

United States Faces Danger, Asserts Ex Air Corps Colonel



By BARBARA HEYWOOD

"I've vowed to spend my whole life fighting Communism," declared Joe Gurley, perhaps the only American to live in both Yugoslavia and Hungary after the iron curtain dropped.

Gurley, a lieutenant-colonel with the army air force was sent as a member of the Allied Powers Control commission to Budapest, Hungary, to attempt to establish a bilaterally controlled commercial air line from Vienna to Istanbul. The United States hoped to "plant one foot" firmly in Hungary, and gradually progress to the bilateral agreement, said Gurley. "I was the foot."

Guns Bulge

The atmosphere in both Hungary and Yugoslavia is one of fear, Gurley said. "It was cops and robbers and bandit stuff all the time." "I felt like Jimmy Cagney dressed for a state banquet with a pistol bulging under my blouse." Too, he said, sometimes 30 Hungarians a day were killed by the ricocheting machine-gun bullets of "playful Russians" taking target practice in the streets. "I wish I could describe fear to you," said Gurley earnestly. "Imagine Eugene with platoons of foreign soldiers marching through the streets singing the songs of their fatherland, not yours; chanting the name of the major, as Yugoslavian soldiers chanted "Tito, Tito, Tito." Imagine all your mail, your visitors, your conversations checked and recorded and filed.

"Imagine having to carry a card saying you are a citizen of the United States, and having someone knock on your door in the middle of the night demanding to see the card. Imagine not knowing who is or is not police, and brother fighting brother for political integrity."

No Sympathy

"It can happen here," declared Gurley. "There was no great Communist party in the countries now dominated by that doctrine. It was the minority who gained control. I have no sympathy for Russian and Communist apologists in the United States. They are rank traitors."

Gurley said he feels that the United States is in extreme danger, and that the international situation is worse than in 1939.

"There is no room for sentiment or honor," he said. "Americans don't realize the Russians are so simple. If they want to get from A to B, they will take any ruthless means to do it."

Anything the United States does

Washington, he said, because the state and war departments were afraid of Russia. The press failed the American people, too, Gurley asserted, for the United Press was too interested in staying in Hungary to send out more than innocuous little reports. Therefore the American people, who must pay for loans to Europe, never learn the true situation, he said.

Gurley commented that it is his belief that at present the United States could not win a war with Russia.

UNRRA Fraud

UNRRA, at least in Yugoslavia, asserted Gurley, was a "fraud" Food, he said, was distributed on the basis of political belief, and "heroes don't develop on an empty stomach." He quoted these facts: eighty-five percent of the textiles went into military uniforms, while the people went shoeless and dressed in rags. Tito's government was supplied with 12,000 trucks, a 250 percent increase over the countries pre-war needs. Approximately 5000 of these went for military uses. UNRRA supplied Yugoslavia, a sugar-producing nation with enough sugar so that she could send her whole output to Russia.

Complaints on this score were referred to the head of UNRRA, who was a Russian and a Communist, as were several other heads. The complaints were ignored, according to Gurley.

Aids Escapee

Gurley told the story behind a news-article of more than a year ago in which it was related that several Americans allegedly shot Gourley—Galley Two a Russian soldier and three of them were detained in the United States embassy for seven months.

These men were under him, Gurley said, and it was he who smuggled the man accused of the shooting from the country. The other three men were carefully kept at the embassy to save them from the fatal results of being brought before a Yugoslavian people's court, Gurley related. This incident was brought up by James V. Byrnes at the Paris peace conference.

Gurley, a member of Kappa Sigma fraternity and Friars was

Homecoming chairman in 1941, the year he left Oregon. He is now finishing his journalism course. His Hungarian wife, "Chirpy" (the American pronunciation is taken from a more complicated Hungarian name) is here with him.

She was associated with the Hungarian theater until the Nazis came. They were married in Budapest and spent a cold November honeymoon traveling in an open jeep to Belgrade.

As Mrs. Gurley did not have papers, Gurley got them through by "wearing a 45 and passing out cigarettes." Once when detained

at a bridge by an unbribable guard, Gurley was forced to call the American embassy only to find it was closed for Thanksgiving.

The bilaterally controlled commercial air line was never established, and Gurley left Belgrade at the request of Tito in August, 1946.

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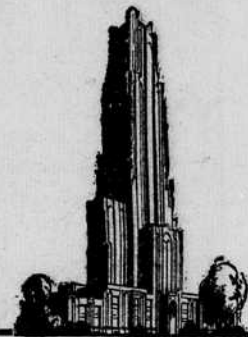
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