



# *In the* **MERCURY'S OPINION**

BY RUSSELL MAGUIRE

**A**N IMPORTANT SPEECH was made in Chicago, Illinois, on August 9, 1954. Dr. J. B. Matthews, the outstanding authority on Communism in our country and a Contributing Editor of the *AMERICAN MERCURY*, on that night discussed "Moscow's Religious Fifth Column in the U.S."

It is, of course, impossible to print here the entire speech. It is imperative, however, that we listen to a portion of Dr. Matthews' address that we may give it the thought it deserves.

Dr. Matthews said:

Just four days ago, the World Presbyterian Alliance issued a message to its constituent churches, including those behind the Iron Curtain. The message included this amazing exhortation: "Be loyal to the government of the nation in which you live . . ." That exhortation reveals the ultimate moral bankruptcy of this large segment of the leadership of Protestant Christianity.

I charge that Bishop Peter [of the Hungarian Delegation] is a Soviet agent sent to Evanston [to the meeting of the World Council of Churches] for the express purpose of

keeping tab on his fellow delegates from Hungary.

I further charge that Bishop Peter successfully carried out a murderous mission to Cairo, Egypt, under instructions from his Communist bosses in Budapest, on which mission he persuaded one Sornoky of the Hungarian Embassy in Cairo to return to Hungary to face death at the hands of the Hungarian Communist butchers.

I charge that Bishop Peter was fully informed of the purpose of his diabolical mission to Cairo, and that he was selected for this mission for the sole reason that he was related to

Sornoky by family ties. I state, with all possible solemnity, that the foregoing facts are known to some of the highest officials of the United States Government, and that they have been available to Bishop Oxnham and other leaders of the World Council of Churches.

Anyone who reads the Protestant press of the United States — and I assure you that I read it regularly and with intense interest — can detect that it is permeated by certain propagandistic assumptions, fallacies, illusions, and untenable optimisms. I challenge the prevailing temper and tone of the press of the major Protestant denominations.

I challenge the easy-going optimism, which is unsupported by any facts, that we must inevitably win because truth is on our side. I reject, on the empirical evidence of history, any form of determinism — economic, moral, or religious. I believe that man has been created morally free; and that means that he is free to destroy himself, both individually and collectively.

I challenge the illusion that the United States must inevitably win the next and decisive war of history, simply because we have won, or appeared to win, all the wars of the past in which we have been involved. Today, we have lost every contest with international Communism.

**I** CHALLENGE the illusion that the United Nations is an instrument of peace. I hold that it could not be

less of a cruel hoax if it had been organized in hell for the sole purpose of aiding and abetting the destruction of the United States. I hold that the sooner we withdraw from membership and send its delegations scurrying to the four corners of the earth, whence they came, the greater will be our security.

I challenge the basic intelligence of those who vociferously oppose the diplomatic recognition of Red China by the United States and do not at the same time demand the severance of all diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union and all her satellites. We are in the ludicrous position of entertaining the devil as a house guest, but slamming the front door on one of his little imps.

I challenge the assumption that as a nation we have any enduring friends or allies. We have only enduring national interests.

I challenge the fallacy — dangerous in the extreme — that any form of socialism, whether the Norman Thomas, the ADA, or the Republican brand, is any “third force” or “vital center” which can mediate the conflict between freedom and Communism. The historic role of socialism is to bring about the deterioration of the collective morale of any nation that adopts it, or in other words, to make that nation a pushover for Communist conquest.

I challenge the Pollyanna notion that Christianity possesses any superiority that automatically guarantees its survival in any given country

or in any given age. Christianity faces its second major crisis in almost two thousand years. The crisis with which the Christian world is confronted in the twentieth century is comparable only with that which it faced from the conquests of Islam.

Within a hundred years after the Hegira, or Mohammed's flight from Mecca to Medina, in 622 A.D., Islam had built an empire which surpassed in power and extent that of Rome at her zenith. In land after land, in Near Asia and Africa, Christianity was all but obliterated.

For a thousand years after the Hegira, Christianity stood at the crossroads. It was not until the seventeenth century that the issue was settled when the Ottoman Turks were finally stopped at the gates of Vienna by Rudiger Von Strahremberg's heroic defense of the city.

Today, we face a far more formidable foe.

A FEW months ago, I visited the tomb of John the Baptist in the Omayyad Mosque in Damascus. In the fourth century, Theodosius of Rome built the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist on the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter. In the eighth century, the Cathedral was transformed by the Omayyad caliph of Damascus, Al-Walid I, into one of the most impressive mosques of the Moslem world. I could not help but wonder if most of the Christians who worshipped in the Cathedral of St. John the Baptist in the late

seventh and early eighth centuries did not fatally underestimate the fanatical nature and power of the Moslem threat and believe that somehow their faith and its institutions would survive indestructible. Twelve centuries have come and gone; and still the cry, *Allahu Akbar!* is heard from the minaret.

Last Christmas Day, after spending Christmas Eve in Bethlehem, I walked about the narrow streets of the Old City of Jerusalem until I came to the 8th Station of the Cross on the Via Dolorosa, where I had lived in a small hospice 28 years before.

You will remember the New Testament account of what happened at the 8th Station of the Cross. I quote it: "And there followed him a great company of people, and of women, which also bewailed and lamented him. But Jesus turning unto them said, Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for me, but weep for yourselves, and for your children, for, behold, the days are coming, in which they shall say, Blessed are the barren, and the wombs that never bear, and the paps that never gave suck."

On New Year's Day, I stood under the Arch of Titus in Rome, built to commemorate his total destruction of Jerusalem in the year 70 A.D.

The Christians in Damascus probably forgot that nations and civilizations rise and fall. Christians in the United States are today forget-

ting this extremely important fact.

The Jews in Jerusalem probably paid little heed to the warning of Jesus, and also forgot that nations and civilizations rise and fall.

We must not forget. We must awaken immediately and take action.

More appropriate for us than for the British fifty-seven years ago are the words of Kipling's *Recessional*:

God of our fathers, know of old,  
 Lord of our far-flung battle line,  
 Beneath whose awful hand we hold  
 Dominion over palm and pine —  
 Lord God of Hosts, be with us yet,  
 Lest we forget — Lest we forget!

Far-called, our navies melt away;  
 On dune and headland sinks the fire;  
 Lo, all our pomp of yesterday  
 Is one with Nineveh and Tyre!  
 Judge of the Nations, spare us yet,  
 Lest we forget — Lest we forget!

## *Do You Know That—*

- The world's population is now 2 billion, 500 million? This is 10 times the total at the time of Christ. It is 5 times the total 300 years ago. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  times the total 100 years ago.
- If the present accelerated rate of increase continues for 30 years, there will be 4 billion people — an increase of more than 50 per cent — in the next 30 years.

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- A great religious revival is sweeping the country. 9,082 churches were built in 1953, to bring the nation's total to 294,359.
- The average American pastor's standard of living is below that of 1939. In that year the average pastor received \$2,725 as against \$4,391 last year. But considering the depreciation in the value of the dollar, this represents a loss of \$427.



# *The Eyes Nothing Can Escape*

BY DAL STIVENS

**I**N AUSTRALIA, where 9,000,000 people of largely Anglo-Saxon stock live, there are about 80,000 dusky-skinned people. These are the aborigines, one of the most ancient races on earth, who came to Australia about 5,000 years ago across the then existing land bridge with Asia.

I grew up in Australia among these aborigines and, during the years I lived there, never ceased to be amazed by their extraordinary talents, their acute powers of deduction, their highly developed senses of smell and sight. My father and grandfather, having lived among them most of their lives, too, could not speak of some past experience without bringing the aborigines into the conversation.

These people have chocolate-brown skins; wavy or curly hair,

generally black. They have large mouths and palates; wide, fig-shaped noses, with a depressed root; and receding foreheads. They are a little shorter than the average white Australian.

They were food gatherers, hunters and fishermen, and over the centuries they built up a complex, non-material culture. Each tribe had its own hunting grounds and practiced its own sacred rites that members believed assured them of sufficient game to kill and plant food to gather. Considering some of the limitations of the country they settled, where there were no cereals that could be cultivated and no animals other than wild dogs that could be domesticated, the aborigines met the challenge of living off a difficult land very well.

Put simply, the aboriginal phi-