

Russian newspaper leaders are getting an adequate presentation of United States news. I think most of the men here would agree that we are not now getting an adequate presentation of Russian news. I think that we are getting a less adequate one than we obtained, say, 15 years ago when there were not even diplomatic relations between the United States and Russia, and when our own relations were less critical than today. Could Mr. Ehrenburg give us some word about facilities for American newspaper men to travel, and then to report their findings about Russia?"

Mr. Ehrenburg:

#### Some Mistakes Occur

"It is difficult for me to speak about the work of the press and the newspapers because I work more with books, but I know from some general facts that American journalists are admitted to Russia at different points. Maybe there were some delays in getting permission to get to some points in Russia. Such mistakes do occur, of course. I give you the example of our arrival in America just yesterday. We came here at your invitation, but all passengers were permitted to land and we were kept at the customs house for a long time. The bureaucratic machinery is everywhere the same.

#### No Secrets in Russia

"I am sure I express the opinion of my two colleagues that the more American journalists come to our country, the better it will be for them and for us. I want to say that, for the journalists, there are no secrets in our country. Everyone can go and see what he wants to see. However, there are in every country secrets, but it is not the job of the journalists to find out about the secrets."

McCellan Van Der Veer, Birmingham News:

"Russia, through Litvinov, once urged general disarmament. What is Russian sentiment and hope with respect to international control of armaments now?"

General Galaktionov:

"The Soviet Union has always talked for peace and against races in armament. The policy of the Soviet Union was always constant in this line. It was proved by several facts that the Soviet Union proposed seven times general disarmament for all countries. If, however, the Soviet Union maybe kept large troops, large armies, you must take into consideration the territory of the USSR. It was explained by the following facts, that at that time many countries which were aggressive, which were terroristic, existed adjacent to the Soviet Union. That is the explanation of why we had a big army. Still everybody knows that when Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union, we were not fully mobilised for this, and the first period was a very hard one.

"The policy of the Soviet Union is the same as it was, to disarm and to demobilise as many persons as possible, so that they may be given to industry and agriculture, which needs them badly. The question, how much can we demobilise our Army and disarm, has the answer in the following: The answer is, it depends on how much we can guarantee that no new aggression will be done against a peaceful country."

David Lawrence, United States News:

"I wonder whether any of the three visitors could give us the answer to this

question. Moscow is an important capital of the world. There are less than 10 correspondents, as I understand it, of all the countries of the world, representing newspapers or press associations in Moscow. Why is it that a great newspaper like the *New York Times* and other newspapers of this country must wait anywhere from three months to six months, to a year, to have their correspondents admitted into Moscow; and do they know how many American newspapers have applied for their correspondents to be admitted to Moscow and have not yet received a reply?"

Mr. Ehrenburg:

"I personally will be very glad to see more Americans in our country, and this question was already raised here, but what can I as a journalist tell you about it in a more precise way? I think that must be referred to some policy body but not to the journalists. The question was not given to the proper address."

Tom Wallace, Louisville Times:

"Our distinguished visitors have said more visitors from this country to Russia are welcome. If I want to go to Russia, can I go, go where I want to, and write what I like?"

Mr. Ehrenburg:

"I repeat once more that I do not give visas. If I had permission to give visas, probably I would give them very liberally, and maybe it is because of this I do not give them. The question belongs to policy bodies. I don't know exactly why and how they are given or not given. I am a writer, and I have no reference to the question of giving visas, but I know that many, many American journalists get visas to Russia. As soon as we go back to Russia we shall raise the question of this interchange of correspondents on the broader base, but I cannot tell you anything about the procedure of getting visas because I am not aware of it."

## TELEVISION WOULD BE COSTLY

A LICENCE fee of £150 would be necessary to cover the cost of television if the population of Sydney or Melbourne took out viewers' licences in the same proportion as the people of Great Britain. This warning on the high cost of television was given by S. H. Witt, chief research officer of the Postmaster-General's Department, in evidence before the Commonwealth Parliamentary Standing Committee on broadcasting.

Mr. Witt said it would be unwise to introduce television into Australia until colour television had been perfected. The success of colour television demonstrations given in America last year had altered the opinion of many experts, who had predicted that colour television would not come for five years. The colour technique should be very well advanced within two years.

Mr. Witt said that the expense of introducing television would be great. The publicity given to television in the United Kingdom was misleading. Millions of pounds had been spent in publicising it, but sales of receiving sets had always fallen off markedly when the advertising slackened.

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