

Feb. 4, 1965

Attached list of questions used in interview by George Condon with Mr. Eaton today. Mr. Eaton said they did not get through all of them and that he promised Condon another session.

B. CYRUS PATON:

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2. How did you happen to win employment at John D. Rockefeller, and how long did you work for him? What were your duties? What ~~is~~ is your most vivid memory of that association?
3. Why did John D. Rockefeller endow ~~the~~ the University of Chicago rather than a Cleveland college or university?
4. Why did John D. leave Cleveland to take up residence elsewhere? Did he feel this city had treated him unfairly or badly?
5. What are your recollections of other great men of that period early in the century, men like Tom L. Johnson, Newton D. Baker, Peter Witt, the Van Sweringens?
6. Who was the greatest Clevelander you ever knew?
7. You are criticized in many quarters for being too friendly with the Soviet Union and yet you are also recognized as one of America's leading capitalists. Does the criticism hurt you? And how do you reconcile the apparent conflict between your position as a capitalist system leader and your friendship with the Soviet leaders.
8. What, in your opinion, led to Khrushchev's downfall?
9. What has been, to date, your greatest achievement as a financier?
10. What are some of your current financial interests so far as you are willing to divulge them.
11. What do you think of Cleveland as it now stands?
12. What do you think the future holds for this city?
13. What do you find here that is most praiseworthy, and what phase of this community's life and personality is most irksome to you?

SUGGESTED SUBJECTS FOR DISCUSSION BY MR. CYRUS EATON:

1. The circumstances that brought about your adoption of Cleveland as your home city, and what kind of a city was this ~~it~~ at the turn of the century.
2. How did you happen to win employment by John D. Rockefeller, and how long did you work for him? What were your duties? What ~~was~~ is your most vivid memory of that association?
3. Why did John D. Rockefeller endow ~~the~~ the University of Chicago rather than a Cleveland college or university?
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THE PLAIN DEALER

(CLEVELAND, THURSDAY, MORNING, JANUARY 21, 1965

George E. Condon

The Empire Builder

Cleveland is a city that is full of self-reproach for its own obvious shortcomings, but sometimes I wonder if we aren't too hard on ourselves. The way we sprawl along the southern shoreline of Lake Erie cannot be considered a posture of complete elegance, it is true, but this is still a very young city. We forget how young.

The entire history of Cleveland is bridged by just a few generations. Just 169 years ago, less than a twinkle as time is measured, this was a magnificent forest; a wilderness of unlimited prospects. It's incredible, of course, that man could have wrought so much damage in so short a time, but it is also wonderful that a great metropolis could have arisen in the same brief period.

We are still so young that some of the hands that shaped and formed the city are still among us.

ONE SUCH MAN, SURELY, is Cyrus Eaton, who usually is identified simply as a "Cleveland financier," which has to be an absurd simplification and summation of a most complex individual and a career that is inextricably involved in the history of the modern city. Even so, Eaton is kind of a shadowy, mysterious personality in the civic life, better known for his international views than for his local activity.

Eaton has been a Clevelander for 65 years, and during his long career here he has become one of the legendary names, like those of John D. Rockefeller, Newton D. Baker and Tom L. Johnson, all of whom he knew well as a contemporary.

From his office window on the 36th floor of the Terminal Tower, Eaton can



GEORGE E. CONDON

look down on the Public Square where he began his career by helping to lay down pipes for the new East Ohio Gas Co., an upstart organization that peddled natural gas at half the price of artificial gas and thereby drove out of business a formidable company called the Cleveland Gas Light & Coke Co.

EATON HAD A PART in the evolution of all Cleveland's utilities with the exception of the municipally owned waterworks. Once, for example, he brought order out of chaos in the telephone business here at a time when every city had competing phone systems and subscribers often had to have two phones for complete service. Eaton merged independent telephones systems in Cleveland, Youngstown, Akron, Toledo, Columbus and Cincinnati into the Ohio State Telephone Co., which he then consolidated with the Bell System.

Eaton is an industrialist and his influence has been felt in the steel business, railroads, paint companies, machine tool companies and other concerns, but perhaps he is best known for the utility empire he once built in the United States and Canada. He is the largest single stockholder in the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co. today.

ONCE EATON ALSO WAS the largest single stockholder in the old Cleveland Railway Co. He sold his stock to the Van Sweringens at \$110 a share and saw the same stock later drop to \$17 a share. And it was Eaton who negotiated the sale of the railway company to the City of Cleveland and arranged the necessary financing.

"I came here in 1900," he says, "and it has been my good fortune to live a long time. But I've never had an idle hour."

You have to believe him, if you study Cleveland history.