

PLAIN TALK

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A Word to You

EDNA LONIGAN, who will be remembered for her brilliant *I Taught Economics* in the September PLAIN TALK, contributes the second article in our series of constructive solutions to pressing social problems. The first, published last month, was Homer Martin's *Profit Sharing*. Miss Lonigan, an economist of standing, has long been a student of the subject discussed in her *Salvaging Social Security*.

THE FIRST accredited correspondent to enter liberated Hungary at the end of the war and among the first to penetrate southeastern Europe, HAL LEHRMAN covered the Balkans for *The Nation* and *PM* . . . his original pro-Soviet sentiments were blasted by his on-the-spot observations . . . after leaving Cornell where he had taught European history, he took up newspaper work in 1934 and served as reporter and foreign correspondent . . . during the war years he was with the OWI, heading the bureau in Turkey . . . his *The "New Man" in Dreamland* is an allegorical study of the fate of Henry Wallace's "common man" under the iron heel of the Red Army in the satellite countries * * * GLEB BOTKIN, author and illustrator of *Gabriel Was Here*, son of a prominent Russian family, a naturalized American citizen, will be remembered for "The Woman Who Rose Again" and his other books.

AGE HEINBERG, who contributes *Finland in the Red Shadow*, visited that country last summer . . . a well-known Danish author and editor, now a correspondent in the United States for numerous Scandinavian newspapers . . . when his country was occupied by the Nazis, he was active in the anti-Nazi resistance . . . among his many works are his "Present-Day Russia" (1924) and "The Two Roosevelts"—a biography of Theodore and Franklin Delano * * * HOWARD RUSHMORE, former *Daily Worker* film critic, broke with the Communist Party in 1939 and is now labor editor of the *New York Journal-American* . . . his *Arty Party Line* affords a peek at literary standards as practiced by our home-grown Stalinists * * * EUGENE TILLINGER, the author of *L'Affaire Picasso*, an enterprising Austrian journalist, recently returned to this country from western Europe where he served as correspondent for NANA.

JOHN CHAMBERLAIN, who writes on the *Pearl Harbor Mystery*, is one of America's foremost literary critics . . . for years, he was daily book columnist on *The New York Times* and until recently book editor of *Harper's Magazine* . . . in his capacity as an editor of *Life* (since 1945) he covered the hearings of the Senate investigation of the mystery of Pearl Harbor.

THE EDITORS

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STALIN'S SPY RING IN THE U.S.A.

THE COMING sensational case involving a great Soviet spy ring in the United States as a result of a grand jury investigation which has been going on in New York for several months, is merely a continuation of the famous Canadian inquiry into Communist espionage. When Prime Minister Mackenzie King visited President Truman in October, 1945, to acquaint him with the shocking revelations made by Igor Gouzenko, the Soviet Embassy code clerk, he was instrumental in starting the FBI machinery to ferret out evidence of the Soviet underground networks on the North American continent.

It became clear to President Truman, after Mackenzie King's visit, that the Canadian case, in which a score of Soviet officials and Communist Party stalwarts figured, was but a small section of a vast secret beehive operating from the Panama Canal to Alaska. Several compartments of this hive have been probed by the grand jury, sending shivers through the entire hierarchy of the American Communist Party, and portending something like a major political 'quake upon the publication of the facts uncovered. These will show that:

Several of the topmost officials of the Communist Party in this country were acting as agents of Stalin's secret service, engaged in recruiting spies and filching state documents;

The intricate espionage organization in which more than one hundred scien-

tific and clerical workers were engaged, since the beginning of 1943, in gathering secret information about our atomic development, leading to the transmission of uranium-235 to Russia, was under the direct supervision of avowed Communist Party leaders;

The secret plans and blueprints of our B-36 Superfortress, long before its launching and going into action, had mysteriously and unaccountably found their way to the Treasury Department and into the hands of a ranking official there, whose function was in the field of international finance, and that they later passed into the hands of Soviet agents;

Several of the highest officers of the old National Labor Relations Board were clandestine members of the Communist Party and formed a secret spy "centre" in Washington;

Certain high and trusted officials in the State Department, including one who had played a leading role at Yalta and in organizing the United Nations, delivered confidential papers to Communist agents who microfilmed them for dispatch to Moscow;

Certain leading lights in the councils of the CIO and the PCA were deeply involved in espionage and other illicit activities;

One of the ghostwriters for a prominent United States Southern senator of pronounced pro-Soviet sentiments was an underground operative of the network;

Various disguised quarters were used

by the ring in Washington, New York and elsewhere—such as a violin studio, a jewelry shop in a fashionable district, and a documentary film establishment—for the purposes of transacting espionage business, transmitting micro-filmed information, and receiving funds from couriers.

SHOULD THE national spotlight be focused in full upon Stalin's subterranean forces in the United States, the mystery of Earl Browder's removal as head of the American Communist Party might be cleared up in a startling manner.

It is no longer a secret that Browder has been haled before the New York Grand Jury for repeated questioning. It is a matter of public record that Browder, as Secretary General of our Communist Party, had at one time transmitted funds from the United States to Sam Carr, the Organizing Secretary of the Canadian Communist Party. Mr. Carr is the missing vital link in the Canadian spy ring, who disappeared without trace upon the disclosure, early in February, 1945, that he had spent at least \$3,000, supplied by Moscow, to secure a false Canadian passport for a Soviet undercover agent, Ignacy Witczak, residing in Los Angeles. The transaction was carried out by Carr upon instructions from Col.-Gen. Kouznetsov, Chief of the Red Army Intelligence. It is further a matter of record that Mrs. Earl Browder, a prominent Russian Communist, had entered the United States illegally via Canada, with identity papers of undetermined origin and under circumstances which she could not explain.

The sensational retirement of Browder as leader of the American Communist Party followed within a couple of months the exposure of the Canadian

spy ring with its far-reaching American ramifications. There were many theories, none satisfactory, offered at the time as to the reasons for Browder's strange dismissal.

Equally sensational and inexplicable was Browder's trip late that summer to Moscow, an extraordinary pilgrimage for a Communist chieftain in disgrace, where he conferred with Molotov. Now we have the testimony of the late General Walter Krivitsky, Chief of the Soviet Intelligence in Western Europe—who was found shot to death in a Washington hotel in February, 1940, under mysterious and still unsolved circumstances—that Molotov had for years been in supreme charge of all American underground and espionage operations.

It is an unwritten law among Russian revolutionary conspirators and in all underground organizations, that the discovery or collapse of one section of a network puts in jeopardy the entire series of secret rings. The Canadian disclosures created an upheaval within the Kremlin and led to immediate measures for the safeguarding of the Soviet fifth columns across the Atlantic, such as changes in command and temporary interruption of operations open to suspicion.

Among the questions Browder might have been asked when he appeared before the New York Grand Jury are:

Did you, by any chance, run into Sam Carr in Moscow? Did you ever have any traffic with Ignacy Witczak? Did you ever receive and transmit atomic secrets from West Coast comrades? Did you confer with Gen. Kouznetsov, Chief of Red Army Intelligence? And did you discuss with Mr. Molotov the Canadian espionage case and the status of the American Communist Party?

I.D.L.