



Cyrus Eaton and wife are driven in a horse-drawn victoria around the grounds of their model farm near Cleveland. Top: Soviet statesmen

always make a point of visiting Eaton and he has been host to many of the leading Communists. He is welcome in Moscow, Havana, Hanoi.

CYRUS EATON:

The Communists' Best Capitalist Friend

by Connecticut Walker

CLEVELAND, OHIO.

According to the Russians the best friend they have in the United States is a multimillionaire capitalist named Cyrus Eaton who behaves like a self-delegated arbiter of international peace.

At 87, Eaton is a handsome, venerable, courtly, white-haired gentleman with a personal fortune estimated at \$100 million and an industrial empire which includes interests in two railroads and six major steel corporations.

A protégé of sorts of the late John D. Rockefeller Sr., who hired him 70 years ago as a \$5-per-week errand boy, Eaton has been regularly denounced as "a fellow-traveler . . . a pinko . . . a commie-symp, and one of those radical-libs

soft on Communism."

The reason for this is that each time a top Soviet statesman visits this country he makes it a point to call on Eaton and envelop him in a crushing bear hug. Moreover, each time Eaton sets foot in Moscow, Havana, and Hanoi, the Communist functionaries roll out the red carpet for him.

Now Nixon

Although President Nixon flies to Moscow next year in an effort to promote Soviet-American friendship, such friendships in the past have always been considered suspect by the hard-liners in this country; hence the denunciations of Eaton as a Communist and a traitor

rather than the prophet he's turned out to be.

A gentle, soft-spoken man with a high tolerance quotient, Eaton understands the splenetic ventings of his detractors.

"I know," he says, "my views aren't popular. One can't be as frank as I've been and not create critics. There are very sincere people in this country who hold that a man who'd visit with Khrushchev, and who is a friend of Kosygin, Brezhnev, and Gromyko must be an enemy of the nation. But they are wrong.

"I am a capitalist," he proudly declares. "I believe in our system. In the long run I think that it's probably the

best yet devised, but it's far from perfect. It often goes wrong. The final answers to any of the great problems in economics or politics or government have not yet been found, so I've ceased to be dogmatic. If you've got a different system, try it out. If you're highly successful in it, fine and dandy. I don't think that there's anything sacred about any system of government or economics, so I've an open mind."

Host for Journalists

Eaton's activities as an international agent for peace began in 1955 when a high-ranking U.S. State Department official persuaded him to host a group of visiting Russian journalists, among



them Khrushchev's influential son-in-law, Alexsei Adzhubei. "They wanted to see how a typical capitalist lives," Eaton explains. "I wasn't particularly keen on the idea, and besides, I don't think I was typical."

Thus, reluctantly, the then 71-year-old chairman of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railway began another career—promoting East-West understanding. His enthusiasm led him in 1957 to set up the now famous "Pugwash Conferences," named for the small Nova Scotia village of 800 where Eaton was born, maintains a lodge, and holds many of the talks. Eaton's motive for the conferences was to offer world scholars, statesmen, labor leaders and businessmen an opportunity to "relax together, exchange views, and sharpen their own thinking" about international issues.

Pugwash continues

To date 21 "Pugwash" meetings have been held throughout the world. Another is scheduled for next September in Oxford, England. William Polk, a former State Department official who heads the Adlai Stevenson Institute in Chicago, credits the conferences with laying the ground work for the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (SALT).

Mr. Eaton's international interests have caused him also to become an exalted tour guide. He helped arrange for the U.S. visits of two Soviet Premiers. The late Nikita Khrushchev wanted to visit Eaton's 860-acre Acadia Farms just outside of Cleveland, but American and Soviet security agents vetoed the trip. Instead Eaton threw a banquet for Khrushchev at the Waldorf-Astoria in 1959. As a thank-you gift and in recogni-

tion of Eaton's earlier present of a prize Scotch Shorthorn bull, Khrushchev sent his American host a troika and a team of three matched white Russian stallions. Anastas Mikoyan, then Soviet deputy premier, presented the gift on Khrushchev's behalf, while irate Clevelanders staged a street demonstration, protesting the Soviet statesman's presence in their city.

Boar's head gift

The Eatons were also gifted with a wild boar's head shot by Khrushchev and a landscape oil painting. In May 1968 they hosted the entire company of the Bolshoi Ballet at their Cleveland estate which is where they've also entertained Kosygin's daughter.

Such lavish hospitality has paid off. In January, 1967, Eaton's son, Cyrus Jr., joined forces with the Rockefeller brothers, another recognized band of capitalists, to stimulate worldwide trade with the Communist countries.

As head of Tower International Inc., Eaton Jr., along with the Rockefellers, has helped build hotels in Prague, Budapest, Bucharest, and Warsaw. The corporation also handled MGM's negotiations with Hungary for the production of *The Fixer*, a film based on Bernard Malamud's novel.

To avoid clashing with U.S. laws against lending money for major projects in Communist countries, the financing for many Tower projects is arranged through a subsidiary in Switzerland.

According to Congressman John R. Rarick of Louisiana, a Communist-hater of mountainous rage, the Eaton-Rockefeller partnership "is seen as a combining the investment skills and resources





Nikita Khrushchev was Eaton's host in Moscow. The late premier wanted to visit Eaton's farm during 1959 U.S. trip, but security agents turned him down.

of the Rockefellers and the special entree to Communist officialdom that Tower enjoys largely as a result of contacts cultivated over the last 15 years by Cyrus Eaton Sr., always welcomed as a V.I.P. in Communist countries."

Kosygin buys beef

Cyrus Eaton's most recent venture with the Soviets occurred a few weeks ago when he sold Premier Kosygin 350 head of choice beef cattle, 80 of which came from his own prize-winning stock.

This deal, Eaton points out, could lead to Soviet purchases of as many as 200,000 American beef and dairy cattle within the next two years.

"The Russians," he says, "are trying

their present dual-type of cattle, raised for meat and milk, to specialized breeds of fast-gaining beef cattle and high yielding dairy cattle which we raise in this country."

Eaton has urged U.S. authorities to allow giant transport planes to land in Illinois, Ohio, Colorado, and other states to load cattle and thereby avoid lengthy shipment by sea. He feels strongly that if a dollar can be earned by trading with the Soviets, the American farmer should get his rightful share. Why should the Soviets trade with France, England, West Germany, Japan, and other major capitalistic countries and not with us?

The industrialist says that his numer-



Premier Kossygin and Eaton have visited each other, and Kossygin's daughter once stayed at Eaton's farm.



Fidel Castro saw the Eatons in Cuba in 1969 when the multi-millionaire and his wife were guests of the Cuban Government.



In 1961, Eaton (c) was in Bulgaria for a special ceremony welcoming cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin.

CYRUS EATON CONTINUED

ous international schemes "are really my attempts to make up for lost time.

"If I were 25 again," he muses, "I'd be more concerned with international relations than I was. I was born into the British Empire when Queen Victoria was still alive, and I was carried away with pride and joy at being a part of an institution of that size. But what happened to it?

"Two world wars impoverished and dissolved the empire. I had to go through two wars and visit many of the countries of the world and talk to many heads of state, to scientists, journalists and scholars to realize how the aggressive instinct of man, the readiness to fight, to wage war had taken possession of the world. How stupid and suicidal man has become."

In keeping with these sentiments Eaton has vociferously opposed the Vietnamese war from the beginning. He cites excessive military spending as the major reason for our present monetary crisis.

the dollar," he wrote in a column for *The New York Times* a few months ago, "is to cut out the expense of maintaining Americans, troops, wives and children in the style to which they have become accustomed all over the world." He added a sentence not designed to win him friends in the White House: . . . "Three Wall Street lawyers, Nixon, Mitchell and Rogers are spending the taxpayers' money around the world like drunken sailors."

Frank and fearless

Eaton is transparently frank and fearless. "As a capitalist," he says, "I feel that the Communists are not trying to change us. They can't change us from capitalism. The only way to accomplish that is if we go broke trying to confine and restrain them. The greatest enemy of capitalism are those fanatics in the U.S. who are willing to have this country go bankrupt in its efforts to confine and destroy Communism."

doxically he was turned away from the church and towards business by his uncle, the Reverend Charles A. Eaton, one of whose parishioners was John D. Rockefeller Sr. The Standard Oil magnate hired Eaton in 1901 as a clerk, errand boy. The young Eaton, in turn, adopted Rockefeller as his mentor and business as his profession.

After earning a B.A. in 1905 from McMaster University in Toronto, Eaton became a Rockefeller protégé. Two years later he borrowed enough money to build a power plant in Canada. Soon he was worth millions.

At one time or another Eaton has controlled Goodyear Tire and Rubber Co., held major interests in B. F. Goodrich Co. and Firestone Tire and Rubber Co. He formed Republic Steel Corp. by merging several steel companies. Republic is now the nation's fourth largest steelmaker. Subsequently, Eaton became involved in the Chesapeake & Ohio Railway, to which he was elected

ness activity.

Eaton prides himself on accomplishments outside of business. "I like to think of myself as a philosopher," he says. (He was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 1963 and received the Lenin Peace Prize in 1960.) "I've been a farmer for 60 years. I'm interested in producing good horses and cattle. And I've achieved good health, exercising a fair amount of self-control and getting plenty of physical exercise."

Rides horses

Eaton shuns tobacco, alcohol, and spicy foods. He gave up ice hockey at 70, tennis at 75, and skiing at 80, but he still rides horseback several times a week. He arrives at his downtown Cleveland office before 8:30 a.m., works there until early afternoon. He spends the remainder of his day tramping around his farm, horseback-riding, reading, or talking with his wife, Anne Kinder Eaton, who married for the second time when she was 35.

Eaton, a widower for 20 years and father of seven children, was 73 when he married Anne Kinder who had attended boarding school with his youngest daughter, Farlee.

Blonde, attractive, high-spirited and strong-willed, Anne Eaton is a vital companion to a husband whose growing deafness makes it necessary for her to repeat often remarks which he has not heard. Despite a severe handicap—she has been confined to wheelchair ever since she was stricken with polio 26 years ago—Mrs. Eaton accompanies her husband on his worldwide travels.

Speaks Russian

She is a Vassar graduate who taught herself Russian before she and her husband first visited there in 1958. Recently she has been busy restoring the original Eaton home in Pugwash. The house has been named Thinkers Lodge and is furnished with old English and Nova Scotian furniture. In the half-year which the house has been open to the public, 2800 tourists have visited the place. As a result the small picturesque village of Pugwash, famous for both Eaton and lobster, is enjoying a bit of welcome prosperity.

Anne Eaton's explanation of why the world pays attention to her maverick millionaire husband is modest and practical: "People all over the world want to know how to run better railroads. They want to know how to improve their crops and cattle. They want to know how to live peacefully and healthfully. My husband has been a successful railroad man, a successful farmer, and finally he's a healthy, reasonable man aware of others' and his own limitations.

"Thus, when he speaks people listen to him. Or at least," she adds smiling, "they should."