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TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST
By
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Well, ladies and gentlemen, we've seen some real excitement here in Washington this afternoon. Even for the secret confines of closed-door conferences here in this Washington D. C., this was excitement, and it centered around the 74-year-old Cleveland industrialist, banker, and multimillionaire, Cyrus Eaton, who is obsessed with the idea that the Soviet Union is being much maligned by us, that we are being subjected to a government of which he says, "Hitler in his prime, through the Gestapo never had any such spy organizations as we have in this country today." This is Mr. Cyrus Eaton's appraisal of the United States. This may be news to you about the Gestapo organization, but that's a direct and exact quote in context from a nationwide television program which Mr. Eaton did under the sponsorship of our old friend the Fund for the Republic, and Mr. Robert Maynard Hutchins, the president of that organization.

Mr. Eaton got a very bad press on that occasion although this was not the first time he elected to expert on the subject of the American way of life and American government policy toward Soviet Russia. For the last two years Mr. Eaton has won the soubriquet of the Patroon of Pugwash by virtue of the fact that he has financed and held a conference of scientists from various parts of the world including Soviet Russia and Red China at Pugwash, Nova Scotia. On each occasion, these scientists have come forth with a series of pronouncements which are very closely in line with the existing propaganda line of the Soviet Union insofar as international affairs are concerned, notably, in regard to peaceful coexistence with the Soviet Union and the proposed ban on further testing of atomic weapons and so forth. Mr. Eaton has singled out the Federal Bureau of Investigation for special attack and the House Un-American Activities Committee, and Mr. John Foster Dulles, and the security system of the government in general. He has had Russian Ambassador Menshikov as a luncheon guest in Cleveland, on which occasion he introduced Menshikov with great flourishes to some of his industrialist friends in the Cleveland area.

As of last week he announced that he is going to Soviet Russia within the next few months to help promote the cause of peace between Russia and the United States, and he has written to the presidents of the 100 largest corporations in the United States, he says, asking their cooperation in "forcing" the United States to be more friendly with Russia. The one thing that seems to disturb Mr. Cyrus Eaton the most in all of this, however, is the suggestion by the House Un-American Activities Committee in the course of these various developments, that Mr. Eaton be called to testify before the committee, which apparently he does not want to do. He has been in communication with some of the Washington attorneys for the C & O Railroad, of which he is chairman of the board, inquiring about the likelihood of being called before the committee and has been trying to get some distinguished Washington attorney to go with him and sit at his side if and when he has to make such a committee appearance. Today, however, the whole thing blew sky high, when Mr. Cyrus Eaton himself blew into Washington and decided to beard the lion in the lion's den.

Among the various industrial interests of Mr. Cyrus Eaton is the very fine, the very distinguished old newspaper, the Cincinnati Inquirer, in the financing of which some seven years ago when the employees decided to take the paper over rather than to permit it to close down, Mr. Eaton for a reputed fee of \$250,000 put up the necessary \$6,500,000 to make the purchase. In the name of his grandchildren, he still has a very considerable holding in the newspaper and when he arrived today he had with him the publisher of the newspaper, Mr. Roger Furger. Also Mr. Brady Black, likewise of the newspaper staff in Cincinnati. Already in Washington was the distinguished Washington columnist for the Inquirer and my personal long-time friend, Mr. Forest Davis, who wanted no part of any of this. I'm sure that Mr. Black and publisher Furger wanted no part of it either, except that Mr. Cyrus Eaton is Mr. Cyrus Eaton, if you please, and he had plans for the day.

One of the members of the House of Representatives from Cincinnati is Representative Gordon Shearer, who happens to be a member of the House Un-American Activities Committee, which presumably is the reason Mr. Cyrus Eaton was operating through Cincinnati, Ohio. His home, of course, is in Cleveland and the members of congress from his Cleveland district would have been the contacts which he normally would make. But they unhappily were not members of the House Un-American Activities Committee, and there was his convenient contact with the

Cincinnati Inquirer. So after some preliminary discussions with the Washington counsel for the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad, Mr. Eaton contacted Representative Shearer and said that he and the three Cincinnati newspapermen wanted to meet with Representative Shearer. The chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, Representative Francis Walter of Pennsylvania, tells me that Representative Shearer, understandably enough, did not want to see Mr. Eaton alone, and therefore it was arranged that the meeting would include not only Representative Shearer but also Chairman Walter and the committee counsel and director Richard Aarons as well. As for what transpired at the meeting, I will be back in just half a minute.

Now for what transpired at this meeting this afternoon, I shall have to give you a composite account from several of those present, witnesses, all of this material, however, being corroborated by several witnesses back and forth and co-corroborated. It seems that the newspaper publisher, Mr. Furger, my informants say with some apparent embarrassment, began reading some letters addressed to Mr. Cyrus Eaton which Mr. Eaton had brought along with him. There was a letter from the President of the United States, Mr. Eisenhower, there was one from the Under Secretary of State Christian Herter, there was one from Representative Joe Martin of Massachusetts, the Republican leader of the House, and one, if you please, from Mr. Nikita Khrushchev.

These were presented in the nature of character testimonials, but as they were read the President's letter, for example, turned out to be nothing but a comment of agreement that Mr. Cyrus Eaton is entitled to freedom of speech under the Constitution--in fact that was mentioned--and that the Eisenhower administration does favor peace. Insofar as Mr. Eaton's views or activities were concerned it was entirely noncommittal. The letters from Representative Martin and Under Secretary of State Herter were similar, but the one from Nikita Khrushchev was very high in its praises of Mr. Eaton and Mr. Eaton's efforts for better understanding between the United States and the Soviet Union. Mr. Furger added a personal word of tribute to Mr. Eaton, and when someone asked the purpose of the meeting, Mr. Eaton said that he thought they all ought to get together and discuss this thing, this thing, apparently, being his prospective appearance as a witness.

Chairman Walter said he wanted everyone to understand very clearly that no one was challenging the right of Mr. Eaton to free speech--Mr. Eaton can say anything he wants to say--but that many people have been worried because of the fact that Mr. Eaton is a well-known name and that when he says something

it carries a certain importance because of that fact, and that therefore the various statements that Mr. Eaton has made and the activities he has engaged in with the Soviets are being used for tremendous propaganda benefit over the world by the Communists. Mr. Eaton then said that he didn't mean to say in the TV interview that the FBI is a Gestapo but that the investigative and snooping agency of government in toto were what he had in mind.

He mentioned the Department of Agriculture and the people who go around snooping to see how much land has been planted to this crop or that one. It might be helpful to remind at this point that the only crop inspection that's done by the Department of Agriculture is when the individual farmer, and Mr. Eaton classifies himself as one, is claiming benefit payments from the Federal Government and the department wants to know that the payee is complying with his promises. He then said the Interstate Commerce Commission has snoopers who go around inspecting railroad cars and rolling stock and road beds and track, and the railroads, presumably the C & O, do not like this. He objects to the inspection processes of the Pure Food and Drug Administration, these are snoopers too. And likewise with the Securities and Exchange Commission, he says that the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission are stifling business development and are responsible for the recession because people with money won't invest it in business nowadays, they "go and play bingo instead," and that is a direct quote.

At this point, Mr. Eaton embarked upon a personal attack on counsel Richard Aarons, and the bell rang indicating a vote on the House floor. Chairman Walter said Mr. Aarons is a highly responsible, honorable, and straightforward man who doesn't talk for the sake of talking and added pointedly that this was more than he could say for some people. Mr. Aarons then inquired as to how long Mr. Cyrus Eaton had been communicating with Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Bulganin, which seemed to touch some magic button because Mr. Eaton leaped physically to his feet shrieking and said that these were the kind of tactics that are always used, asking questions of that kind. He said that they're prejudicial to peace, whereupon Mr. Aarons asked whether he thinks it's possible to keep peace with a man like Khrushchev who is responsible for the murder of tens of millions of his countrymen and others over the world. This again brought a shrieking eruption from Mr. Eaton who wanted to know how anybody can say that these people are responsible for such a thing. He also wanted to know how anybody knows what conditions in Russia and the satellite nations are and whether they are what they're represented to be.

At this point Mr. Cyrus Eaton was eased out of the room by Representative Shearer, leaving the three somewhat bewildered newsmen, and I am informed that all of them seemed very much embarrassed and unhappy. Where Mr. Cyrus Eaton is as of the moment I have no idea. Chairman Walters says that he doubts that he will call the great industrialist to the witness stand in the light of the advanced sample of testimony that he provided this afternoon. In any event, as of last information, Mr. Cyrus Eaton is still going to Russia in the very near future, bent on tightening the bonds of friendship, understanding, and camaraderie between the leaders of that fair and flourishing democracy and this old Gestapo-ridden, slave-world dump of a United States of America which we have to live in. Perhaps you would like to send him a bon voyage message to shipboard when he departs to help him forget the snoopers and the FBI agents who frightened his poor scientist friends and sterilized their intellect.