OF FREEDOM OF THE PRESS

he Right to Advocate Murder

O THE CHARGE that the commercial press in our country is guilty of consistent war-mongering, Mrs. nklin D. Roosevelt has replied in a UN committee that believe in "freedom of information" and "differences opinion."

But Mrs. Roosevelt's defense of the Big Money press cannot rest on a pure theory of a free interchange of opinion. For the fact is that between the pure theory of a "free press" and the actual situation there is a wide gulf.

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Point One: The press here not only prints the "let's-have-war-with-Russia" propaganda, but it does not differ editorially with this propaganda nor rebuke the war-mongers. It goes out of its way to agree with them.

Point Two: "Freedom of information" or "differences of nion" do not justify the press here to spread deliberate about the world situation. Such lies as non-existent ternational brigade" in Greece, or the recent lie about Soviet invasion of Iran" or the lie about a mythical on curtain."

Point Three: The press has consistently deceived the erican people as to our plan to stockpile atombombs. is not the Soviet delegation that opposes world inspec- of atomic bomb manufacture, but the American dele- ion which has consistently blocked such a plan. The lles-Marshall plan calls for world ownership of all atomic cetime factories with the State Department controlling nations' atomic development through a UN commission jority. The press has not told the truth about this.

Point Four: The press here cannot be "free" in the se that Mrs. Roosevelt claims it is because it is owned Big Business.

There are no daily labor papers in America except Daily Worker. There are no anti-capitalist papers in erica except this one.

Point Five: The Big Business press has consistently ght the interests of the people. It was 85 percent op- ed to the Roosevelt New Deal. It never really supported anti-Hitler war," or the American-Soviet alliance or Roosevelt-Stalin Potsdam agreement to rule Germany Today it enthusiastically supports revival of German war industry in the Ruhr.

PRESIDENT ROOSEVELT understood from bitter experience what the tory press of our country really is. He pinned a German Iron Cross on the Daily News Washington slanderer John O'Donnell to show his contempt for the press liars. He called Drew Pearson a "congenital liar." This is the press that tries to blackmail Mrs. Roosevelt out of the progressive movement by calling her a "Communist." Above all, President Roosevelt understood that we are not debating general principles but life-and-death realities.

He did not believe in allowing the fascist aggressors to enjoy a "difference of opinion" with the U.S.A. He understood that this alleged "difference of opinion" was backed by fascist guns and armies, and that it would destroy our national independence if not halted.

Therefore, he urged upon America the great principle of "quarantining the aggressor." With that principle, he wrought his greatest patriotic achievement—American friendship with the Soviet Union against world reaction. He wanted this during the war and for long afterward. But the press here helped kill his great vision.

Is our government in favor of the press' war propaganda? It has not yet denied the charge that it agrees with it.

If there is to be "difference of opinion" then the Wallace-labor-peace forces should have as vast a newspaper and radio empire at their disposal as the Dulles-Hoover gang has.

Behind the newspaper war talk is the grim reality of a Washington budget of 13 billion dollars a year for war and there is an atombomb stockpile.

Freedom cannot include the right to mobilize America for the mass murder of other nations. Advocacy of murder for profit is not a "right."

It is for the sake of a truly free people's press that the Big Business war-mongers must be exposed, curbed and fought by the nation.

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