

# The Evening Star

Editorial

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## STRANGE FRIENDS

# Eaton Trusts in Soviet Sincerity

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CLEVELAND.—Cyrus S. Eaton, millionaire industrialist, the best known capitalist friend of Nikita Khrushchev, has an office on the 36th floor of the Terminal Tower. The view is symbolic.

Two windows look out over The Flats, the industrial heart of Cleveland, where the dirty brown

One of the world's strangest friendships is that between Nikita Khrushchev and Cyrus Eaton, the American industrialist. Communism will eventually bury capitalism, says the Soviet premier—and that would-be definition certainly includes such men as Mr. Eaton, who twice has made fortunes and now controls holdings worth \$2 billion.

But Mr. Khrushchev and Mr. Eaton are on each others' gift lists for both presents and praise. Why? The bomb. For nuclear destruction, not communism, is the greatest threat to the world, according to Mr. Eaton. And in an interview with Writer Tom Henshaw he explains his controversial viewpoint.

Cuyahoga River winds its way into Lake Erie through a maze of busy mills, factories and power plants.

There's the spot where Mr. Eaton's idol and mentor, John D. Rockefeller, founded Standard Oil; there's Republic Steel, the corporate giant pieced together by Mr. Eaton

Chesapeake & Ohio freight cars roll by and ore boats of the Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Co., carrying ore from the Steep Rock Lake, Ontario, mines, nose in from the lake through a gap in the breakwater. Each is a living fragment of Mr. Eaton's industrial empire.

"It's terrifying to think that one bomb could wipe out all this," he tells a visitor. "I don't want to see all this destroyed."

Mr. Eaton, a sprightly 76 with a half century of rugged capitalist infighting behind him, has his own suggestions on how to avoid such a calamity.

Many of his views are unpopular and controversial. He believes:

- A nuclear war would annihilate 9 out of 10 Americans and "finish everything that the United States has developed in its brilliant history."

- The Soviet Union wants to end the cold war. When Mr. Khrushchev says he would "rather spend money on better homes, schools and industry than armaments, I believe him."

- "Powerful influences" in the United States, particularly the Pentagon and the Atomic Energy Commission, must shoulder much of the responsibility for the cold war.

- Private enterprise is vastly preferable to communism for the United States but "we can't destroy communism; it's here to stay, so let's learn to live with it."

### Rewards Differ

His ideas—and his outspoken exposition of them—have brought

him such diverse rewards as a Lenin Peace Prize from the Soviet government and a subpoena from the House Un-American Activities Committee.

Mr. Eaton, a hard-headed businessman with a Midas touch, doesn't think of himself as a starry idealist. With him, peace and co-existence are simply matters of cold logic. His frequent speeches and interviews are salted with such phrases as:

"One thing you can say about capitalists is that they want to make a profit. There is not much to gain if the United States spends \$50 billion a year on armaments which ultimately will only blow us all up.

"Mass destruction is in discordance with the ethical sense of the world, and to incite and promote the destruction of all our skyscrapers and magnificent industrial enterprises doesn't make sense.

"In a world where you have to eat three times a day, an application to material things is mankind's first job and destiny. After all, what the world pays most attention to is success. It may be a hard thing to say, but it's one of the cold facts of life."

Mr. Eaton's fears — the word "terrifying" pops up frequently in his conversation — and his preoccupation with nuclear destruction, date from July, 1957, when he played host to a conference of nuclear scientists, some of them from Communist lands, at his ancestral home in Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

The scientists' "unquestioned conclusion" that unrestricted nuclear warfare would destroy mankind chilled Mr. Eaton.

In December of the same year, he married Mrs. Anne Kinder Jones, half his age. The new Mrs. Eaton, once a teacher of general semantics at Cleveland College and something of an idealist, shares her husband's views down to the last comma and period.

### Busy Travelers

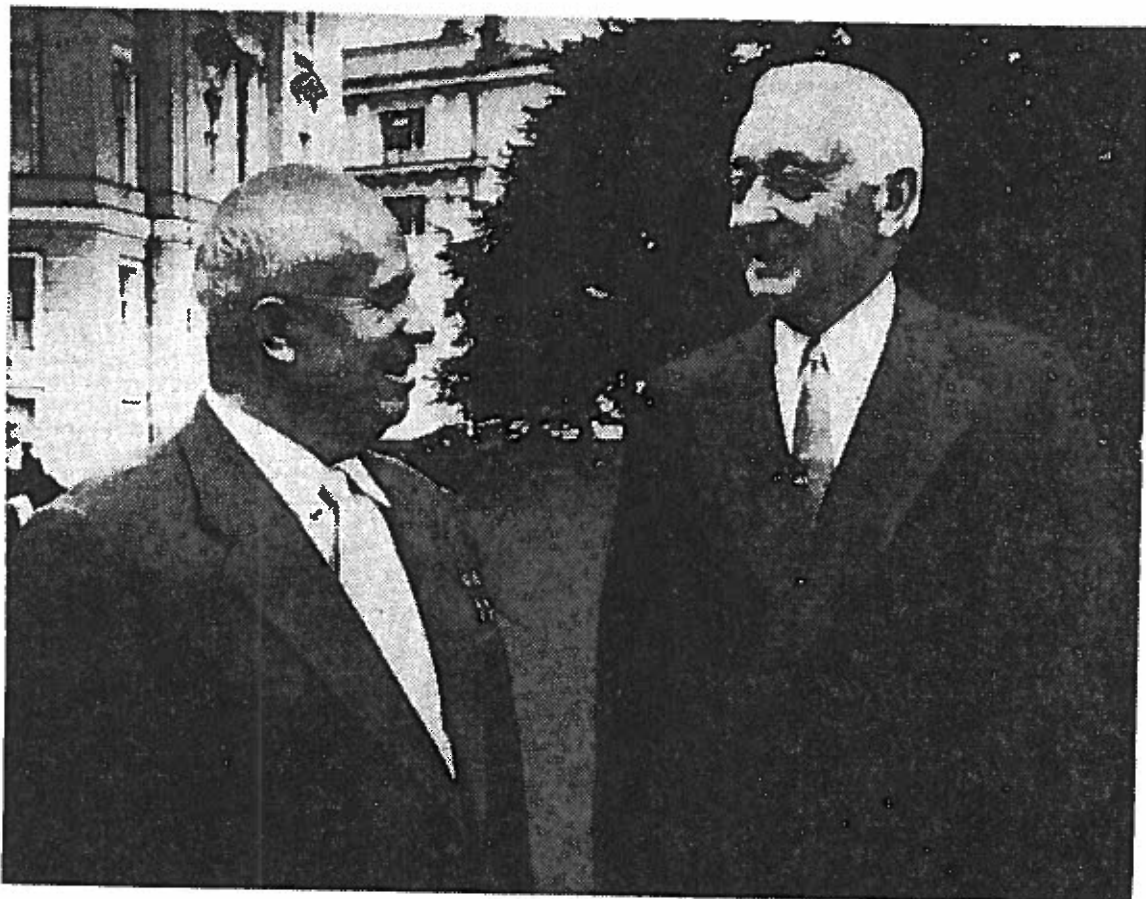
"The Eatons have visited Mr. Khrushchev in Moscow and have toured other countries behind the Iron Curtain. He prefers to call them "socialist states," not Communist, not satellites. In turn, the Eatons have entertained Soviet Deputy Premier Anastas Mikoyan at their farm in Northfield, Ohio.

"I am one who firmly believes Nikita Khrushchev wants peace," says Mr. Eaton. "He is the most influential single individual in the world—a man of his word. I believe he means what he says."

"It sounds cynical, but it's to his interest to avoid war," adds Mrs. Eaton.

Is it possible that the Eatons are being taken in by the Soviets; that they're being used as tools?

"I've been around a long time," says Mr. Eaton coldly. "Time makes some things plain. I think I know a phony when I see one."



CYRUS EATON, millionaire American industrialist, is convinced of Nikita Khrushchev's sincerity and doesn't care who knows it.

In the field of business, at least, it is a rare person who has taken Cyrus Eaton.

Before he began to dabble in international affairs, Mr. Eaton was distinguished primarily for his ability to acquire (1) money in large amounts, (2) business enemies in considerable numbers and (3) friendships that cut across all social strata.

Starting from scratch, he was worth a million dollars at 27; a hundred million at 48. His empire crumbled in '29 but, with characteristic dedication, he fashioned a new one out of the pieces. His holdings now are estimated at \$2 billion.

He was a lad of 23 when his boss, John D. Rockefeller, sr., sent him to Western Canada to build a power plant. He lost his backers in the panic of 1907, so he borrowed money and built the plant himself. Then he sold it at a profit and was on his way.

Twenty years later he still was gambling when he bought control of a shaky Trumbull Steel Co. with a personal check for \$18 million and, through mergers and acquisitions, turned it into Republic Steel, third largest in the country.

And, at 60, he gambled on boring a 2,000-foot tunnel through rock to drain 60-square-mile Steep Rock Lake and get at the iron deposits beneath its surface. He won.

### Friends Are Varied

His friends are a mixed group. Among them he numbers Robert Hutchins, educator; John L. Lewis, labor leader; Bertrand Russell, philosopher; Julian Huxley, scientist. He prefers philosophers to businessmen. He has little use for politicians or military leaders.

"The politician is a very pliable man," he says. "He cannot stand up against public clamor. Military men? There never again can be a military hero. He'll have to drop A or H bombs on defenseless women and children. He'll be a human monster."

For relaxation, Mr. Eaton likes reading and quiet. These tastes are reflected in his home, 800-odd-acre Acadia Farms in Northfield, about 20 miles from downtown Cleveland. The main building is a 160-year-old farm house—"It's older than Cleveland," says Mrs. Eaton.

The staff of some 20 people includes about a dozen men charged with caring for his herd of purebred, registered Scotch Shorthorn breeding cattle and one man to look after his Troika, a distinctively Russian carriage presented to him by Mr. Khrushchev.

A prominent feature of the farm is its books—"I can't begin to estimate how many," says Mrs. Eaton. They range from the classic philosophers to modern po-

litical thought. They're everywhere.

Occasionally, Acadia Farms is livened by visits of the 13 Eaton grandchildren. Mr. Eaton likes to romp with them, including ski trips to another Eaton farm in Upper Blandford, N. S. At 76, he still plays tennis and has a court on the farm.

Mrs. Eaton shares her husband's enthusiasm for books but she can't join him in tennis or his walks about the farm. She's been confined to a wheelchair since a polio attack 14 years ago.

With her husband's support, Mrs. Eaton may run for the United States Senate from Ohio in 1962, although "that's a long way away." She was a delegate to the National Democratic Convention in Los Angeles, her vote pledged to John F. Kennedy, her heart to Adlai Stevenson.

Mr. Eaton takes pride in his farm. He has lived there 40 years. Most of the trees that hide the farm house from the road were planted by his own hand. The latest is a redwood, now about eight feet tall.

"In a hundred years it will be this big," he says with a wide, encompassing gesture of his arms and, looking up: "It may be a hundred feet tall."

And, over all this, in Mr. Eaton's mind, hangs the bomb.

be trusted; (2) the United States was the aggressor in the cold war.

He also praised Communist Russia, its leaders and the people and sharply criticized such popular American institutions as the FBI. Singled out for special attacks was John Foster Dulles, the late secretary of state.

Such high officials as FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover and former U.S. Atty. Gen. Herbert Brownell were among officials who, in turn, criticized Eaton, House un-American activities probers nipped at his heels with a subpoena, which never was served.

A great volume of letters to the editor kept the controversy stirred up in public print.

Then, after returning from their trip to Russia in 1958, both Eaton and his wife took to the stump, making speeches in this country before clubs — controversial speeches.

If little else, this intellectual onslaught from Acadia Farms had many Americans talking about the Eatons and about Russia, world relations and the danger of war.

Within more recent months some background events of history seem also to have been made.

There is meat for history, no doubt, in the largest single enterprise Eaton has undertaken, the world-famous gathering of nuclear scientists in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, the fishing village where Eaton was born.

And it would be difficult to disassociate from the Eaton controversy the visit to the United States last summer by Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev and the visit President Eisenhower will make to Russia in June.

#### Familiar Setting

At snowscaped Acadia Farms, where visits from a bold little chipmunk outside the library window these winter days delight the Eatons and their household staff, the Eatons were asked in an interview to appraise their work to date.

The setting was, the same as when such famous personages as Sir Charles Darwin, grandson of the British naturalist, and Anastas I. Mikoyan, the deputy Soviet premier, chatted with the Eatons on visits to Acadia—a comfortable library where, among Eaton's treasures, is a shelf of Darwin won by Eaton as a prize in his youth.

"President Eisenhower's visit to Russia," said Eaton, sitting near the fireplace,



The Eaton lodge at Pugwash, Nova Scotia.

"will be a crowning event for our efforts. It will be the great climax.

"He will receive a warm welcome and will be impressed, I am sure, by their great progress."

Eaton first suggested that the American and Soviet leaders exchange visits in an interview with Khrushchev in Moscow on Sept. 1, 1958, on the Eatons' Russian trip. Khrushchev had cut short a vacation to return to Moscow to see the Eatons.

Eaton said he believed the interview and his suggestion to the Soviet premier were "a large factor" in events that led to Khrushchev's visit.

"You ought to see the United States," Eaton said he told the premier. "And he said, 'I would like to see it.'"

Was his suggestion, so far as he knew, the first ever made for Khrushchev to come to this country?

"Yes, I think so—the very first time," Eaton replied.

Correspondents in Moscow cabled back stories of the interview, with mention of Eaton's suggestion. Both the New York Times and the Plain Dealer commented editorially on the Khrushchev-Eaton talks, but neither thought enough of the visit suggestion to explore it in print then.

On other aspects of the interview, the Times commented editorially: "To most of us it will seem a hopeless task that Mr. Eaton attempted in Moscow; to convince the Soviet leader that

capitalists really do not want war."

Eaton himself believes he not only planted the seed for the visit but also had succeeded in doing what the Times considered his "hopeless task."

"I believe I persuaded him it was untrue that the American economy was geared solely to expenditures for armament," Eaton related in the Plain Dealer interview at his home. "I told him what a tremendous burden in taxes it meant and that Americans do not like taxes."



Bertrand Russell first suggested that scientists get together to warn the world of atomic peril. Eaton offered to finance their meetings. This picture was taken at a Pugwash conference in Vienna in 1958. Photo by Howard Skidmore

On one aspect there is no dispute: President Eisenhower, himself, at his Aug. 3 1959, news conference made it plain it was his own idea to invite the Russian leader. But the President noted that the idea was not entirely or uniquely his own.

#### On One Point Confident

But on another point the Eatons were confident of results. The nuclear scientists who gathered at Pugwash, they believe, made great contributions to the cause of nuclear disarmament and the temporary ban on nuclear tests.

"The Pugwash conferences for the first time assembled world nuclear scientists and led to world realization of the great destruction that a nuclear war could bring," Eaton said.

It was on Dec. 27, 1954, his 71st birthday, that Eaton announced he was turning his ancestral home at Pugwash into a "Thinkers' Lodge," where at his expense scholars and other thinking men could gather to meditate in rustic quiet.

Pugwash, a hamlet of 500 inhabitants, is a tiny lobster and lumber-shipping village at the mouth of the Pugwash River. The white, frame lodge overlooks the Northumberland Strait. Eaton has made it quite famous. For a number of years it has been a gathering place for business, education and other leading men.

It was in 1957 that the first group of nuclear scientists, from both sides of the iron and bamboo curtains, first met there.

"For several years before," Eaton explained, "we had been host to Pugwash gatherings of scholars."

#### First Invitation

He recalled that when the Russians were invited to send a scholar to a 1956 meeting "they sent a very distinguished metallurgist."

He was Alexander M. Samarin, a member of the Academy of Sciences of the U.S.S.R. and assistant director of the academy's Institute of Metallurgy.

(Jokingly, the Russian advised Americans trying to pronounce his name to say "Submarine.")

"For a Communist," Mrs. Eaton said, "he was a revelation to the rest of us. He didn't have the slightest interest in political ideology. The Russians apparently thought we were going to

talk about steel."

Eaton denies the Soviets had anything to do with starting the nuclear conferences, although it was believed by many that Russian propaganda had most to gain by such a gathering.

"Einstein was responsible," Eaton said. "Einstein and Bertrand Russell, the British mathematician and philosopher."

A brief London news item in the New York Times, July 10, 1955, gave Eaton the idea of sponsoring such a conference.

The story told of an appeal by nine eminent scientists, including the late Albert Einstein, calling on nations to foreswear war because the hydrogen bomb threatened "the existence of mankind."

#### Russell Was Leader

Russell, a Nobel prize winner, was the leader of the group. Einstein's letter joining in the appeal reached London the day he died in this country in 1955.

The appeal called on scientists from the Communist and free world to join together to drive home to the average man the "very real danger of extermination of the human race."

Eaton promptly wrote to Russell, offering to finance such a gathering at Pugwash.

"We couldn't hold it in the United States because they wouldn't permit the Soviets to come," Eaton said. "India, too, had been suggested."

Eaton won out on his suggestion of Pugwash, where on July 6, 1957, the first Pugwash Conference of Nuclear Scientists was assembled with a score of leading scientists present.

The Canadian government, according to Eaton, had agreed to allow the meetings "with the understanding that it relied on me not to have the meeting turn into a platform for anti-West propaganda."

#### 4 Russians in Group

There were four Russians in the group. Among the American physicists was Dr. Leo Szilard of the University of Chicago, who worked with the late Dr. Enrico Fermi in producing the first nuclear reaction at the university on Dec. 2, 1942.

Communist and non-Communist were a little ill at ease to begin with. The Russians, said Eaton, seemed suspicious.

"They apparently felt, 'Here is a capitalist,' and seemed reluctant," Eaton re-

Cyrus and Anne Eaton in the library of Acadia Farms.

(Plain Dealer Staff Photos by Norbert Yassany)

## Ike's Visit to Russia Will Be Climax to Their Efforts

called. "They seemed very wary.

"But Anne, who was there that year," he recounted with a grin, "broke the iron curtain."

"Before dinner," Mrs. Eaton related, "one of the Russians offered to wheel me down to the lodge. Later Mr. Eaton and I played croquet with two of them, although neither of them spoke English and at the time neither of us spoke any Russian.

"By the time we were through trying to explain croquet, being helpful to each



Scientists meeting in Pugwash sessions

other, the ice was broken."

#### Unforgettable Experience

For her the meeting was an unforgettable experience, Mrs. Eaton said.

"Here were many of the men who had to do with the creation of the bomb, sitting together to prevent its use," she observed.

In a formal statement, given world-wide publicity, the scientists said they came to the "unquestioned conclusion" that unrestricted nuclear war would be a disaster of "unprecedented magnitude."

They also held the time had come for scientists to consider "the implications of their own work," in creating the bomb and new nuclear weapons.

Inspired to rhetoric, Eaton said of the first conference: "The moral chain reaction touched off hopefully may affect the future of mankind as profoundly as that first nuclear chain reaction of 15 years ago in the laboratories of the University of Chicago."

The second Eaton-sponsored conference of the scientists was held at Lac Beauport, a ski resort near Quebec City, because the Pugwash lodge lacked central heating. The session was held from March 31 through April 11, 1958.

#### Another Warning

Out of it came another warning of the consequences of a nuclear conflict and agreement that fallout from nuclear tests, in which the United States and Russia had been engaged for six years, would be responsible for an in-

crease of about 1% over the natural incidence of leukemia and bone cancer in the next few decades.

In a period of 30 years, they computed, there would be 100,000 additional cases of these diseases.

In a general war, the group held, "hundreds of millions of people would be killed outright by the blast of heat and by the ionizing radiation at the instant of explosion," whether clean or dirty bombs were used.

Pointed out also was the danger that intervention by a nuclear power into a small war might lead to use of nuclear weapons.

"It was before and after the 1958 conference," Mrs. Eaton said, "that all the good things began to happen.

#### Reds Stopped Tests

"Just before it was when the Russians stopped nuclear testing. Then, later the same year at the Geneva conferences, there was a general understanding on the reliability of methods to detect atomic explosions, a step forward in the negotiations to end tests."

The third Pugwash conference was held in Vienna in September, 1958, under the auspices of the Austrian government. Eaton, a cosponsor, on his way home from his Russian trip, addressed the group of 82 men from 22 nations. The fourth conference, still retaining the Pugwash tag, also was held in Austria.

For the fifth, held last August, the scientists, their memberships not always the same, met at Pugwash to begin to point a new finger of danger.

This session assessed the dangers of chemical and biological warfare. The world was told:

"In agreement with the Third Pugwash Conference in Vienna, we repeat that, in the end, only the absolute prevention of war will preserve human life and civilization in the face of the chemical and biological as well as nuclear weapons.

"No ban on a single type of weapon, no agreement that leaves the general threat of war in existence, can protect mankind sufficiently. We therefore must look forward to a day when the preservation of peace will transcend the ambitions of individual nations."

#### History Will Judge

History, too, will assess the value of these warnings

(See other side)

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