

11-9732/a

6 December 1959

Dear Freddie:

Many thanks for your letter of November 16. I enclose a mimeographed copy of my remarks before the Congressional Economic Subcommittee to which you referred. I felt flattered that you had taken the time to read the press accounts of my appearance. When you have had a chance to read the full text, I would be very glad to get any comments you may have.

I am afraid I do not fully agree with you about "lunacy hoaxes" nor the reference to the probability that the best we can do is "still guesswork." We have much more hard evidence than most people realize and it is not safe to reject all of the Soviet statistics. I grant that many of their predictions as to the future are padded, particularly in the field of agriculture. Some of their statistics in the industrial field as to past performance check fairly closely with what we have from independent sources.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Mr. Ferdinand Lathrop Mayer

[Redacted box]

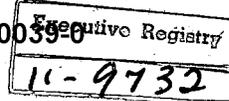
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FERDINAND LATHROP MAYER

November
16
1959

Personal

Dear Allen -

Your statement before the Senate-House Economic Sub-Committee as reported in the press was most interesting. Do you happen to have an extra mimeographed copy of your remarks which I would very much appreciate seeing in toto if conveniently available? Of course, the press interpreted your factual statements according to whether they were radicals, conservatives or somewhere in between.

This difference of interpretation is bound to be the case although I do hate to see a man like Representative Bolling on "Meet the Press" yesterday seemingly totally to misunderstand or be confused by this recent effort to educate the people with respect to the development of the Soviet economy.

In the first place I would like to know where Mr. Bolling got his figures about an increase in Soviet production. It can at best be what you might call a calculated guess. The Soviets are such congenital liars as witness these lunacy hoaxes which have been perpetrated on us recently that you just can't take any of their statistics, and I suppose that the best your Agency can do is still guesswork.

The fundamental danger as I see it in these various interpretations or misinterpretations of Soviet production, etc. is the failure to understand that as projected into distribution around the world, this matter has nothing to do with trade competition in the accepted sense of the term. There is no "market place" involved. Trade with the Soviets is simply another conflict factor to be used in an effort to destroy or enslave us and the Free World.

Perhaps there is some miraculous manner in which we can be both statist and free enterprise at the same time but I doubt very much if this is possible. I would rather stay free enterprise and let the emergent peoples learn the hard way while trying to show them the best we can, principally by example, how

FERDINAND LATHROP MAYER

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free enterprise would work to their better advantage, at the same time enlarging as much and as fast as practicable the free trading area of the Free World. Britain and France seem to be taking important steps in this direction with respect to quotas and the like.

Well, I didn't mean to embark on such a lengthy wheeze. Do let me have a copy of your appearance before the Senate-House Economic Sub-Committee if convenient as I thought from what I saw in the press that you were as sound as old wheat as was to be expected.

Best to you and Clover from us both.

ym
Ferd

The Honorable
Allen W. Dulles
Main Post Office Box 1513
Washington 13, D.C.