

means, what communist doctrine means, we will never understand what lies behind and guides the policy of certain countries where that doctrine prevails.

In his book "Russia and the Russians" Edward Crankshaw gives a balanced and enlightened analysis of this subject. May I quote just a paragraph from that book?

"Violence, arbitrary law, sustained privation and under-nourishment, blind, trampling stupidity, the uttermost harshness of rule over body and soul impartially, bodily slavery with no compensating freedom for the spirit, forced atrophy of the independent mind without bread and circuses to fill the gap, physical drabness and squalor over all, reflecting perfectly a mood of hopeless apathy..."

As to free democracy, it is equally important to know what it is and what it is not. It is not the rule of a mechanical majority: the divine right of 50% plus 1. It is not the right of the powerful to trample on the rights of the weak. It is not liberty for the capitalist to exploit or for the labour leader to extort. It is not extremism of the right or the left. Nor is it merely anti-communism or anti-fascism. It is the middle of the road which is leading in the right direction. All this has been said much better than I could say it in a magazine of humour and of wisdom, the "New Yorker". Its editor once soliloquised about democracy as follows:

"It is the line that forms on the right. It is the 'hi' as against 'heil'. It is the 'don't' in 'Don't Shove'. It is the hole in the stuffed shirt through which the sawdust slowly trickles; it is the dent in the high hat. Democracy is the recurrent suspicion that more than half of the people are right more than half of the time. It is the feeling of privacy in the voting booths, the feeling of communion in the libraries, the feeling of vitality everywhere."

In the struggle between these two doctrines, it should not be difficult to ensure victory for the forces of light and progress if we are willing to expend half the energy and intelligence in defending and developing our free democracy as the communists are willing to expend in attempting to overthrow it. A negative policy alone, however, will never prevail. We should recognize that we cannot remove the menace of aggressive communism - at home or from abroad - merely by damning it and by including in that damnation, as communists, anyone who votes the other way. If democracy is to flourish - or even survive - it must be far more than anti-communism. It must become, and remain, a positive and dynamic doctrine which proves, by results, that it can contribute more to the welfare and happiness of the individual than communism can. We need not fear communism from within or from without, as long as, in their foreign policies, nations are willing to co-operate in the prevention of war, and give up some of their old and outworn sovereign rights in the interest of greater security; and as long as, at home, they keep their democratic society strong, healthy and progressive. But, as it has been said: "Being strong and healthy is not the same as beating our chests and staging war-dances in front of the iron curtain. Being strong and healthy means keeping our own house in order and arranging the life within it so that all the members of the household are proud to belong to it and do not look elsewhere for their salvation from oppression."