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'K' Wants Ike Visit--Eaton

Cyrus S. Eaton, the multi-millionaire capitalist who has faith in Russia's offers of friendship, revealed in Detroit today that Premier Khrushchev wants President Eisenhower to visit Russia as quickly as possible.

Since returning from the Soviet in September, Eaton has suggested that a goodwill tour of Russia by the President might establish permanent peace.

In an address today at the Economic Club, the industrialist disclosed that the proposal was made directly by Khrushchev.

EATON SAID he believed Eisenhower should accept in an effort to save civilization from destruction.

"A bomb dropped anywhere within 40 miles of Detroit would obliterate life and leave your city in dust and ashes," Eaton warned.

"There is no defense against nuclear warfare."

The Cleveland industrialist, who will be 75 next month, is chairman of the board of the C. & O. Railroad and controls an industrial empire estimated at two billion dollars.

HIS GATHERINGS of scientists and intellectuals for "think sessions" in Pugwash, Nova Scotia—his birthplace—have brought world recognition to Eaton that could not have been attained by great wealth.

Eaton toured Russia in September, invited there by Khrushchev. He spent 90 minutes with the Soviet premier,

discussing roads to permanent peace through an interpreter.

He related the conversation as it pertained to Eisenhower in this way:

"In reply to my question on how our two countries can move toward friendship and understanding, Khrushchev said that a first and important step would be a goodwill visit by President Eisenhower to the Soviet.

"Mr. K thought it would be fruitful for the President to determine the friendliness of the Russian people and their government for himself, and to observe at first hand the progress that the nation is making.

"For his own part, Mr. K said he would like to pay a visit to the United States and Canada, to see for himself our great cities, our railroads and our agriculture.

"I told Mr. K that this sounded like a good sensible program, to me and that, in my modest and unofficial way, I would encourage it."

EATON cited the fact that Russia had been visited recently by three delegations of specialists, including an electric power group headed by Walker Cislner, president of Detroit Edison. He pointed out that all three groups testified to the friendliness and kindness of the Russian people.

"If visits like these can be productive," Eaton continued, "would it not be worthwhile to have a political delegation headed by the President go to the Soviet Union?"

Eaton said both capitalism

and communism could flourish in the same world.

Eaton denounced Secretary of State Dulles and said the recent Democratic election sweep was due partly to distrust of Dulles by the voters.

"Dulles goes gally on, gambling with the destiny of the world without restraint from any quarter," the industrialist said. "He blithely courts the ultimate world catastrophe of the bomb, without consultation with the foreign relations committees of Congress."

Among "Eatonisms" given the Economic Club by the courtly, white-haired capitalist were:

"I saw enough (in Russia) to convince me that communism is not likely to crumble from within, despite all the wishful thinking by our diehard, sandy-headed political and economic ostriches."

"Watch Russians at their jobs and you conclude that love of hard work occupies a high place in their credo."

"I BELIEVE the people of Russia match the American populace both in capacity for friendliness and in love of peace."

"If instalment buying ever is introduced in the Soviet—and my hunch is that it will come—the consequent increase in demand for consumer products will create a mass market well worth American attention."

"I would not know where to look for the American who would trade our system for the Russian way. On the other hand, I think we Americans

must take full cognizance of the fact that the Russians are enthusiastically sold on their system."

"They are as imbued with devotion to Mother Russia as we are with respect to our beloved Stars and Stripes."

"At the top of Mr. K's agenda is a broad expansion of schools, colleges and other educational facilities, requiring hundreds of thousands of new buildings and additional teachers."

"If the two giants (Russia and the United States) agree, the rest of the world will pose no major problem."

"I VENTURED to suggest to Mr. K that, in due course, the American industrialist, the labor leader and the American farmer would demonstrate that they agree with me. Meanwhile, I suggested patience and forbearance on the Russian part."

"Ever-increasing expenditures (on the cold war) have been accompanied by ever-increasing hatred and bitterness. Continuation of the cold war will create a crushing burden of taxation that will bankrupt us."

"I would like to suggest that our government quit subsidizing socialism in other countries."

"I suggest that in every important industry in the United States, there should be a meeting at least once a month between top management and labor leaders to discuss their mutual problem in friendly spirit."

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Detroit Times

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1958

Eaton Laughs, Warns

By Frank Morris

After a half century of empire building and writing personal checks for as much as 18 million dollars, Cyrus Eaton could be expected to burn with anger if made an object of laughter.

At the Economic Club yesterday, 920 Detroiters laughed loudly when Eaton was reminded that his country might like to trade him to Russia for Boris Pasternak, who has been compelled to decline a Nobel prize for his book criticizing the Soviet.

For one fleeting moment, the warm sparkle left the eyes of this 75-year-old capitalist who is the most literate American defending Russia without being on the suspect list of the FBI.

HE TOOK OUT his glasses and glanced at the written question from the audience—a question that included the proposed trade.

And then Eaton laughed, too. But the courtly, gentle, white haired Eaton gave the proposition the serious attention he gives to all statements involving the future of the United States and the world. "Pasternak would not want to live anywhere but in Russia," commented Eaton, who was born in Canada and became a U. S. citizen in 1913.

"AND I COULD live nowhere than in America. Although I am an adopted son, I don't think anyone can love the United States more than I."

The largest crowd in the history of the club jammed into the ballroom of Veterans' Memorial for Eaton's address.

If they went to scoff at the industrialist's faith in the sincerity of the Soviet's offer of friendship, all left with a new awareness of the possible penalty of doubting—a penalty that could obliterate life and turn the world to dust and ashes.

As chairman of the board of the C. & O. Railroad, and the controlling figure in enterprises worth two billion dollars, Eaton has been a rough-and-tumble fighter on the Wall Street scene most of his life.

HE HAS LOST fortunes and made fortunes. His check for 18 million dollars was written in 1926 to save the Trumbull Steel Co. of Warren, O.

But he is the antithesis of the flinty capitalist with the big cigar and the cruel heart. Eaton set out in life to become a Baptist preacher.

Instead, when a young man he went to work for the late John D. Rockefeller. Before long, he was creating his first public utility empire.

But Eaton never lost the gentle grace and love of humanity that would have blessed his career had he remained in



CAPITALIST CYRUS EATON, 75, AND HIS WIFE WHO VISITED DETROIT
Refusal of U. S. to trust Russia is frustrating, he tells Economic Club audience

Detroit Times Photo

the service of his church.

HE DOESN'T smoke or drink, or swear—even at a ticker tape.

The years have been kind. The lines they have made accentuate his friendly eyes and smile and are the lines of character.

As he talked yesterday in a suite at the Statler Hilton Hotel, a crew of five secretaries and assistants bustled in nearby rooms.

It became obvious that his faith in the ancient dream of goodwill on earth is not a new plaything of a mind grown tired from the demands of commerce.

IT HAS BEEN there since his boyhood in Pugwash, Nova Scotia, on the northern coast where the wet winter winds scream down from the ice packs and summers are as glorious as the scent of arbutus.

No tired old man is this advocate of faith among men.

He is at his office in Cleveland at 8 a.m. every working day although the 160-year-old farmhouse in which he lives is halfway to Akron.

On his 75th birthday next Dec. 27, Eaton will be skiing in Quebec. Mrs. Eaton will be with him. Although confined to a wheel chair since an attack

by polio, Mrs. Eaton is his constant traveling companion and was with him during a visit to Russia in September.

EATON STILL rides regularly at his farms in Ohio and in Nova Scotia, where he raises show horses and prize Scottish shorthorn cattle.

He still skates. But he has not played hockey since 1955, when he took up skiing as a regular winter activity.

He is erect, paunchless, and there is a spring in his walk. He speaks quietly, choosing his words in the manner of a scholar—which he is.

Eaton's several "think sessions" at Pugwash attended by scholars, intellectuals, scientists and philosophers from throughout the world have given him new stature far above his high place as a capitalist.

They have been publicized widely in the last three years. Actually, Eaton started these gatherings 12 years ago. He has remained a host who is more of a bystander than a participant.

HE HOPES these gatherings of the best minds from both sides of all curtains will help the world find permanent peace and an end to the bankrupting cold war.

To Eaton, the refusal of the United States to trust Khrushchev is frustrating.

"If two major industries were on a brink of a disastrous clash that could kill both, the presidents would sit down at lunch and find a solution," he said.

"President Eisenhower and Khrushchev can follow the same procedure.

"Khrushchev is pleading for the opportunity.

"Secretary of State Dulles, who is terrorized by all things smacking of socialism, won't let Eisenhower take even one step toward the Soviet."

IN EATON'S eyes, the problem is that simple.

He said he thinks he is making progress in his attempt to get his message through to the mothers and fathers of the United States.

He is a man rich in faith. So he will keep trying as long as he is able.

"They say this planet is less than a grain of sand in the universe," he sighed.

"But it is important to us because it is the only one we shall ever visit.

"Let's not destroy it."