

CPYRGHT

The Hazard Story

Re your editorial "Hazardous Company" [July 30]:

In *National Geographic* magazine of December 1944, there is an article by Owen Lattimore entitled "New Road to Asia," which deals with the famous Wallace mission to Chungking. Mr. Lattimore wrote:

"The journey was precedent-breaking and precedent-making in many ways. Never before had an American of such high rank visited Soviet territory. . . . Of the civilian personnel, John N. Hazard, who did the most important interpreting in Russian, was especially well equipped because of his experience in the Soviet Lend-Lease section of the Foreign Economic Administration. I represented the Office of War Information and did the interpreting in Mongol and part of the interpreting in Chinese. John Carter Vincent, Chief of the Division of Chinese Affairs of the Department of State, was the Vice President's [Wallace] political and diplomatic aide."

Baltimore, Md.

MRS. FRANCIS HAMILL

I was pained by NATIONAL REVIEW'S recent list of insinuations against Professor John Hazard of Columbia University in its discussion of the Powers trial in Moscow. While I agree that there are many enigmas connected with this case I can hardly concur that Professor Hazard's presence in Warsaw is one of them: Eastern Europe is a rather suitable place for a specialist on Eastern Europe to visit during the summers.

Although I am not qualified to pass judgment on the question of Professor Hazard's early scholarly endeavors, it might at least be pointed out that a writer on Soviet law by the nature of things has to lean heavily on Soviet handouts, just as a writer on U.S. law would have to start from material propagated in Washington. The evidence of defectors has its value, but conservatives (of whom I account myself one) have an unfortunate tendency to accept their every word as gospel.

Furthermore, could the busy editor of NATIONAL REVIEW have spared the

ard's *The Soviet System of Government* (1957), he might have found it a strain even on his imagination to picture the author as a Soviet sympathizer, as the book's chief aim is the description of how outwardly democratic Soviet institutions are manipulated to serve the interests of the leadership.

New York City

CHARLES A. MOSER

NATIONAL REVIEW'S busy editor has discovered that, on seeing our editorial on Mr. Hazard, one of our readers appeared before a congressional committee and there testified that he had known John Hazard as a member of the Communist Party in the late thirties. Mr. Hazard may well have defected since then, in which case we and others—including, presumably, the FBI—would welcome an account of his background and associations during the period when he was instructing us on Soviet law, presumably under the discipline of the Soviet Union.

— ED

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