



Cyrus S. Eaton

# Age Fails to Slow Pace of Cyrus S. Eaton

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WASHINGTON — The original John D. Rockefeller and Henry Ford are long gone, along with Harvey S. Firestone, E. H. Gary and Samuel Insull. But Cyrus S. Eaton, who knew and worked with them all, goes on and on.

On Dec. 27, the multimillionaire celebrated his 87th birthday by making his first trip to Chile to see the country and interview the leaders of its new Socialist government. He continues his communications with leaders of the Soviet Union and Eastern bloc countries and his persistent opposition to U.S. involvement in Vietnam and the rest of Indochina.

Last week, Eaton was in Baltimore to preside over a board of directors meeting of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, one of the nation's few profitable railroads and the keystone to his fortune. The week before he was in Chicago for a meeting of the trustees of the University of Chicago.

**Physical Evidence**  
Every morning at 8 when he is not traveling he can be found on the

36th floor of the Terminal Tower in Cleveland. From there he can see the physical evidence of a large portion of the companies he created in his long industrial career.

At home, Eaton is engaged in running legal battles with two of the biggest local institutions in which he once had major investments — the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. and the Cleveland Trust Co.

The power company chopped down 450 oak trees on Eaton's beloved Acadia Farm south of Cleveland to build a power line. Eaton claimed the company, which he once served as a director, exceeded its rights under a 1962 agreement he signed to permit construction of a power line. He is also engaged in a long-running legal battle with the area's largest bank, where he also was a director, over its power to act as trustee for various estates.

### Talked About Trip

Looking remarkably fit, Eaton spent a day in Washington last week, taking time out to talk about his most recent trip and to reminisce on his long business career.

"I first came to Washington in 1906," he recalled. Theodore Roosevelt was then President and Eaton was interested in the city's power company, which operated under a congressional franchise.

Although he is known best now for his antiwar activities, controversial travels and association with Soviet leaders, Eaton in the 1920s and 1930s developed a reputation as a capitalistic buccaneer. This history is one reason why the modern criticism has neither surprised nor bothered Eaton.

"They should look at a man's balance sheet before they call him a Communist," he commented.

His Christmas trip to Chile was comparable to a trip he made the year before to Hanoi to see North Vietnam leaders and a 1968 birthday venture to Havana when he met Fidel Castro.

Commenting on his "busy 10 days" in Chile, Eaton said the United States is "developing some

wisdom in our old age." The Nixon Administration, he continued, was "wise" not to overreact to the three-way Chilean election that resulted in the victory of Dr. Salvador Allende as the first democratically chosen Marxist president of a Latin American country.

"We must show patience with these changes," Eaton said. "Small nations are especially sensitive to criticism from larger ones. We have to let them make their own mistakes."

The gray-haired, blue-eyed industrialist first became interested in conducting his personal campaign to improve world communications in 1955 when a group of Russian journalists were brought to Cleveland as part of a State Department tour.

Offered a chance to watch the Cleveland Browns play, the Russians instead asked to see how an American capitalist lived. Eaton agreed to receive the group on short notice and enjoyed the experience.

He established the Pugwash International Conferences in 1957, inviting a wide assortment of intellectuals to assemble for a free-wheeling discussion of world topics at the small Nova Scotia town where Eaton was raised and where he still owns a farm. The meetings have continued regularly in different locations around the world with the last one held in September at Fontana, Wis.

### Visited Kremlin

Eaton helped arrange trips to the United States for former Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev and Alexei Kosygin and has visited the Kremlin leaders in Moscow several times. In 1961, the Soviet Union awarded him its Lenin Peace Prize for "unremitting efforts to bring about better international understanding."

When he was in Washington last week, Eaton was carrying an ornately wrapped official letter from Kosygin referring to the current visit to the United States of a delegation of agricultural experts.

Eaton is helping the Russians buy 30,000 head of first class cattle from U.S. breeders and 10,000 head from Canadian breeders in order to speed the development of better beef in the Soviet Union.

### Made Investments

Through Tower International, a Cleveland-based company headed by Cyrus S. Eaton Jr. and Donald S. Carmichael, Eaton has made investments in the Soviet bloc countries and is trying to expand East-West trade.

The old gentleman has withdrawn from most of his other business activities, resigning in recent months from the boards of Detroit Steel, Cleveland Cliffs Iron, Sherwin-Williams Paint, Cleveland Electric, Kansas City Power & Light, Baltimore & Ohio Railroad and Steep Rock Iron Mines.

Eaton's business life has been centered in the Middle West ever since 1900 when he arrived in Cleveland to visit an uncle who was pastor of the Baptist church attended by John D. Rockefeller.

The Rockefellers befriended Eaton, employing him as a clerk and companion until he was graduated from McMaster University in Toronto in 1905.

After the Rockefellers left Cleveland, where they had started the original Standard Oil Co., Eaton struck off on his own, working first with the East Ohio Gas Co. and then forming Canada Gas and Electric Corp.

The next decades saw Eaton expand his utility interests, form Republic Steel Corp. from several smaller regional companies and help form Cleveland Cliffs; Sherwin-Williams, National Acme and several other steel companies. He controlled Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co. at one point and has also had big interests in B. F. Goodrich and Firestone.

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