

Excerpt from an article titled "The Iscariots", in No. 7 of the magazine "Chemarea", dated September 1, 1951. (Paris, 74 rue de la Glacière, XIIIe.)

"Among those denounced as agents of communism in the United States was the great industrialist N. Malaxa. In the view of the American authorities verifying the paradoxical disguises of communist espionage, there can be no more serious accusation. But a high sense of justice grants the accused the freedom to prove his innocence, so that industrialist Malaxa appeared in court accompanied by two American lawyers, who asked that the denouncers be also heard in the matter involving Malaxa's stay in that country. The American authorities did not intend for a moment to become the instrument of possible calumniators, and, taking good faith as a basis, as well as the conviction founded on irrefutable evidence, the accusers were summoned to confront the accused in court. To the surprise of the accused and of the few Rumanians who were in the room, Messrs. Visoianu and Cretzianu made their appearance, visibly confused at having been obliged to step out of the shadow of their infamous machinations.

In general lawyers are movingly energetic in the defense of their client, with whose cause they identify themselves. American lawyers are the most passionate. No doubt Malaxa, having enough financial means, retained exceptional lawyers, perhaps needed for a more important cause than his permanent residence status, the cause of a Rumanian unjustly accused. And the American lawyers, exercising the right of the defense, put some indiscreet questions to the two denouncers, Mr. Visoianu and Mr. Cretzianu. In the first place, they queried their means of existence and their past activities. Serenely, Mr. Visoianu stated he had a bank account of \$156,000 (or of 48,290,000 French Francs). To his confusion and surprise, the lawyers did not rest but wanted to know where this money came from. Visoianu recalled the answer given, before the inquiry commission that investigated the Skoda affair, by the "chicken-thief" Boila, and he repeated, too, "no comment". To the American mind, no sum of money can have any but an avowable origin, and refusal to provide information about the origin of a deposit disqualifies.

Cretzianu was obliged to confess, very confused, that he has \$400,000 (that is, 123,600,000 French Francs) deposited with a bank. As for its origin, he too "utilized" his reply refusing to "comment". Questioned about the past, he had to admit that he

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had been secretary general both at the time of the dictatorship of Carol II and of the "fascist-nazi" dictatorship of Marshal Antonescu. But his political mimetism has a far richer gamut that would make the envy of the chameleon: sent as Minister to Ankara by the fascist Antonescu, he continued to defend Rumanian interests (communist) even after the resounding resignation of General Madescu, serving under Ana Pauker until he was recalled. An explanation was called for concerning these successive adaptations, this political mimetism. Candidly, Mr. Cretzianu declared that in all these circumstances he had held high posts solely in order to watch over ... the defense of democracy.

One of the defense lawyers made the ironic remark, "A profitable defense," thinking of the bank deposit of \$400,000. Cretzianu blushed - blushing is a flaw of this sensitive man - and turned his batteries on Mr. Gafencu, who was a witness of Mr. Malaxa, and presented a document intended to compromise the democratic profile of the former foreign minister of the time of Carol's dictatorship. He did so, realizing the political consequences of the hearing to himself, the denouncer. But, if it true that Mr. Gafencu was foreign minister in a dictatorial epoch, it is no^{less}/true that Cretzianu was his secretary general. The recipe used by Agamitza Dandanache, the hero of Caragiale's play, inspired Mr. Cretzianu. A foresighted man himself, he had appropriated a document with which he could, if need arose, blackmail his former chief. Only it so happened that the American authorities were impressed by this lack of moral discipline and the question fell like a stone on Cretzianu's own head: "How is it that an official and secret document is in the possession of a former official, instead of being in the archives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs?"

The former secretary general blushed still redder - a sensitive, feminine nature, when faced with indiscreet questions - and he could only mumble, "I felt it was necessary for ... the defense of democracy."

As can be seen, Democracy (with a capital D) justifies everything...

The hearing made it easier for the Department of State to establish files for the two impostors.