

ECONOMIST'S MAIL AROUSES HIS IRE

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NEW YORK, Jan. 14.—Three things happened to me last week:

1. I received a letter from a Baltimore high school boy expressing indifference between Soviet Russia and the United States.

2. I read a book, "Russia: Menace or Promise," and got the definite impression that Russia is a promise.

3. I got a recent bulletin of the New York State Education Department on "American History and World Backgrounds" which is almost entirely "world background," and recommends the reading of the above book as well as other more radical ones.

These things tie into one another. Together they make me sick at heart. Read on, and see what you think.

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The high school senior from Baltimore writes a nice letter saying that he is "trying to see both sides of the great struggle of politics between Soviet Russia and the United States." He says he has been taught to take no side, and he scorns any history that has a "slant" favorable to America.

Clearly, he implies that he has been taught to consider the problem of our relations with Russia as a mere clash between two political systems, both of which are equally good.

He not only rises above patriotism, but he utterly ignores and rejects standards or basic principles. Thus he puts himself in the attitude of merely judging between two opposing propaganda machines. He has no basic principle for deciding between them. He knows nothing. He just "feels," and keeps his mind wide open!

I am sure that this is just what the Russian propagandists want. It is as good as saying, "Let the Communists come in and show what they can do."

This boy apparently is being taught to consider without disfavor the suppression of minorities, and the attempt to destroy differences among individuals—differences in taste and consumption as well as in productivity and rewards.

Anyone who rejects as a mere "slant" the idea of voluntary individual choice as the basis for the ideal of individual freedom of thought and initiative, cannot be a good American. Of course, he will not offer effective resistance to Soviet propaganda or to Communism.

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The book on Russia is by Vera Micheles Dean, apparently Russian-born, and published by the Foreign Policy Association.

The whole theme is this: Russia has some faults; but! there are Soviet shortcomings. But these are "not a monopoly of the Kremlin."

The Russians lack our civil liberties. But they have economic liberties.

Russians have used violent meth-

ods. But Communism "prescribes a way of life similar to that which is urged by the most highly developed religious movements."

This woman says Russia is travelling in the right direction, and hopes that Americans and Russians will "travel the road together."

She must consider Communism favorably, as she says that it "contends that only by achieving economic and social justice...can man ultimately achieve freedom."

Russians and Americans are much alike, she says, in that "both share a missionary zeal to propagate their beliefs among other people whom they genuinely believe they can help."

That's all! The deliberate espionage, sabotage, propaganda and persistent attempt to undermine our political and economic system, which the Communists have carried on for many years, are just like our—

Like our what? I know of nothing comparable that we do. I believe that all we want is to have the Russians let us alone.

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