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Kravchenko.

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"Horseradish is not sweeter than parsley", says Mr. Kravchenko, commenting on the relative "sweetness" of Premier Stalin and Foreign ~~Minister~~ Minister Molotov. A precedent-shattering bill recently approved by a House judiciary sub committee would permit ~~the~~ ^{the} former high Soviet official and author of the sensational best-seller "I Chose Freedom" to become an American citizen within two years after his arrival. The bill was introduced following the Russian's testimony before the Un-American Activities Committee through which, according to several committee men, he rendered "an enormous service to the United States". But while the intimacy of his past relationship with the red rulers would seem to make Mr. Kravchenko a peculiarly valuable witness, his very background may prompt Americans to view his testimony with a measure of caution. Applied literally, the statement that horseradish is not sweeter than parsley is as open to doubt as the notion that Russian renegades make the most trustworthy witnesses when it comes to judging their former colleagues. Top ranking American diplomats, intelligence officers, agents and journalists, toiling behind the "Iron Curtain", may be surprised to note the amount of official faith invested in an alien apostate whose inside information after two years of absence they will hardly consider equal to their own. Other prominent and meritorious immigrants are likely to be equally surprised. Apparently, Mr. Kravchenko is held to have been of more "enormous" use than even Albert Einstein or any of the foreign born atomic scientists none of whom was granted "premature" citizenship. Nor has this exceptional honour been bestowed on any of the eminent European authors, artists or musicians who, having chosen freedom with confidence, inspiring promptness, served the cause of democracy and the people of the United States at a time when Mr. Kravchenko was still far from discovering the democratic light.

Consistent and militant foes of tyranny, such as Arturo Toscanini, Franz Werfel and Erich Maria Remarque, cheerfully bowed to the American immigration laws and at the end of five years were happy to receive their final papers. ^{Regarding} ~~namely~~ Mr. Kravchenko's reported assertion to the House judiciary group that " I can't live here a year if you don't give me citizenship" , these men might point out that ^{columnists} ~~the~~ Nazi fifth ~~column~~ in the United States were neither less numerous nor less determined than the agents ^{EXPECTED} whose wrath the ^{Russian} author ^{SEEKS} ~~was~~ to escape by means of an American passport.

Mr. Kravchenko's testimony before the Thomas Committee may warrant every discrimination in his favour and his advice to the American Government whom he exhorts to spend "billions" to combat Soviet propaganda abroad may well ^{DESERVE} ~~be~~ to be followed. However, before embarking on so costly a venture, the government are certain thoroughly to scrutinize ^{ALL} ~~any~~ ^{cre-} ~~entials~~ presented by its advocate.

Among Mr. Kravchenko's credentials, his book "I Chose Freedom" is the most outstanding and consequently merits particular examination.

Having read the document with shocked interest, this correspondent failed nevertheless to be wholly persuaded by its contents. While the detailed and often horrid accusations ~~henceforth~~ which the initiated author raises against the Soviet regime ~~may~~ ring true enough in Western democratic ears, they would carry even greater conviction, if his career back home had been less successful and his ~~flaunting~~ turnabout less belated. Mr. Kravchenko's violent disgust with the system he pictures seems somewhat puzzling considering his own prominent and prologued association with this system.

I discussed the book and its riddle with a ^{number} ~~number~~ of American publishers and finally learned that "I Chose Freedom" was first offered to the New York publishing house of Dutton and Co. The original Russian manuscript was read and turned down by one of Dutton's ^{MOST DISTINGUISHED} editors. Mr. Wreden - the editor in question - ^{is} ~~was~~ known to be a White

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Russian which ~~made~~ his rejection of Mr. Kravchenko's strikingly effective revelations doubly astonishing.

Mr. Wreden of Dutton and Co. was quick to explain. According to notes taken by this correspondent immediately after the interview, he said :

"The manuscript I refused and the book that eventually appeared under the title 'I Chose Freedom' are two different things. If the latter shows the author's gradual and painful awakening and his consequent development from a Soviet functionary into an ardent servant of democracy, the former was but an accumulation of horror tales which - to my mind - were insufficiently documented. The bulk of these stories - all of which may be true - also appear in the finished American version. But the basic story - the evolution of the chronicler - as well as many of his comments, ^{THOUGH} underwent a subtle ~~but~~ decisive change."

Mr. Wreden continued: ^{"SUPPOSING"} ~~that~~, after quarreling with Hitler, Roehm had concocted a book against 'the Fuehrer' and his men, the effect ~~which~~ would have been similar to that of Mr. Kravchenko's initial effort."

The publisher then pointed out that in spite - or even because - of, the strong ~~hahaha~~ feelings which he personally harbored on ~~the~~ the Russian subject, he considered the book, as originally submitted, a very questionable affair. The version finally ^{PRESENTED} ~~submitted~~ to the American public - he said - was a brilliant adaptation, carried out, as far as he knew, by Mr. Eugene Lyons. While the two authors were, of course, entitled to publish their book under whatever name they saw fit, Mr. Wreden deemed the gap between the original and the adapted product deep enough to injure the latter's authenticity. For this reason - according to Mr. Wreden - "I Chose Freedom" ~~which~~ failed to be made a Book-of-the-Month-Club selection.

"I was asked", he stated, "to appear at a board meeting of ~~the~~ the Book of the Month Club and to help evaluate the work under consideration. ^{LARGELY} owing to my testimony, the board decided against the proposed choice."

endit.