

F Lewis

# RFE Is Missing Its Objective

WASHINGTON, Dec. 1.—The public, which puts up the money, is given to believe that Radio Free Europe and its affiliated operations perform the mission of disseminating propaganda of hope and freedom behind the Iron Curtain.

This is a worthy objective, as objectives go, but performance are not always as advertised.

Young Mr. Samuel S. Walker, Jr., is in charge of that branch of the Free Europe operations which sent propaganda balloons to Czechoslovakia, Hungary and other satellite countries until the operation was terminated on orders from Washington.

He now has set up several new ventures without balloons. Among them is what he calls the "Asian Contacts Program."

This is being carried on in various Far Eastern and Middle Eastern nations and from Mr. Walker's explanation to me, it

## CAPITAL REPORT

By FULTON LEWIS, Jr.

consists chiefly of displaying a moving picture film, called "Hungary Aflame." The picture is a "documentary" of the tragedies of Budapest in the blood baths of October, 1956.

The operating personnel is interesting. One Paul Tigris, a Czechoslovakian who somehow has not taken the trouble to become naturalized, was dispatched to Japan and Hong Kong, and exhibited "Hungary Aflame" at a leading men's club in Tokyo, which the Free Europe topside considers a major coup.

As of the last time I checked, he still is on the road, with salary and expense account.

Two others, Reyman and Gabor, were to have gone to India but were unable to get visas to enter the country. They were sent elsewhere, instead. Reyman had just become an American citizen, Gabor is not.

A third, Nenoff, also not a citizen, is a former member of the secret police in Bulgaria. Kovacs, a Hungarian, also went to Japan. There is one American, William Pfaff, the subject of considerable controversy.

LAST MAY, in a gesture to cut down staff because the bal-

loon operation had been abandoned, the 31-year-old Walker fired 30 low-salaried refugee employees, and hired Pfaff at \$9,600 a year as an "editorial consultant." To this salary, of course, is added his full travel expenses, while he is touring the Eastern world.

In addition to the countries named, the Asian Contacts Program covers Burma, Thailand, Malaya, Pakistan, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, Egypt and Jordan.

How all this fits into a pattern of hope and freedom propaganda to enslaved millions behind the Iron Curtain in Europe is difficult for me to understand. This, actually, is propagandizing the people of the Free World outside the Iron Curtain, and I question the benefits to be derived.

It seems to be a considerable departure from the big-name-studded "Crusade For Freedom," which collects the "Truth Dollars" which go to support the Free Europe operations.

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