

Excerpts from Cleveland Editorial Page Comments

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An editorial page analysis by Julian Krawcheck in the December 16, 1958, Cleveland PRESS, stated in part:

"Last Oct. 15 Cyrus Eaton, freshly returned from Russia, stood before a Cleveland Advertising Club audience and declared America must come to terms with the Reds or face annihilation.

He received moderate applause from a respectful but far-from-convinced audience.

Last Saturday, just two months later, he propounded essentially the same thesis, couched in stronger language, before the City Club Forum.

This time Eaton received a thunderous standing ovation.

Did the altered reaction reflect a significant shift in public opinion or merely a different audience?

As a reporter who has specialized in covering world affairs topics for 10 years, I believe Saturday's ovation for Eaton was symptomatic of an important change in public opinion."

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Famed "Breakfast Commentator" Wes Lawrence devoted his entire column in the December 19, 1958, Cleveland PLAIN DEALER to the City Club speech. Here are highlights:

"I journeyed to the City Club today to hear Cyrus Eaton strike another blow for peace, which is to say another blow for survival of the human race. For, as Eaton said, if we do not find a way to live at peace with communism we will inevitably have visited upon us the final peace of total annihilation. From the moment the bomb was dropped on Hiroshima, our mortal enemy on this planet has been war."

"At the end of his talk, the crowded audience rose to its feet and gave him tremendous applause. This was partly, I suppose, a tribute to a man who had not been afraid to express opinions that were unpopular with his countrymen. But it was also, I make bold to believe, an expression of agreement with Eaton's main theme — that man must not destroy himself and extinguish the lamp of life on this lovely planet. Cyrus Eaton's crusade, I said to myself, is beginning to take hold. And so I journeyed homeward with somewhat of a lilt in my step."

