Mr. Marzani's Answer

In your issue of August 22, Ernest Lindley's guest columnist, Mr. Crawford, stated that the concern of Mrs. Roosevelt and others over the current attack on civil liberties has no real foundation—and cited my case as example.

"There is nothing in the Marzani trial record to suggest trickery," he writes and points out that I was indicted under a law "which has been on the statute books since 1863." This is contrary to fact. The clauses under which I was indicted were placed on the books in 1934. More important, however, the trickery consisted in extending the statute of limitations in my case through the use of a law designed to catch fraudulent war contractors.

Mr. Crawford implies that my case represents "an effort to rid the Government of Communists and fellow travelers." The record shows I was indicted two months *after* I left the Government. The record also shows the State Department tampered with its own documents in a vain effort to show I had been fired.

Mr. Crawford attacks Mrs. Roosevelt's statement that the court had denied bail. Having spent several weeks in prison until the Court of Appeals *reversed* the trial court and granted bail, I can assure him that Mrs. Roosevelt's statement was correct.

This lack of accuracy on Mr. Crawford's part is much less disturbing than his contribution to American political theory. "There is a point," he writes "where devotion to civil liberties can become plain political gullibility." This to me is plain Nazi thinking.

A further use of Nazi tactics is the assertion that Communists and fellow travelers "insinuate themselves into democratic governments with the deliberate purpose of serving as spies and saboteurs." This proposition is the very core of reactionary strategy to isolate the left and silence liberals.

The answer to it is simple. During the war we found adequate protection in existing laws on espionage and sabotage. These laws are operative and the FBI has not been starved for either funds or personnel. The safety of the state is well guarded and does not depend on "loyalty" investigations and phony "criminal" prosecutions which are terrorizing Government employes and stifling criticism.

It is time to call the reactionary bluff. It is time to assert that patriotism and the *status quo* are not synonymous. In my own case, my war record at home and overseas speaks for itself. Mr. Crawford would do well to reexamine his thinking, for if he doesn't he will end up in strange company. There is a point where gullible acceptance of red-baiting becomes suicidal surrender of civil liberties.

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