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RFE 'Big Wigs' Unaware of Actual Pinko Operations

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12. — I am amazed, at times, at the arrogance of little men in high places.

For example, there is the Crusade For Freedom and its paid director, John M. Patterson, who is circulating publicity handouts to try to answer the exposures I have made about Radio Free Europe, for which Mr. Patterson raises funds.

Using the good name of Westinghouse's president Gwilym A. Price, who is chairman of the board of the Crusade, Mr. Patterson says:

"The Russians spend over a hundred million dollars a year trying to jam RFE broadcasts. They would hardly to do if the organization were run by 'pinkos,' as Lewis charges."

POINT ONE: there is no conceivable way to establish that the Russians do spend "over one hundred million dollars a year" to jam Free Europe broadcasts and any such claim is preposterous.

POINT TWO: Even if it were so, it would not prove the integrity of RFE broadcasts. The charges have been that Free Europe's propaganda has been slanted, on specific orders from the top under a directive of March 1956 (a copy of which I have in my possession) to the line that Nationalistic Communism, as opposed to Kremlinism, is the only way to freedom.

The instructions are to build up Tito as a great hero, on the theory that Communist regimes in other countries, now under the heel of Moscow, will slip away to their own independent Communism, like Tito's.

Obviously, Moscow is no happier over this sort of incitation than it is over straightaway propaganda in favor of democracy and capitalism. It would jam such broadcasting as eagerly as it would the true freedom line, if it is jamming at all.

The letter then complains

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By FULTON LEWIS, JR.

about my statement that the big-name sponsors who lend dignity to the Crusade and help coax "truth dollars" from an unsuspecting public "pay little attention to the actual operation." It says:

"Nothing could be further from the truth. The Free Europe Committee was set up in 1949 by a group of public-spirited citizens including Dwight D. Eisenhower, Allen Dulles, Ambassador Joseph C. Grew, John Hughes, Arthur Page and others of similar caliber. All of these have maintained the closest interest in the operations."

IT IS TRUE THAT these men participated in the original founding of the Free Europe Committee and it is also true that some other shadowy figures, whose identity it was thought best to keep in the dark, also were in on it. I shall

bring them to light, later.

But the sponsors of 1949 prove nothing whatsoever about the operation of the project since then. Mr. Eisenhower and Mr. Dulles no longer appear as having any connection with it. Mr. Grew is nearly 80 and hardly in a position to undertake first-hand inspection of an operation in Lisbon, Portugal and Munich, Germany.

BESIDES, ODDLY enough, Mr. Gwilym Price doesn't have anything to do with Radio Free Europe. He is chairman of the Board of the Crusade for Freedom, which merely collects the money. Neither does Mr. Patterson. He is strictly "Crusade" too.

And yet Mr. Price, of the Crusade, is quoted as saying about Free Europe (with which he has no connection):

"I can assure you that it is well managed by responsible and patriotic Americans."

Mr. Patterson is badly confused.

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JOHN M. PATTERSON, left, director of the Crusade For Freedom, and Gwilym A. Price, right, chairman, sponsor laudatory RFE literature, obviously ignorant of or unaware of its pinko operations.

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RFE Handout Misstates, Distorts Facts

CAPITAL REPORT

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WASHINGTON, Dec. 11—Crusade for Freedom, the fund-raising organization that collects so-called "truth dollars" to support the Radio Free Europe propaganda operations out of Munich, has circulated a mimeographed handout from its board chairman, Gwilym A. Price, to a friend who read one of my previous columns on the subject and wrote in, asking about it.

Mr. Price is a distinguished and high-minded American. He is the head of Westinghouse and a man of high patriotism.

It disturbs me, therefore, that he, like the President, is unaware of what is going on at the grass

roots level of the Free Europe operation.

The paid executive vice-president of the Crusade is one John M. Patterson, who runs the show. He admitted to me that it was he who got out this material "to tell our side of the story."

IN THE TELLING, however, he has put into Mr. Price's pen, over Mr. Price's signature, a classic collection of misstatements.

For example, one paragraph of the letter deals with Ferdinand Peroutka, whom I listed as former publisher of a Marxist publication, "Pritomnost" and a long-time collaborator with the Stalinists.

The letter says: "His paper was anti-Communist to such a degree that Peroutka was number one on the list of those the

Russians wanted to purge when they occupied Czechoslovakia, but Peroutka fled before he could be arrested."

The record shows that the Russians occupied Czechoslovakia in April, 1945, and Ferdinand Peroutka did not flee the country until February of 1948.

AS TO WHETHER or not Peroutka was anti-Communist, the following is from a book he wrote in 1947, while in Prague:

"At no time in history has Russia been so powerful and the forces of socialism have never been grouped in such a mighty array. This is a new epoch of history. In spite of all that, some people think in a rather conservative way; some have not even grasped the necessity of the fall of capitalism."

"Should a conflict arise be-

tween the East and the West and should the Soviet Union lose this conflict, such a defeat would be of the gravest consequences for us, the allies of the Soviet Union. The Germans would return and we would be, in all probability, completely annihilated. That is why our allegiance for life and death with the Soviet Union should be regarded as the most basic and the most evident principle of our foreign policy."

Says Mr. John Patterson's handout, dignified by the signature of Gwilym Price:

"Ferdinand Peroutka, a Catholic and political independent, was never a Communist or a pro-Communist."

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