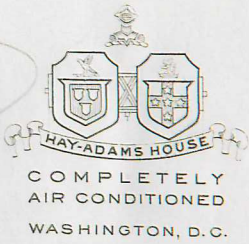


PPF 7979
SNOW, EDGAR

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file

Feb. 21, 1942

P. P. F.

7979

Dear Mr. Farley: ^{saw the Pres. after Press 2/24/42}

I have not had the pleasure of meeting you, but I feel I must now presume to ask for an appointment to discuss ^{morning} an interview with the President.

I am soon going abroad as war correspondent for the Saturday Evening Post, and it occurs to me that in this connection I might be of ~~of~~ some use to Mr. Roosevelt.

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If you wish me to be more specific in making this inquiry I would be grateful for an appointment to talk over the matter.

Sincerely yours
Edgar Snow

P.S. A message by phone would reach me at Emerson 1370.

A letter to me above address, or to Henry Collins Esq.,
3112 Rodman Road,

dr/dj

-2-

There are also two or three matters about the Far Eastern situation which I should like to discuss with the President if the time can be spared.

I have not asked for this opportunity before simply because I never felt I had anything to say of sufficient importance to occupy the President's time. Now perhaps, in view of my long residence & study in the Far East, I would be of some help.

P. P. E.

7979

February 28, 1942.

Dear Mrs. Snow:

I am indeed delighted to have the copies of your books and also the article. I have learned a great deal from them, especially about Korea. Ever so many thanks for sending them to me. x1143

xpp79-76

With every best wish, and I do hope I shall have the pleasure of seeing you one of these days,

Very sincerely yours,

(Sgd) FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT

Mrs. Edgar Snow, #
3112 Rodman Street, N. W.,
Washington, D. C.

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MRS. EDGAR SNOW
MUNGERTOWN ROAD R.F.D. No. 1
MADISON, CONNECTICUT

3112 Rodman Street, N.W.,
Washington, D.C.
February 24, 1942.

Dear Mr. President:

My husband has suggested that I send you some material on Korea which I happen to have.

I have an article coming out in Pacific Affairs, March quarterly, of which I enclose a carbon copy. *

I am also sending the autobiography of a Korean, SONG OF ARIRAN, which I edited, but which is as nearly like the original story told to me as I could leave it aside from converting it into more readable English.

I am also sending you a copy of my book on the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives, CHINA BUILDS FOR DEMOCRACY, which was actually written for you indirectly though I never expected you to read it. I had you back in my mind all the time as the great hope for trying to get some American support for the movement.

x150-A

With much admiration,

Very sincerely,

Nym Wales Nym Wales *A
(Mrs. Edgar Snow.)

The Honorable Franklin D. Roosevelt,
The White House,

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AKB

March 24, 1942.

PPF
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Respectfully referred for consideration and acknowledgment.

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

Letters to the President: Referred to the War Department.

INTROCASO, Nicholas D. Jr., 779 Montgomery St., Jersey City, N. J.,
3/19/42. Seeks position in the Intelligence Reserve or active
service of the United States Army with commission.

his
in

SUGDEN, John, Chester, Miss., 3/18/42. Wishes to serve his country
as a pilot in the air service. Encs.(3).

e.

STEWART, Mary L., Byron, Minn., 3/18/42. Asks that the sale of
liquor in the around army camps be forbidden.

STRINGER, M. W. Jr., 1st Lieut. A.C:C.S.G., 1104 Mohawk St., Los
Angeles, Calif., no date. Suggests creating and organizing
a special unit, perhaps akin to the French Foreign Legion,
for those men who have served prison sentences for commission
of felonies.

KING, Captain J. Olen, 1200 N. E. 102 St., Miami, Fla., 3/19/42.
Encloses plan for immediate long-range delivery of pursuit
aircraft to distant combat units. Enc.(1).

JOHNSON, Austin G., 324 N. Bright Ave., Whittier, Calif., 3/16/42.
Suggests the President read the article in March 14th Saturday
Evening Post on "How to Blockade Japan" by Edgar Snow; and
send a copy to Mr. Churchill.

ABNEY, Mary C., 190 Alberta St., Charleston, S. C., 3/19/42. Urges
that help be sent to our boys in Bataan.

GRIGNON, Neal G., 94-24 Northern Blvd., Jackson Heights, Queens,
New York City, 3/19/42. Suggests creating a would be Scientific
Board of Engineers and Scientist to invent, would be Buck Rogers
fantastic warefare inventions to create a curiosity among our
people and the Axis Nations.

DENNING, James W., 215 McDaniel St., Dayton, Ohio, 3/19/42. Has an
idea on a high-flying bomber. (Chief of Ordnance).

MCB

March 26, 1942.

PPF

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Respectfully referred for consideration and acknowledgment.

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

Letters to the President, referred to the War Dept.:

SERGEANT, O. A., 421 E. Lake Ave., Ladysmith, Wis., 3/18/42. Refers to article by Edgar Snow which appears in the March 14th issue of the Saturday Evening Post entitled "How to Blockade Japan." Mr. Snow says this can be done by arming and organizing the millions inside Asia who are against the Japanese. Writer believes this is worthy of consideration.

LEWIS, Wm., 620 N. 8th St., Fort Smith, Ark., postmarked 3/18/42. Re: suggestions for coastal and aerial defense.

GRAHAM, Josephine Frank, 1103 Chamberlain Hotel, Des Moines, Iowa, 3/19/42. Suggestions to help win the war.

DURAN, Alfred, 790 Grand Concourse, New York, N. Y., 3/19/42. Suggestions which might be of value in defeating the enemy. Map encl. Reg.

BAILEY, George H., Richmond Hill, N. Y. (no add add), 3/19/42. "In reference to my note, mailed to you 2/6/42, why the delay? Why must we cater to the War Dogs and Profiteers? By doing what my note suggests the War would be at an end in about 30 days." Reg. Letter of 2/6/42 referred to War Dept.

BALCHER, F., 309 W. 53 St., N. Y. C., 3/20/42. Letter to Mr. Early calling attention to article in N. Y. Times, by Mr. Brigham, in which it is stated, that the German General Von Heeb is said to have urgently advised the Japanese to desist from attacking Australia at present time and to concentrate on India. Refers to previous letter.

BOYER, William, Captain, Inactive Reserves, c/o Northern Watch Co., 109 Endicott Bldg., 350 Robert St., St. Paul, Minn., 3/22/42. Calls attention to source of trained manpower in Inactive Reserves which remains untapped but which stands ready to take active part in the war effort. Cites own case.

RUFFALO, Alfred, 17 Clinton St., Youngstown, Ohio, 3/23/42. Left job as Jr. Inspector at Lecumesch, Mich., because he found he was to work 8 to 12 hours per day, 7 days a week, without overtime pay. Realizes that he made a mistake and seeks aid in obtaining reinstatement so that he may do his part in war effort.

* * * * *

SCOTT, B. Clarice, 2108 W. Chestnut St., Louisville, Ky., 3/19/42. "I doubt whether or not my letter of 3/14/42 has reached you as yet. If it has this is to say that the matter has been cleared up in a satisfactory manner, and I have been reinstated as a field worker with the Old Age Assistance Div. of the Dept. of Welfare of our state." Referred to F. S. A., Social Security Board.

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St. Paul's Chapel of the Road

DIRECTED BY THE REV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROOT, D. D.

Present address Canutillo Texas
April the 11th '42

4/16/42
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To the Secretary of the President of the U.S.
Washington, D.C.

My dear Sir:

I have just read a letter from Young Edgar Snow telling of his interview with the President-Young Snow is going in to the Far East again He is a wonderful boy.

His father is a brother of my wife so my interest is intense.

I should like the President to know that I an Episcopal clergyman am touring this whole Southwest in a Chapel Trailer in the interest of National Defence- I am speaking to thousand of boys and girls in the Schools urging them to buy Defence Stamps.

I plan to continue clear through to the East Coast in this thrilling Defence Experience.

Thank You

Yours Very Sincerely

Benjamin Franklin Root *

P.S Will you please be so kind to let me know if this letter reaches you-THANK YOU.

We Must Win This War

April 16, 1942

"THAT FOR THE JAPANESE WE BUY FOR THE ARMS"
"BUY DEFENSE STAMPS"

Patriotic Entertainment

My dear Dr. Root:

Your letter of April eleventh has been received and will be brought to the President's attention. I know that he will be appreciative of your thought in writing to him.

Very sincerely yours,

M. H. McINTYRE
Secretary to the President

Reverend Benjamin Franklin Root, D.D.,
St. Paul's Chapel of the Road,
Canutillo,
Texas.

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We Must Win This War

"THAT FOR THE JAPS."

"AXES FOR THE AXIS"

"BUY DEFENSE STAMPS"

A Patriotic Entertainment

Mystery, Instruction, Enlightenment.

Part One

"REMEMBER PEARL HARBOR"

Seven pleasing effects in routine displaying "E Pluribus Unum".

Part Two

"BUY DEFENSE STAMPS"

"KEEP 'EM FLYING"

Presented by "Willie Higgins", Dr. Root's "Dummy"

Part Three

LONDON PUNCH AND JUDY

Immortal Characters of all Time.

Hilarious, funny, laughable, glorious, spooky, charming.

Presented by Dr. Benjamin Franklin Root.

"HITLER WILL FALL"

The Evil of the World swallowed up in Victory.

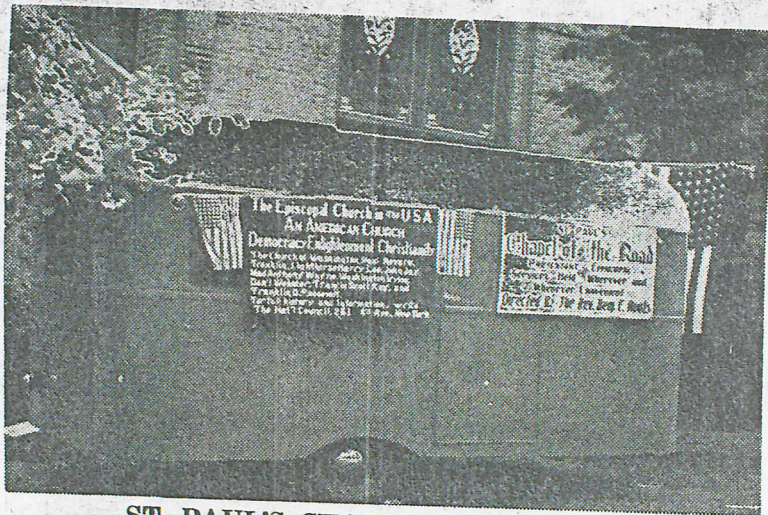
ASCARATE SCHOOL

↔ Ysleta Texas ↔

Friday 10-15AM

↔ April 24 ↔

The Episcopal Church In U. S. A. An American Church



ST. PAUL'S CHAPEL OF THE ROAD
Conducted by REV. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN ROOT, D. D.

The Church of two-thirds of the signers of the Declaration of Independence—The Church of the greatest number of the Framers of the Constitution.

The Church of Washington, Paul Revere, Benjamin Franklin, Henry Clay, Daniel Webster, Light Horse Harry Lee, Washington Irving, Francis Scott Key (Author of the Star Spangled Banner), Robert E. Lee, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and many others who have figured in American history.

Many letters have been received concerning this "Trailer Chapel Plan"—Too numerous for space to permit full quotations.

"An excellent plan."—Rt. Rev. George Craig Stewart, D. D., Late Bishop of Chicago.

"An Apostolic venture".—Rt. Rev. James E. Freeman, D. D., Bishop of Washington, D. C.

"An excellent idea".—Anson Phelps Stokes, D. D., one time Secretary of Yale.

"A moving about ministry".—Rt. Rev. James M. Maxon, D. D., Bishop of Tennessee.

"Congratulations on the work which you are doing."—Rt. Rev. Henry W. Hobson, D. D., Bishop of Southern Ohio.

ASCARATE SCHOOL

✦ Ysleta Texas ✦

Friday 10-15AM

✦ April 24 ✦

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September 29, 1944

WATSON

Edgar Snow

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D. R.

GENERAL WATSON TO CHECK WITH
MRS. BOETTIGER ON MONDAY OCT. 2nd.

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(The President gave Mrs. Boettiger
a letter from Mr. Snow together
with a lengthy report on Russia. 9/29/44
Mr. Snow writes for The Saturday
Evening Post)

Madison, Conn.

Random House, N.Y.

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THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

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Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

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The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

*after Price
magazine*

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 29, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
GENERAL WATSON

I want to see Edgar Snow
for a half-hour or at lunchtime
with Anne in about a week or when-
ever he can come down.

F. D. R.

(The President gave Mrs. Boettiger
a letter from Mr. Snow together
with a lengthy report on Russia. 9/29/44
Mr. Snow writes for The Saturday
Evening Post)

Madison, Conn.

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Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

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The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

after Price
manuscript

3. When did you wish to see Edgar Snow?
You told me before you went to Hyde Park that you
wanted to see him for half an hour appointment or
for luncheon with you and Anna.

77-418-10

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 29, 1944

MEMORANDUM FOR
GENERAL WATSON

I want to see Edgar Snow
for a half-hour or at lunchtime
with Anna in about a week or when-
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F. D. R.

(The President gave Mrs. Boettiger
a letter from Mr. Snow together
with a lengthy report on Russia. 9/29/44
Mr. Snow writes for The Saturday
Evening Post)

Madison, Conn.

Random House, N.Y.

copy of this memo
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THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

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Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

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The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON
October 12, 1944
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

General Watson phoned Edgar Snow's home at Madison, Connecticut, October 11, 1944, and was informed that Mr. Snow was overseas for several months.

RB



THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

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Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

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The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

after Price
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5-22-44

Respectfully referred to
the President.

E. M. W.

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Shirley
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Saturday

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THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

1944

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Like millions of other people I was very glad to read that you are back in the White House in good health and ready to continue with your great tasks.

Since I saw you in 1942 I have been in Russia, India, Africa and Britain as a war correspondent for the Post. Now and then I sent you messages which I thought might interest you. I have been back in this country on a leave during which I have written a book, and now I am about to go overseas again, this time direct to Moscow--and later on to Berlin, I hope!

I believe you suggested I might come in when I got back, and I would very much like to talk to you before leaving; but I realize you are trying to keep down your appointments. It is just possible I might be of some service to you, however, in Russia or China. I will be in Washington next Thursday, Friday and Saturday, before my departure, if you should wish to see me for any reason.

I read Forrest Davis' articles in the Post on "What Really Happened at Teheran", and I want to say that the policy he attributes to you does not seem to me a "gamble", but the only course of action open to the leader of our government, other than preparation for the third world war.

With sincere regards and deep esteem,

Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

#

The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

after Davis
may 26

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EDGAR SNOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

THE SATURDAY
EVENING
POST
FOUNDED BY
Benjamin Franklin

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

May 21, 1944

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Dear Mr. President:

Like millions of other people I was very glad to read that you are back in the White House in good health and ready to continue with your great tasks.

Since I saw you in 1942 I have been in Russia, India, Africa and Britain as a war correspondent for the Post. Now and then I sent you messages which I thought might interest you. I have been back in this country on a leave during which I have written a book, and now I am about to go overseas again, this time direct to Moscow--and later on to Berlin, I hope!

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With sincere regards and deep esteem,

Respectfully yours,

Edgar Snow

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The President of the United States
The Hon. Franklin D. Roosevelt

*after Davis
magazine*

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May 26
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EDGAR SNOW
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

THE SATURDAY
EVENING
POST
FOUNDED BY
Benjamin Franklin

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5, PA., U. S. A.

May 21, 1944

Dear Mr. Early:

I am enclosing a letter to the President and
I would be grateful if you would kindly deliver
it.

If Mr. Roosevelt should wish to see me, I can
be reached at the Post till Thursday; after
that I will be in Washington at the May-Adams
House till Saturday night.

With all good wishes,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow

Mr. Stephen T. Early
White House

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EDITORIAL ROOMS

THE SATURDAY
EVENING
POST
FOUNDED BY
Benjamin Franklin

BEN HIBBS
EDITOR

THE CURTIS
PUBLISHING COMPANY
PHILADELPHIA 5

file 11-27-44

Metropole Hotel
MOSCOW,
August 14, 1944

Dear Miss Le Hand:

The President suggested that I might write him a letter, giving him my impressions on my return to Moscow. I have probably far "overfulfilled the plan", as the Russians would say. If it should fall to your lot to digest the letter, please excuse the typing and the paper. They are the best I can do with the material available.

I wrote a book recently, called "People on Our Side" and thinking it might interest you I asked the publishers to send you a copy. It was chosen by the Book of the Month Club, so if you are a member of that worthy institution you will probably find yourself snowed under, all things, including this letter, considered.

All the best to you,--and thanks for guiding me into the right entrance in the Oval Room!

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Sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow #

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Here I shall write to you in rather detail about the general appearance of things, and about the "feel" of the place, as compared with my last visit. But if you are too busy to go through all these lines you might then save time by glancing at the last page, where I shall try to summarize and make a few points which I think might possibly interest you.

First, I should say my impression this time is colored by the fact that I hadn't seen Russia before in the summer at all. I came here late in October, 1942, and left not long after the victory at Stalingrad--which I visited twice during the course of the battle, once when I got to the outskirts, after the Germans were surrounded, and the second time after Marshal Paulus had surrendered. It was a cold half-twilit country masked everywhere in white, then. In Moscow it grew dark at four or five in the afternoon, and you seldom saw the sun. Now, in the summer, it seems a different country, altogether different in appearance and in the expression people wear on their faces. The camouflage has been scrubbed from the grim, tense scowl everyone wore in the winter

From: Edgar Snow
Correspondent, The Saturday Evening Post

Moscow
August 14, 1944

Dear Mr. President:

You were kind enough to ask me to write you my impressions upon my return to Moscow and Russia, and this is the attempt. I have been back here now for nearly two months, and that is about the time-limit for impressions; after that one has to be struck by everyday things in some unusually dramatic combination for them to arrest attention and cause reflection, apparently.

I trust you will excuse me for writing on such wretched paper. There is still a severe shortage in many items, and paper is one of them. Even this stuff is strictly rationed.

Here I shall write to you in rather leisurely manner about the general appearance of things, and about the "feel" of the place, as compared with my last visit. But if you are too busy to go through all these lines you might then save time by glancing at the last page, where I shall try to summarize and make a few points which I think might possibly interest you.

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People here seem to be following the war less closely now that the offensive has reached Poland and our own forces are hammering toward Paris. They are thinking more about post-war problems, though publicly there is little discussion of them. The average man, the anonymous citizen, is thinking now quite intently about his long-neglected needs: a new pair of shoes, a new suit, repairs for his leaking roof, a shorter working ^{hour} and some leisure, and above all--enough to eat. How they all long for peace! Now that it seems near the privations appear to be getting harder to bear. Everyone is tired, tired; and the difference is that now people often talk about it. People in the forties, working for three years without a rest, realize that they have aged ten or 15 years in that period. All kinds of ailments are afflicting them--teeth falling out, arthritis, eyes going bad, a lot of the diseases of an age older than they are, accelerated by semi-starvation for this long period, and by overwork.

The government has taken some recognition of this near-end of endurance in the public, and some concessions to it are being made. Commercial stores are opened where people can buy unrationed goods. Older women, and old men, are getting brief vacations. Some commercial restaurants are open. Parks are open and there are frequent concerts. Much of Moscow manages to spend a day or two in the country--where many city people keep vegetable gardens. These are very important here, the difference literally between life and death. For despite the increase of crops, the opening of commercial stores, the majority of the population still lacks enough to eat.

so-called commercial
Goods in the stores are not sold at rationed prices but at prices approximating those in the black market, which is a measure of real value in terms of exchange of goods for labor. Thus, while the rationed price of a good pair of shoes might be 100 to 400 roubles, the same pair of shoes in the commercial stores sell for from 2,000 to 4,000 roubles--which is \$400 to \$800 a pair, at official exchange rates. The stores now carry nearly everything in the way of light consumers goods and queues form before the entrances early in the day and cling to them all day long. Across the street from my hotel there is a queue leading to a big department store and it sometimes reaches entirely round the big city block. "What could people want that is so important to them they will stand there, rain or shine, all day long?" I asked. We went over to investigate and found that nearly everyone in that queue was waiting to buy either shoes, raincoats, or rubber shoes, or household articles such as kitchen pans, pots, dishes, glasses, spoons, etc.

In the Bolshoi Theater the other night I took a friend into the restaurant and bought two glasses of tea and two eclairs. Last year we could not have bought that at all. Now ~~that~~ the tea and eclairs cost me the equivalent of \$25. Here at the hotel I have the floor maid do my laundry. For washing a couple of shirts and half a dozen handkerchiefs I pay her a loaf of bread, 200 grams of vodka and some cigarettes. She prefers that payment to what she would charge me in cash--100 rubs., or about \$20 at official exchange rates.

Moscow now has more people than before the war, when the population problem was already serious, with over four million inhabitants. It is harder to get a room in the city than it is to get into the Kremlin--almost literally. I know couples who have gone on living as man and wife for years because neither could get a bed anywhere else. Since the new divorce law makes it even more difficult to get a divorce than to find a room, those who had been counting on a separation as soon as they could solve the housing problem are now resigned to looking at an unwelcome spouse across the few inches of intervening space for the rest of their lives.

One sees large numbers of demobilized cripples in the streets nowadays. Yesterday I went to one of the Parks--the Gorki Park of Culture, out by the Moscow River, where there is a very impressive exhibition of war trophies: tanks, guns, airplanes, transport of all kinds, and from all countries of Europe.

Yet as I walked in and around this display of booty I saw dozens of soldiers from a nearby hospital, trying out their new crutches and artificial limbs, and I realized at what price the trophies were purchased. It seems there were more armless and legless men in the park than men still whole--and so many of the crippled were very young, with hardly a down on their chins. These are only the first of the harvest of Hitler's madness to show up again in the capital. One hears people say that they are afraid the soft-hearted folks at home will soon forget the terror loosed by Nazism, but I don't think they will soon forget here. There will be too many smashed bodies in evidence everywhere, for another generation, for Russians to forget what the victory cost them.

Certainly it is hard to find a Russian who has not sacrificed at least one member of his immediate family in the maw of this war. While I have been away many of my acquaintances have had new tragedy heaped on tragedy. My teacher had lost her son, and now she has also lost her husband; her hair has turned gray while I was gone. The two maids who look after my room in the hotel have both lost their husbands, and neither has heard from her son, in the army, for more than a year. The other evening I visited Zoya Feodorova, the movie star, and her sister. These girls have lost their father and their only brother, and both of them have lost their husbands. Yet their sorrow seemed to make them all the more determined to live--just as the loss of arms and legs couldn't keep the soldiers I saw in the Park from singing and applying themselves to learning new tasks. Zoya and her sister were ~~more~~ energetically trying to learn English and at the end of a long working day they spent two or three hours reading about "Hans and his Ice Skates" and "Bill, the Chimney-Sweeper."

The Russians don't mope; if they did the whole country would be now engaged in moping. People like Zoya and her sister, millions of middle aged women and many of them with young children, have to resign themselves to living the rest of their lives without husbands; very probably they won't be able to remarry. Millions of young women, too, may have to go through life as spinsters. The new divorce laws, intended to stabilize the family in what is frankly recognized will be a difficult post-war period, will make it even more difficult for women to acquire even second-hand husbands. At the same time it won't penalize unmarried mothers, who will receive the same benefits accorded to married ones. In view of the rather grim outlook, therefore, there is some tendency among people of imagination, and in the intelligentsia, to want to get abroad, if not to emigrate at least to be able to see some other part of the world where life is less sombre.

There are evidences that the government does intend to promote broader contacts between Russians and Americans and Englishmen. Part of the apparent hesitancy on Russia's part to mingle freely is obviously due to their lack of preparation for mixing in Anglo-American society. Now there is an almost feverish effort

to prepare younger people, and selected older people, for meeting our world on its own cultural level. English language study is compulsory in the middle schools and is the most popular language now in colleges and universities. Students in the technicums at least learn a technical vocabulary in English suited to their tasks. European manners are now also being taught in the middle schools, where girls learn how to manage households properly, how to eat in accordance with the dictates of Emily Post, and all that English and American girls are supposed to learn at finishing school. In the Suvorov schools and in boys schools generally much emphasis is placed on manners and etiquette.

The press generally has been friendly in its comments on our war effort everywhere. There is little of the underlying suspicion and sarcasm which marked editorial writing last year. Of course the Red Army still receives the major credit for the smashing of nazism, but quite generous praise is being ~~now~~ given now to Allied armies, especially to the American forces in France. More and more articles of a purely informative nature are appearing about America and Britain; and somewhat more space is given to reporting the war in the Pacific. One now sees, more frequently, the crossed flags of Britain, America, Russia and China in display. One more often hears the allies' national anthems played. The only place I have heard the "International" played since my return here was, oddly enough, at the Race Track a few Sundays ago, when the Russian equivalent of a National Derby was held--a trotting race between prize horses from state and collective cattle farms.

I find, in conversation with Russians, a much greater readiness to concede the importance of American help in Russian victory than the press and the government comment would seem to justify. Russians see American goods on display in the stores, they see American cars and trucks in the streets carrying Red Army men, they see American clothing in the stores and see refugees wearing it. A lot of these goods have never been used in Russia before and there has never been such an extensive distribution of ~~any~~ foreign goods of any kind among the people. So many have exaggerated ideas of the American contribution. In this way government reluctance to admit the value of our help, in the past, seems to be proving a boomerang. I have had Russians tell me that they think as much ~~as~~ as 80 or 90 percent of all the Red Army's supplies have come from America!

There is a general expectation here that Russia is going to enter the Far Eastern war, principally because the government wants to please America! At least I have encountered a number of Russians who have this idea. Why does the government wish to please the U.S.A.? First, it is obligated to America for our help, secondly it wants our help in the future and cannot get along without it. I would not say there is much real enthusiasm for the idea of fighting Japan--rather it is public resignation to the inevitability of it. The public doesn't want any more war and would prefer to stay out of the war in the Pacific. But among the army officers and the navy officers it is another matter. There is an appreciation amongst them of the advantages to be gained, and ~~and~~

nowadays they speak, often, quite openly to us correspondents about "turning on the Japs when Hitler is licked." At the front near Kursk one of the correspondents made a toast to a Red Army colonel, "to the day when Hitler is hanged and Red Army men can go home to rest." The colonel corrected him, "We still have another job to do in the Far East," he said, "after Hitler is kaput!"

When I was in Rumania with the Red Army I had the unique experience of translating, into English which was then translated into Russian, a toast made by a visiting Chinese correspondent, appealing for Russian aid against Japan. "When ~~we~~ I was at Stalingrad," the Chinese said, "I made my first toast to a Red Army general, to General Chuikov, to thank him for defeating Hitler which was also a good turn for China. Now I think events have moved far enough to make this toast: to the day when victory over Germany is achieved, and the day when Russia, Britain and China and American can together finish the Pacific war." I was a little uneasy about translating what seemed to me an undiplomatic toast--it would have been considered so a year ago--but the Russian officers sprang to their feet and drank to it with enthusiasm.

In Rumania, incidentally, I found that the war itself, and the Red Army occupation, were automatically solving many of the economic and political questions left by the bankruptcy of the Antonescu regime. In effect the new regime is carrying out an orderly change, which under other circumstances might be called a revolution. It is confiscating the property of all Antonescu sympathizers, who include practically all the Rumanian capitalists except the Jews. In the case of industrial establishments the government is taking over nominal ownership, while the revived trade unions seem to have most responsibility for management, and in the case of landed estates the farms are parcelled out among the tenants. This is laying the foundation for a kind of social-democratic regime, in which the Rumanian Communist Party plays a role, but not an exclusive role. Small business is still in private hands and the church has not been interfered with.

I send you herewith an "occupation note" issued by the ~~RUMAN~~ Red Army in Rumania. This is worth one rouble, or worth five Rumanian lei. Before the war a Rumanian lei was worth U.S. .01 I believe. The Russian occupation lei is used for the purchase of Red Army supplies and circulates among Rumanians--but the black market rate is only slightly higher on these Russian lei than on the Antonescu Rumanian lei.

In general the pattern of economic and political life likely to develop in Rumania probably anticipates what will follow in all the Balkan countries. Equalization of land ownership to the tillers, and abolition of large estates; confiscation of all large industry by the government; small trading and enterprise in private hands; coalition governments consisting of representatives of peasant and worker parties, and of the intelligentsia, with little or no voice for former capitalists, most of whom were in one way or another tied ~~xi~~ in with the Axis set-up.

This pattern is pretty much what the newly organized Free Polish Committee seems to want in Poland, too. The London Poles, when they were here (Mikolajczyk, Grabski and Romer) said that they did not have any radical differences with the program of reform which was announced by the Free Polish Committee: the redistribution of the land and establishment of government ownership of large industry. But it was evident from their conversation that they are inclined to go much more slowly than the Free Poles wish to go. What they really want apparently is to defer the settlement of all questions, internal as well as frontier, until after the war, when they think they can mobilize both Polish opinion and Anglo-American intervention (political and diplomatic) on their side in negotiating the establishment of friendly relations with Russia.

Sir Archibald Clark-Kerr considers that Mikolajczyk made a big mistake when he left here without any agreement. The terms will be much ~~stiffer~~ stiffer if and when he returns. It is my impression that the main factor in the Russians' rather tolerant attitude--in view of their urgent need for a Polish settlement--toward the London Poles is the Kremlin's desire not to embarrass the British and American governments, and particularly not to give the opposition to Roosevelt an opportunity to exploit the Polish issue in the coming election.

Comment in the press, and remarks in conversation with Russians (which are not always exactly the same thing, even though such a thing as "private" conversation hardly exists here) show quite clearly that the Kremlin looks with alarm and disfavor on the possibility of a Republican victory in the ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ November poll. Americans have been quite surprised to note how frankly pro-Democrat most Russian comment on the candidates has been. The Russians have not hesitated to point out the "reactionary" character of the Republican ticket and candidates as compared to the "progressive" Democrats. There is ~~not~~ no doubt that the average citizen here would consider it little short of a disaster if Dewey won, that is to say the "average citizen" who follows international politics. I am told by Russian acquaintances that in the discussions and debates held in factories and farms, led by Communists, the foregoing interpretation of the American elections is being made quite officially.

To sum up:

1) The Russian people generally are convinced that the worst is over. There is a little loosening of belts, a little relaxing; there is more thinking, both in government circles and among the people, about everyday human needs and about the tasks of peace. There are more goods for sale--and the hope of more food.

2) Tragedy stalks every family but there is little tendency to mope. There is a tremendous will to live in the Russians. People who die so well for a cause seem to cling all the more

March 2, 1945

--7--

fiercely to life, when they are spared it. I predict that the Russians will turn to the tasks of peace with about the same energy they have applied to winning the war. More than one Russian has said to me, "We have learned how to work during this war. We have mastered the machine. We will never go back to the old ways."

Pierre Cot, who was in the French Cabinet before the war, made a four months trip visiting the recovered areas and studying rehabilitation methods. He told me, when he came back, that he was convinced the Russians would recover their pre-war industrial output within five years. He said their planning ~~was~~ of reconstruction generally had been fitted into a long-view scheme of things, so that the actual reconstruction of all the ruined cities might take 15 years. But with the gains of the war, the accelerated development of industry in the west and the accumulation of industrial experience, plus long-view planning, "Russia will be growing and developing at a faster rate 15 years from now than it would have been able to do had there never been a war."

3) The public wants peace more than anything else. All Russians are dead tired. There is little enthusiasm among the populace for a war against Japan. But everyone expects that the government will enter the Pacific war. The army is, to some extent, enthusiastic about the idea of licking Japan. So is the navy. The public is resigned to a Russo-Japanese war and many think it is part of the price Russia must pay for American aid. Russians are very grateful for that help. They are especially grateful for the help our American flyers are giving them and there is a new fix friendliness in their attitude toward Americans especially. An American uniform now brings a quick salute from Russian officers--and often a smile as well.

4) The process of the war itself, the advance of the Red Army and the flight of Hitler sympathizers, creates in Eastern Europe a ~~kind~~ kind of political vacuum in which a new type of government will emerge, not democratic in our sense, not soviet communism either, and certainly not fascist. The new regimes in all these eastern European states will probably consist largely of representatives of peasant and worker parties, and intelligentsia, and they will carry out a social-democratic program of land redistribution, government ownership of big industry, and private enterprise in small business.

5) The Russians are laying down some fundamental plans looking toward long-term cooperation with America. They want it and expect it and they don't intend to carry out any policies which will, unnecessarily, provoke anti-Soviet feelings in Americans.

6) But there is no indication that this country intends to abandon its own system, or rewrite Marxist-Leninist-Stalinism--to employ their awkward phrase for the ruling philosophy. There is, if anything, renewed emphasis on the study of Marxism. There

is no sign of the party grasp of affairs, in all phases of Russian life, losing its strength. There is, on the contrary, evidence that the party intends to reimpose its strict code of knowledge and conduct on all its membership--particularly in the army, where tens of thousands of new Communists have been taken in during the war.

7) The only respect in which I notice a dramatic change that represents a sharp departure from practice here in the past is a noticeable spread of anti-Semitism. Even a year ago one rarely heard anti-Jewish remarks from Russians and I never heard Jews complain of discrimination. Now, I am sorry to say, there is a lot of this, not as much as in America, but still very perceptible. Jews have complained to me that they find it very hard to get government jobs, or jobs of any kind. I have heard Russians make remarks to the effect that the Jew always finds a way to keep out of the front-line, that the Jew stays at home and speculates while the Russian fights, that the Jew is cunning and crafty while the Russian is pure and brave, etc. The fact that they make such remarks to a foreigner shows how widespread and matter-of-fact this kind of conversation must be.

People with whom I have discussed this phenomenon believe it will be temporary; one of the commissars (Shcherbakov) has already made a radio speech against racial animosity. Men are sometimes arrested and fined for making anti-Jewish remarks in public; the national law makes such behavior a criminal offense. Generally the growth of anti-Semitism is attributed to; 1) effectiveness of Hitler's propaganda among the villages of occupied Russia; 2) overemphasis on Russian nationalism, which has made Russians more race-conscious than they have been since the revolution.

I have skipped many important subjects--but this was supposed to be merely a letter giving "impressions." If I thought a line of it might prove of any help to you I would be richly repaid. I would like to know, if you find time, whether you receive it. Please let me know if I can be of any service to you whatever.

One point may interest you. I arranged with my town council, in Madison, Connecticut, to have my ballot sent to me here in Moscow, where I will cast my vote in the national election. After a canvas here among the mission people and other Americans, I find I am the only person with such plans. If the ballot arrives I will send it in and thus probably be the first American in history to vote for a president of the United States, from the territory of Russia. My vote, needless to say, is going for FDR.

With all good wishes for your continued good health and brilliant leadership,

Very sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow

The Honorable,
The President of the United States
Mr. Franklin D. Roosevelt.
Washington, D.C.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

December 21, 1944.

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL WATSON:

The President said he would
see Mr. Edgar Snow right after the first
of the year. #

G.G.T.

*President indicated
could not see.
12/30/44*

11. ~~11.~~ *wd* Grace tells me that you would like to see Mr.
Edgar Snow right after the first of the Year.
Would you care to have him come in next week?

file

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7979*

December 21, 1944.

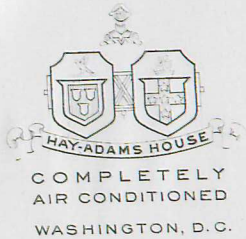
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The President said he would see Mr. Edgar Snow right after the first of the year.

G.G.T.

file

*PPX
7979*



COMPLETELY
AIR CONDITIONED
WASHINGTON, D.C.

December 20, 1944

Dear Miss Tully:

I just arrived from Russia, by way of a lift in General Paul Spalding's plane, and I am going to be home for a few weeks before going back on an assignment to southern Europe.

I know the President is extremely busy and I'm sure he is very well informed on everything in Russia. If by any chance he thinks it would serve any useful purpose for me to see him, however, this is just to say I am here and would be delighted. I hope to go up to Connecticut in a few days for Christmas-- probably Thursday.

What I am wondering is whether you ever received the letter I sent to you from Moscow, and which I foolishly addressed to Miss LeHande! I'm very sorry about that and I never met Miss LeHande, but the letter was already off to the President before I woke up to my error.

With apologies, and best wishes,

(of Saturday Evening Post)

Edgar Snow
Sincerely yours,
Edgar Snow

file

*pp 3
7979*

March 2, 1945

MEMORANDUM FOR THE FILES:

Mr. Snow attended the President's press and radio conference this morning. He remained afterwards and saw the President for a few minutes, with Mr. Daniels.

M. Lorenz

x 36

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March 1, 1945

I enclose a note to the President, which is self-explanatory.

If it can be arranged, I would like to attend the press conference tomorrow, and afterward have a short time with the President. Please excuse this late request. I have only today arrived in Washington, from California.

I will phone you tomorrow, for a reply. If you wish to contact me, earlier, I can be reached at ME 5656, or at DI 1967.

With thanks for your attention to this request,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow

Edgar Snow

Sincerely yours #
Edgar Snow
Edgar Snow

Ass. Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post

President of the United States
The White House

Rep 2500

National Press Club
Washington

197
7979

March 1, 1945

Dear Mr. Daniels:

I enclose a note to the President, which is self-explanatory.

If it can be arranged, I would like to attend the press conference tomorrow, and afterward have a short time with the President. Please excuse this late request. I have only today arrived in Washington, from California.

I will phone you tomorrow, for a reply. If you wish to contact me, earlier, I can be reached at ME 5656, or at DI 1967.

With thanks for your attention to this request,

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow

Edgar Snow

Rep 2500

Sincerely yours,

Edgar Snow
Edgar Snow
Asst. Editor
The Saturday Evening Post
President of the United States
White House

National Press Club

Washington

March 1, 1945

Dear Mr. President:

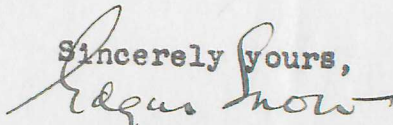
I am in town for a couple of days, and would like to attend your press conference tomorrow, if it can be arranged.

In your note, some weeks ago, you suggested that you might be free to see me some time after the next Big Three meeting. I am about to turn over copy to the Post, on some articles about Russia and my last trip there, on subjects which have been affected by the Yalta Conference, and perhaps you could give me a few minutes after your remarks to the press tomorrow, to clear up a few points, in the way of off-the-record background remarks.

I am sending this note to Mr. Daniels, and will ask him, if I can attend the press conference tomorrow, for your answer.

With all best wishes,

Sincerely yours,



Edgar Snow

Ass. Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post

The President of the United States
The White House

mpk

ELY, Gertrude
Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania
April 5, 1941

Wrote to the President calling attention to enclosed article "China's Blitzbuilder, Revi Alley", by Edgar Snow. -- Hon. Lauchlin Currie replied on April 9, 1941, thanking Miss Ely for the article, and affirming their mutual interest in and admiration for the work of the Chinese Industrial Cooperatives. Says this movement will grow to accomplish a great deal more, in peacetime as well as during the war effort. -- Attached is President's memo of April 7, 1941, to Hon. Lauchlin Currie re reply.

SHE - 150-A

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CURRIE, Hon. Lauchlin
Feb. 26, 1942.

The President, by memo., referred for his information and asked that it be returned for the President's files - Folder containing "Memo To the President from Edgar Snow - Subject: The Role of a Federation for Asiatic Democracy, Here in America, in Increasing the Effectiveness of Political Warfare."

SEE 4675-Misc. [REDACTED] (Box 23)
(Official File)

AS

P. P. F.

7979

CURRIE, Hon. Lauchlin
Oct. 21, 1942.

Sends the President two memo. one in RE: INDIA - the other in RE BURMA. These reports were sent to Mr. Currie by Edgar Snow. States he (Mr. Snow) had gotten his report on Burma from a young Burman and that the report indicates a growing disillusionment in Burma on which we should be able to capitalize.----- The President, Oct. 22nd, sent a memo. to Mr. Currie thanking him for letting him see the following: Report from Edgar Snow - "India At The End of September, 1942", and report from Edgar Snow - "Report on Burma, July, 1942", from Delhi, September 15, 1942. The President said he thought the report on India was very amateurish and that the report on Burma while very interesting had a very high percentage of sweeping, all-inclusive statements which make one pause.

SEE 48-H (Official File)
AS

P. P. F.

7979

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT
FROM Wayne Coy, Bureau of the Budget
January 26, 1943

Encloses letter to the President from Edgar Snow, correspondent for the Saturday Evening Post, reminding the President that he met Mr. Snow following a press conference some months ago and the two talked about the Far East. In the attached letter, Mr. Snow tells of the affect of our fighting in North Africa on the Russian people. Gives suggestions on further uniting the Russians and Americans.

SEE - 4287

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HIBBS, Ben, Editor,
The Saturday Evening Post,
Phila., Pa.

5-31-44

Letter to Gen. Watson, that Edgar Snow, associate editor and foreign correspondent of The Saturday Evening Post, tells him that the President expressed a wish to see his article on the Chinese guerrillas. Is enclosing tear sheets of the article, which will appear in their issue of June 10th.

Memorandum from Gen. Watson to the President, submitting to him above article.
(article filed.)

see 4287

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PPF

7979

For Edgar Snow's letter of 12-28-44 enclosing his notes
on a confidential conversation with Litvinov, 10-6-44,
and FDR's reply of 1-2-45

SEE: P.S.F.: Russia.