



THOSE LOYALTY APPEALS

PRESIDENT TRUMAN'S order of last March, that the government's 1,900,000-plus employees be investigated for Communist, Fascist and other subversive tendencies, alarmed many people. So did the ensuing firings, without open trials and with a minimum of publicity, of persons in the State Department, the armed forces, and the Central Intelligence Agency.

There was, however, another provision in the Truman order; namely, that an appeals board be set up to review the cases of any discharged government employees who felt that they had been treated unjustly. This Loyalty Review Board was established recently, and its 20-member panel is now functioning, with Seth W. Richardson as chairman.

Others on the board include such well-known lawyers and educators as George W. Alger, John H. Amen, John Kirkland Clark, Tom J. Davis, Meta Glass, Earl Harrison, Charles Sawyer and Murray Seasongood.

With such an agency on the job, it seems to us, there can be no valid objections to the loyalty tests—though of course nothing of this sort will satisfy the domestic Communists, who would love to have the United States government go on being as open to treacherous infiltration as it long has been.

We can't safely permit that any more. We saw in 1940 how France, Norway, Denmark, Belgium and Holland had been honeycombed by Hitler's Fifth Column. We're seeing now how Stalin's Fifth Column operates in such unhappy countries as Hungary and Rumania. We were put on notice of similar goings on in this hemisphere a year or so ago, when Canada dug out a Russian-spy pustule heading up in no less a place than the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa.

It would be impossible in many cases to convict genuine Fifth Columnists in formal court trials. The more virulent of these persons know all the legal loopholes available in our judicial system; or if they don't, their lawyers do. Therefore, since it is essential to our safety to weed them out of government employment, it is necessary to loosen up the rules a bit in the American people's favor.

In the loyalty test, with full right of appeal accorded anybody who thinks he has been fired unjustly, we seem to have hit on the best feasible way to protect ourselves and to protect government employees' basic rights at the same time. Let's handle the Fifth Column fumigation by this method until a better method happens along, and heavily discount the thunder on the left.

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GIVE AMERICA A REAL "VOICE"

THE U.S. State Department's propaganda service, first called the "Voice of America," then formally christened the Office of Information and Educational Exchange, had tough sledding during the year or so in which it was under the supervision of William Benton, Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs, who recently resigned that post.

For all the tough sledding, the Voice of America idea is a good one. The idea is that, since Russia is flooding much of the world with the falsest kind of anti-U.S. propaganda, we should crack back with fair, factual and vigorous propaganda of our own. The Voice attempts to do that, but is pretty seriously handicapped at present because Congress last summer granted it only \$12,400,000 for a year's work instead of the \$31,000,000 the State Department requested.

All of which impels us to urge that the Senate pass H.R. 3342 at its earliest convenience.

H.R. 3342 is a bill, passed by the House last July, to make the Office of Information and Educational Exchange permanent, and to put it in charge of a wide variety of U.S. propaganda services—radio programs beamed in strategic directions, library and information offices in many countries outside the Iron Curtain, documentary films on various aspects of American life, and so on.

Representative Karl E. Mundt (Rep., S.D.), who led the initial Congressional attack on some of the Voice's misplays, is a strong backer of this plan to tune up, tone up and generally strengthen the Voice. Mundt urges that we spend some \$50,000,000 a year on these efforts to funnel into other peoples' minds our side of the argument between democracy and Communism.

Such an expenditure seems to be a reasonable one, only provided the agency is run by realists and businesslike executives, with dreamers, phonies and tinhorn tub thumpers ruled out.

We have a mighty story to tell about this country to a world which knows only fragments of the story. Let's get busy and tell it.

GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT

THE new movie on anti-Semitism in the United States, Gentleman's Agreement, is not the best picture ever made. It's a bit preachy in spots, and trifle long-drawn-out.

Nevertheless, it is good entertainment; and, even more important, it is good medicine for more than a few Americans. If you're inclined to be anti-Semitic yourself, better see it. If you have an anti-Semitic friend, better try to induce him or her to see it.

Monsignor Fulton J. Sheen has remarked that if any force ever succeeds in tearing the United States apart, that force will be hate—hate of group for group, class for class, race for race. It follows that any well-thought-out antidote for such hate should have the support of everybody who doesn't want to see this country torn apart. Gentleman's Agreement is such an antidote for the peculiar poisonous hate that is anti-Semitism.

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