

Cyrus Eaton At 75 Takes Up Mantle Of Peace-Maker

By J. A. Hume
Citizen Staff Writer

A Nova Scotia farm boy from Pugwash, who became an American multi-millionaire in each field of banking, mining and railroading, spent a busy 75th birthday at the Seigniory Club Saturday.

Cyrus S. Eaton, a philanthropist for many years past, now has become a crusading philosopher of world peace. As a modern, capitalistic St. George, the dragon he seeks to slay is not socialistic Communism, but the specter of a nuclear war which would destroy civilization. The famous Pugwash Conferences of scientists, scholars and businessmen have been held within this concept.

On Skiing Jaunt

Mr. Eaton, a courtly gentleman of the old school, went skiing in the morning with three of his 13 grandchildren and three of his McGill student Italian grandnephews. The weatherman provided ideal winter conditions, brilliant sunshine, lots of light snow and a 30-degree temperature.

With Mrs. Eaton, he entertained at a gala luncheon for 38 guests, including members of his family and Ottawa and Cleveland reporters, photographers, radio and television men.

With modest gratification he received almost 100 congratulatory telegrams from Khrushchev and many leading Russians and from numerous Canadian, American and British admirers.

An hour-long, crackling, thought-provoking press conference climaxed the day.

"Canada should recognize Red China instantly," Mr. Eaton declared. "Such action would bring a terrific response in the United States. Dulles would have the choice of going along or resigning, thus altering the American fanatical policy toward Russia and China. Canada is in the best shape of any nation to speak up, clearly and boldly, for world peace in protest against disastrous American foreign policies.

"As to Russia, it's going to be peace by agreement or peace by universal death," Mr. Eaton warned. "It is better to live with the Russians, on a co-existence basis, than to die with them."

Pithy Comments

Other Canadian comments Mr. Eaton made:

1. "Canada needs capital, but there is not the slightest threat to her economy from American capital because no investor there wishes to interfere with your government.

2. "My great hope for Canada is that this nation will push development and civilization to

the remote areas of the North, thereby building up great vigor of body.

3. "For my native Nova Scotia, I have plans to promote improved economic conditions by developing the American tourist trade through the propagation of fish and game in protected areas."

4. He quoted with approval comments by such Canadians

MR. EATON SPEAKS OUT



I Have Plans . . .



It Is Better To Live



U.S. Is Unpopular

as James Muir, "a careful, prudent Scotch banker," and John Wilson, professor of physics at the University of Toronto, following visits to Red China.

U.S. Affairs

On American affairs, carrying their impact on Canada and the world, Mr. Eaton made these points:

"I hope for an ever-increasing number of voices amongst churchmen, scientists, businessmen and journalists standing for a sensible alternative policy to that of risking everything we have on a Russian war.

"I look for such an issue to emerge in Congress and for a Democratic presidential candidate of stature to realize the time has come to end the cold war. Judging by the overwhelming anti-Republican vote on Nov. 4, the Democrats should capture the White House in the 1960 election.

"When I visited Russia last August and had an hour-and-a-half talk with Mr. Khrushchev, I became convinced that he and the Russians do not want war. Mr. Khrushchev told me they believe their own scientists that a nuclear war would destroy the human race beyond imagination.

"I believe we can reach an agreement with the Russians under Mr. Khrushchev's leadership. I have complete confidence they would keep such an agreement because it is so greatly to Khrushchev's and Russia's advantage to do so, with all the things they have to do in education, housing, industry, etc.

A Proud Nation

"Russia is a powerful and proud nation, whom we should treat as an equal. Yet Dulles and the United States talk of overthrowing Communism and of taking away their satellites. That is just idle talk because we could not do it. It is part of our American habit to talk and act on the boastful side.

"The United States is unpopular today in Europe, in Asia, and in Africa. American politicians, with their prejudices, have been the chief offenders in stirring up animosity and propaganda. I think the Russians have shown restraint and forbearance with us.

"Dulles, a crafty lawyer and a persuasive man, is an ill man. He has no right to bring the world to the brink of disaster because of his fanatical prejudices. The greatest new year present that could happen to the world would be for Dulles to resign.

"President Eisenhower is an honorable man, with a wonderful personality, but he has made the mistake of relying on Dulles.

"I am looking forward to meeting Mr. Mikoyan, Russian vice-premier, in Washington early in the new year. I believe we should have more interchange of visits. I would like to see Diefenbaker or Eisenhower invite Khrushchev here because he told me he would like to see the United States and Canada.

Another Conference

"Bertrand Russell, chairman of the Pugwash Conference committee, is now working out plans for another conference of scientists, businessmen, etc., along the lines of those held in recent years at Pugwash, Lac Beauport, Que., and at Vienna.

"I have no political aspirations myself. I have such a stake in business that it would not be possible for me to take up politics. I hope that my

wife, some day, will run for the U.S. Senate.

"It cannot be denied that Russia has made terrific progress, economically, militarily, and as to outer space, but no one can accuse me, for a minute, of being anything else than an American capitalist."

Among those who sent Mr. Eaton birthday telegrams, many wishing him success with his peace crusade, were Prime Minister and Mrs. Diefenbaker (the latter being "a 42nd cousin"), Duncan K. MacTavish, Earl Russell, Lord Beaverbrook, Austrian President Schaefer, Nehru, Ontario Premier Frost, Nova Scotia Premier Stanfield, Prince Edward Island Premier Matheson, railway presidents Donald Gordon and N. R. Crump, university principal Dr. Cyril James and

bankers James Muir and A. C. Ashworth.

Khrushchev's telegram read: "I congratulate you wholeheartedly on the 75th anniversary of your birthday. I wish you energy, good health, and success in your noble activities for the benefit of peace and friendship between our countries. With sincere respect."

Mr. Eaton and his first wife, Mary Macpherson, who died three years ago, had a family of two sons, Cyrus Eaton, Jr., 40, and Macpherson, 32, a student for the Baptist ministry, and five daughters.

The present Mrs. Eaton, whom he married on December 21 last year, is the former Mrs. Anne Kinder Jones, a descendant of Sir Charles Tupper, with a 14-year-old daughter,

Alice. A victim of polio, 10 years ago, Mrs. Eaton accompanies her husband on all his travels although she is confined to a paraplegic chair.

Mrs. Eaton was toastmistress for the speeches at the Fountain Room luncheon, commenting on Mr. Eaton's many varied interests with delightful wit and enthusiasm.

Keeps Up On Wheels

"The only thing Mr. Eaton has never done with his feet is to stand still," she quipped. "I have only been able to keep up with him because I have been fortunate enough to be on wheels."

"Cy Jr. was put on a horse at the age of one and learned to swim in the ice water of Nova Scotia," Mr. Eaton remarked. "He has been a rowing, hockey and football star.

Because he survived life with father, he was able to survive a German prison camp, and three attempted escapes after being shot down while a bomber pilot with the USAF."

Cyrus Jr., a modest young man, directing head of his father's interests in the Ungava Iron Ore Company, contented himself with toasting his father as "one of the finest sportsmen I know."

It was three of the four children of Mr. and Mrs. Cyrus Eaton Jr., who went skiing with their grandfather: Cyrus III, 12; John, 11; and Kathie, eight. Elizabeth, five, had a cold and had to remain indoors.

Present for the skiing and the luncheon were Mr. Eaton's three grandnephews, sons of Count and Countess Brenciaglia of Rome, all nuclear physics students at McGill University—Luigi, 23; Giovanni, 20, and Paolo, 18.

Mrs. Eaton introduced Giovanni Brenciaglia at the luncheon as coming from the land of the Borgias. "Giovanni's ancestors included a sister of a Pope, a sister of Napoleon, and Cyrus Eaton as a granduncle," Mrs. Eaton remarked.

In saluting his granduncle, Giovanni recalled how the late Pope Pius XII had written Mr. Eaton warmly endorsing the peace and understanding objectives of the Pugwash Conferences.

Harold Furst, Seigniory Club secretary, Ted Princiotto, Cleveland Plain Dealer reporter, and The Citizen representative all spoke briefly expressing warm appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Eaton for their bountiful hospitality.

There was a big birthday cake, with candles of course, which Mr. Eaton cut with ceremony, amid the singing of "Happy Birthday" and "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

Mr. Eaton proved himself, during the five hours we were in his company, to be a most courteous, co-operative, unassuming gentleman. Obviously, he is a man of deep convictions, courageous enough to face unpopularity and misunderstanding concerning his crusade for peace.

An outdoors man all his life, he ascribed his good health and vigor to exercise. He is a non-smoker and takes only an occasional drink of Scotch. Ruddy complexioned and clean-shaven, Mr. Eaton has expressive hands, twinkling eyes, with a crown of thick snow-white hair.

As we left the post-Christmas gaiety of the Seigniory Club to motor back to the Capital, there was a unanimous feeling it had been a memorable occasion sharing in the 75th birthday celebration of a great Canadian-born American of our time.



MODERN ST. GEORGE RIDES THE SLOPES

Cyrus Eaton, Canadian-born head of a \$2,000,000,000 industrial empire, was far removed from his usual routine when he celebrated his 75th birthday on Saturday. He is pictured on skis with younger members of the Eaton family while spending the holidays

at the exclusive Seigniory Club, at Montebello. Following behind Mr. Eaton are, in order: Grandchildren Cathy, 8, and John, 11, and Cyrus III, 12; Step-daughter Alice Jones; Grand Nephews Giovanna and Paolo Brenciaglia.

—Photo by Newton