

## Regretted Conquest

Laurence Duggan was mentioned in connection with alleged pro-Soviet activities before the House Committee and then before a federal grand jury. The tragedy of his death in a plunge from the sixteenth-story window of his office in midtown Manhattan on December 20, 1948, drew a black cloak over his career. It was lifted by Hiss, through his defense counsel, when he introduced the State Department memorandum.

Of the conquests I made while a Soviet agent, the one I regret most is Larry Duggan.

Noel and Herta Field mentioned fairly often their best friends in Washington; the Duggans, Larry and Helen. They used to live in the same house, on the floor below the Fields and were their most intimate friends. I must meet them; I would love them, Herta said.

Larry was, when I first heard of him, in the Latin American Division of the State Department; it must have been 1935. I don't remember whether I met the Duggans first at their own home along with the Fields, or whether the Duggans came to the Fields' apartment. However, I do remember that I spent a week end at their house shortly after I met them. It was on the outskirts of Washington. I remember it vaguely as a nice, well-kept home, situated on a bluff over a road which traced along the edge of a good-sized brook.

Larry impressed me as being an extremely tense, high-strung, intellectual young man. His wife Helen, beautiful, well balanced, capable and sure of herself, seemed the perfect counterpart to him. An excellent housekeeper and busy woman, she was an attentive and loving companion to Larry.

Where I could clearly see the reasons, the motivations, for Noel's need for an activity outside of his work and personal life, it struck me as strange from the very start as far as Larry was concerned. Larry's life with Helen, their unquestioned compatibility, his obvious success at so young an age, seemed not to warrant such outside activities. He seemed so much more a part of the American scene. His background, his interests, were different from those of Noel. Noel was still partly European; though probably both of his parents were born in this country, he was of an English mother and Swiss father. But he had lived and had been educated abroad.

I reported about the Duggans in the regular routine way to Fred. I did not fancy him at all interested in someone who worked in the Latin American Department. But I was quickly straightened out on that point when Fred said, ironically, "The world does not begin and end with fascism, Hede! We are interested in the whole world—even in Latin America."

And so to my "Assignment Field" was added Duggan.

Larry was well informed about me through Noel and when I first spoke to him about "every decent liberal has a duty to participate in the fight against the menace, Hitler," I found, naturally, complete agreement. It was much easier to talk to Larry than it had been to Noel. It was less personal, less involved, more political in a way. By his terminology and the timbre of discussion I gathered that he either had been a Socialist, or had at least given time and thought to the Socialist idea.

I approached him much sooner and much more directly