

TRANSCRIPT OF BROADCAST

By
Fulton Lewis, Jr.

Station WGMS at 7-7:15 P. M.
2 January 1958

About the Crusade for Freedom and the so-called Radio Free Europe, I have reported to you before on the nine-page document which the paid money raisers have put out in the name of the Crusade for Freedom by way of self-justification to their directors and officers and sponsors who are getting jittery. This was not given to the press, you understand, it was just circulated within the family, so to speak, and the people who put it out seemed very much disturbed when they found that some of the "family" had passed their copies on to me for comment.

There are a couple more of their denials which I would like to deal with tonight--one having to do with a statement I made that "from the beginning, Radio Free Europe has been loaded with pinkos. Its origin coincided with the Communist take-over of Czechoslovakia." The answer which the Crusade made to that is as follows: "The voice of free Czechoslovakia was founded precisely because the Communist take-over of that country denied the people a free radio and a free press. Mr. Lewis' charge of pinkos is absurd. The Czechoslovakian employees of Radio Free Europe go through the same rigorous screening process as do all other employees both American and exile."

My other statement along the same line was as follows: "One of the early organizers of Radio Free Europe informs me that from the outset it has been systematically manned by many confirmed Marxists and for that reason he finally quit in disgust." Their reply is as follows: "No Marxists now or ever have manned Radio Free Europe." Now just in terms of general reality this last statement is ridiculous on its face when you consider that the organization has more than 2,200 employees in it but that's just my observation and my opinion and I don't ask you to go on that.

Lets have some facts. The largest organization of Czech and Slovak exiles in the United States is the Alliance of Czechoslovak Exiles with headquarters in Chicago. It is not some front whoop of intelligentsia although there are some very intellectual and cultured individuals in it. It is not a front group of politicians or ideologists.

It is much more a rank-and-file movement of people who came to this country under the displaced persons law, and it represents rank-and-file thinking of the great bulk of refugees from that country in the United States. In May of 1952, at the time the National Committee for Free Europe was being set up in New York, this organization held a meeting in Chicago, at which time it adopted unanimously a resolution of protest which it sent to the Free Europe organizers in New York against the recognition of the so-called Council of Free Czechoslovakia, which was the group that had been selected by Hubert Ripka and brought into the United States on the 14 blank visas which the State Department gave him, which I told you about last night. Ripka was a man who devised and ordered the expulsion of the Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia. He was an ardent collaborator with Moscow. This Council of Free Czechoslovakia which he selected and brought into the United States--and incidentally they were brought in without even any security check despite what the Crusade statement says--this Council of Free Czechoslovakia was placed on the Free Europe payroll and was made the policy-making group for the Czech desk of the Free Europe propaganda program.

I want you to remember that this resolution of protest by the largest organization of Czechoslovakians in the United States is not a resolution of today and afterthought. But it was passed at the very origin of Radio Free Europe in 1952. It was a warning to the committee then of what it, the Committee on Free Europe, was doing. A copy of it was sent to the Under Secretary of State here in Washington. Other copies were distributed to newspapers, important personalities and radio.

The body of the resolution reads as follows: "The present representation, the people whom Ripka selected, cannot establish connection with anti-Communist forces in Czechoslovakia, but on the contrary it will psychologically ill affect the peoples at home who will not have any ideological cause for resistance. Czech and Slovak nationals see in the majority of the people, who today illegally declare themselves to be speakers for the nation, the same people who (1) continually violated the constitution of the Czechoslovak Republic; (2) against the interests of independence of the Czechoslovakian Republic did not seek sufficient cooperation with the free world but knowingly were leading the state into becoming a satellite of the USSR; (3) took active part in the proclamation of nationalizing decrees, thus suppressing economic freedoms; (4) introduced

the retribitional decrees through which many a judicial crime and miscarriage of justice was committed; (5) following the request of Moscow, forbade the existence of traditionally democratic political parties always known as anti-Communist and anti-Soviet, which up to the Nazi occupation of Czechoslovakia represented more than 50 percent of the population; (6) abridged freedom of speech, press and right of the people to peacefully assemble and petition the government for a redress of their grievances, allowing these basic rights to be exercised in a one-sided trend only; (7) against the welfare of the people voted against taking part in the Marshall Plan and even before the Communist coup d'etat concluded a submissive economic treaty with the USSR which formed the basis for today's Soviet exploitation of Czechoslovakia."

That's the end of the seven points characterizing the people whom Ripka had selected and whom Radio Free Europe was in the course of establishing as its Czechoslovakian policy staff. Then the following additional paragraphs: "The above described facts paved the way to the Communist coup d'etat of 1948. Yesterday's fellow-travelers of Communism, through whose tragic political errors the whole nation has been enslaved and lives under a permanent threat of a national Katyn, who are represented in the composition of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia, do not enjoy the confidence of the resisting part of our nation nor of the exiles who as a result of their political activities have lost everything except their relentless repudiation of socialism and Communism. These are the reasons which forbid every true patriot of Czechoslovakia from having confidence in or from cooperating with this undemocratic, clandestinely formed and unrepresentative organization. It is our moral duty to raise this voice of documentary protest and to refuse any and all responsibility for the composition of the Council of Free Czechoslovakia. We firmly believe that in this grave hour it is in the interest of the United States of America to protect the national resistance against Communism in Czechoslovakia from being exterminated. On the contrary, it is in the interest of the United States to give support to the peoples of Czechoslovakia in their righteous struggle, so that a state of affairs may soon develop that will be in harmony with Christian traditions and the spirit of civilization, with human rights and democratic principles, liberty and justice for all."

To me, Ladies and Gentlemen, that sounds like very good American talk, the kind of talk that the great Radio Free Europe is supposedly putting forth itself, the kind of talk it is supposed to be inspiring behind the iron curtain. But

did the powers of Radio Free Europe in New York pay any heed to this? On the contrary, they ignored it. They went ahead against the warnings and the pleadings and installed Hubert Ripka and his 14 Communist collaborator pals as the sponsored and financially supported Council of Free Czechoslovakia under the Free Europe Committee; and American citizens everywhere were solicited and have been ever since for "truth dollars" to support these self-serving politicians who were part and parcel of the sellout of Czechoslovakia to Communism.

Now let's return to the current statements. In the light of this resolution of 1952, which I just read to you, let's go back to the current statements by the Crusade for Freedom: "Mr. Lewis' charge of pinkos in Radio Free Europe is absurd. No Marxists now or ever have manned Radio Free Europe." I leave it to you as to whether I or the Crusade is telling the truth. That's the top of the news as it looks from here.