurich.

One of them asked, "Where are you guys from?"

The second one answered, "I am from the U.S.A. There's smog, a bad smell from gasoline; I can't even breathe...so, I came here to rest for awhile."

The third one said, "I am from China. There isn't any rice, the sparrows are being hunted...so, I decided to ask for political asylum."

The first bird said, "Well, guys, in the U.S.S.R., where I came from, there is plenty of grain on the roads, and the air is still clean, and the sparrows are not hunted...."

"So what did you come here for?" they asked.

"I wanted to chirp!"

DOG TALK

Once, four dogs, a Mexican, an American, a Polish and a Russian, got together for a chat.

The Mexican dog started complaining, "Before this economic recession, a servant used to bring me meat at strictly set hours. Now, I have to bark until meat is brought to me!"

The American dog was surprised, "You still have servants in Mexico?"

"What is meat?" asked the Polish dog.

"They allow you to bark?!" said the astounded Soviet dog.
NATIONAL PERSISTANCE

An American, a Frenchman and a Russian are talking.

The American says, "One out of every five of us gets in an auto accident, and we're still not afraid to drive!"

The Frenchman says, "One out of every four French prostitutes has a venereal disease, and we still go to them!"

The Russian says, "One out of every three Soviet citizens is working as an informer, and we still tell political jokes!"
President Ronald Reagan
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

On numerous occasions I have heard you share jokes smuggled out of the Soviet Union.

Last July, I led a delegation to Israel sponsored by my International Policy Forum. Among our group were Bill Rusher, Paul Weyrich, Jim Lucier, Howard Phillips and Phil Truluck.

In one of our discussions with a wide spectrum of Israeli leaders, I learned that some scholars at Hebrew University have made a large collection of jokes gleaned from emigres from the U.S.S.R. These scholars were kind enough to send me their collection.

The jokes poignantly demonstrate the moral bankruptcy of the Soviet system. While sharp and pointed, they are not often side-splitters. Their humor shows a keen awareness of the oppression they suffer. And, just as important, they show a determined spirit of resistance.

I am told that some of the stories have been around for many years and are adapted over and over again, inserting the names of the current Soviet and Western leaders.

Enclosed for you is a selection of the best of these anecdotes. I hope you enjoy them.

Cordially,

Morton C. Blackwell
President
Dear Morton:

Thanks for writing and for the collection of jokes. I think we agree that this humor reveals a myriad of truths. I appreciate your thoughtfulness in sending it along.

Thanks again and best wishes.

Sincerely,

Ronald Reagan

Mr. Morton Blackwell
President
The Leadership Institute
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