6-13 (Rev. 10-29-57)

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As Pegler Sees It:

Reds Never Lack Forum for Views

By WESTBROOK PEGLER

MANY OF US are upset about freedom of expression, but the last man in this country whom you would expect to say such a thing today argues that the Reds should be allowed to holler away on the air and in print. That's Pegler. If we are not prepared by education and conviction to resist their arguments, including lies, then let them pick up the marbles.

PEGLER

I will not pretend that they have had real freedom of debate here since Lenin and Trotsky chased Kerensky out of old St. Petersburg and I admit that we have increased the pressure by hammering home the cork. But, on the other hand, we constitutional Republicans have taken much worse treatment. We are now bottled up and labelled "reactionaries," a word that has acquired a dirty meaning that is not intrinsic.

Eleanor Roosevelt, certainly no "writer" in the fair literary and journalistic sense, has another book of memoirs going in a magazine that professes to be conservative, absolutely American and hostile to political alienism, the Saturday Evening Post. This is a gratuitous review of a political traipser's unauthorized adventures in the years since her husband died. But Mrs. Roosevelt, meanwhile, has developed a strange sanctity, extended to her by our people, themselves, who reject all counter-discussion of the lady as vindictive obsession.

Extreme opposition to her extreme views and political desires is practically suppressed, and by popular consent at that. People who say they hate communism and fellow-travelers will not listen to disproof of anything she says.

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