

MIKE WALLACE INTERVIEW WITH CYRUS EATON
PM-EAST PROGRAM

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MW: The world and all around us gets inevitably bigger, while we poor humans diminish and diminish until the individual is virtually out of sight. We hear it all the time, that each single human being finds it always more difficult to make his imprint on the world around him. But does it have to be that way? Has it really become impossible for us as individuals to make our puny efforts felt outside the narrow circle of our friends? our family?

Now we are going to hear from three men and one woman who give the lie to that proposition. These four have this much in common, that they had a goal, a vision, and the tenacity to work and plan toward its achievement. They're hardly anonymous; each one has been a mover and a shaker in his field. Each one of them has tasted of the satisfaction of having his ideas, his work, his vision listened to, debated, involved in the lives of millions of his fellow men.

First, Cyrus Eaton, a man whose financial empire, and none of it inherited, is estimated currently at \$2 billion. A man who now is enlisted in the cause of peaceful coexistence between us and the communist world.

Leo Szilard, known best perhaps as the father of the A-bomb, now ironically devoting himself to the urgency of international disarmament.

Robert Weaver, a negro born more than half a century ago in an unsegregated suburb of the south's Washington, D. C., now the top man in his race in the Kennedy administration, due probably to be the first negro to hold a Cabinet post. And finally, Anita Loos, the lady who wrote movie scenarios for D. W. Griffith when she was a teenager, and whose tough daily routine even today might cripple a man three times her size. Tonight four individuals the organization-minded twentieth century has failed to indulge, on PM East. Cyrus Eaton was unknown to the general public, and then came his sponsorship of the Pugwash Conferences of Scientists, private meetings with Nikita Khrushchev, various trips behind the iron curtain, threats of investigation by the House Un-American Activities Committee. Mr. Eaton's politics in dealing with men like Nikita Khrushchev have been attacked most bitterly within his own country. And when we interviewed him recently, we came right to that issue. Speaking in a general sense, would you invite to your home, sit, talk, and eat with any man whom you considered to be an evil human being?

E: What makes a man evil? You get into a question of ethics and morality, and sometimes a man will obey the ten commandments with sort of a negative performance.

W: Is Adolf Eichmann, in your estimate, an evil human being?

E: I would rather not express views on other people about whom I don't know all the circumstances. It is very easy for us to work up a case of great rage against

him, and I suppose there are wicked men. But I always have sympathy for the man who has great misfortunes, in any field, whether physical or mental, but I always go back to the picture in the Scriptures of the two men who appeared in the Temple, where the Pharisee said I thank God I'm a good man and not like the other fellow, and the sinner beat upon his breast and said, have mercy on me a sinner. I have sympathy for the man who's had misfortunes, whether they are moral or otherwise. Unless I know a lot about it, I don't like to be the judge of a man's position.

MW: The reason I ask is, you know as well as I that Cyrus Eaton has been pilloried by certain newspaper correspondents, various journalists, some congressmen, senators, political figures, as being a friend of the enemies of the United States, and for being a dupe. There was talk about your being hailed up before the Un-American Activities Committee because of what you have expressed is a desire to co-exist sensibly, in your estimation, with the Soviet Union. When I talk about an evil human being, though, a communist dictator, like for instance a Khrushchev, you do not make a valued judgment as to whether he is or is not an evil man? And when I talk of evil, I don't mean to go into too great a length, Mr. Eaton, but are not communist dictators guilty of enslaving men, of killing men?

CE: Well, I suppose that happens under many systems and in many parts of the world. I do not believe that Khrushchev is an evil man. I think he is a very able man, and he believes thoroughly in his communistic system. I believe that for us, the capitalistic system is much better. But in revolutions, people go to extremes. In war they do very evil things, and those evil things they do are praised as being in the interest of their country, so that you get a very broad subject to deal with when you talk about ethics and international morality. So far as Khrushchev is concerned, he is a man of great intelligence, a man dedicated to the interests of his country. Of course, it is not so long ago that in this country we were burning women at the stake because we considered them witches, and it was desirable to get rid of them. If you go over the history of New England and found out the number of women who were burned at the stake for some mental quirk compounded by the church leaders, you would be appalled at what men may do often in the interests of what they believe to be high morality.

MW: Incidentally, this interview took place before Adolf Eichmann went on trial. In just a moment we are going to return with Cyrus Eaton, and we'll meet his wife in one of her rare appearances on television.

(Commercials)

MW: Now back to industrialist Cyrus Eaton. How old are you?

E: Seventy-seven, last December, but I feel very young.

MW: I can see that you do. How many hours a day do you work?

CE: Oh, about 14.

MW: Do you really?

CE: Yes

MW: You were remarried. You and your first wife were divorced, and she later died. Is that not correct? And you were remarried how long ago?

CE: About a little over three years ago.

MW: I wonder if this might not be an appropriate time to meet Anne Eaton, your wife.

CE: I should like very much to present Anne.

MW: And while she is coming in, I wonder if you would tell us under what circumstances you met, how long you've known each other . . . Hello, Mrs. Eaton.

CE: Anne was a classmate of my youngest daughter.

MW: Where, Mrs. Eaton?

AKE: At Hathaway Brown School.

CE: At Hathaway Brown School in Cleveland. They went to different colleges, Anne went to Vassar and my daughter, who was her chum, went to Collecticut. But they were great friends and pals, and my daughter Farlee began bringing Anne to our house and our farm when Anne was about eight years old. We had a great common interest in philosophy, in poetry, and more recently in our political points of view.

MW: When you say a common interest in your political points of view, may I ask you, Anne Eaton, to detail your political points of view? I really know a good deal about them, because the last time I say you was on the floor of the Democratic Convention. You were, I believe, an alternate delegate from Ohio, weren't you?

CE: I was a Delegate-at-Large from Ohio.

MW: Do you come from a long line of Democrats?

CE: I do. My father was a judge in Cleveland, and my grandfather was judge in Ohio, and my great-grandfather was a judge. All of them Democrats, but I would hasten to add, the kind of Democrats that make Republicans look like wild-eyed radicals. (Laughter)

You have been married for the past three years? Now when Mr. Eaton suggests

that you are his partner, could you tell us what that means to you?

AKE: Well, it means everything to me, of course, that he feels this way. I do fully agree with all that Mr. Eaton has said and done in the international area. I have accompanied him on his trips to the Soviet Union and to the socialist countries, and seen, too, for myself. I have spoken with many women's groups in these countries. I am delighted to be able to be a partner in this undertaking, which I think is, of course, the most important thing that can be done today.

MW: Are you from time to time subject to the same criticism that Mr. Eaton is?

AKE: I'm proud to say that I am. I get slammed, too, because I make speeches.

MW: Who slams you, where do you make your speeches, and what do you answer them?

AKE: Well, I've made quite a few speeches in and around Cleveland and in Ohio, and some in other states, mostly to women's groups. Well, the same sort of thing that the newspapers are apt not to always agree.

MW: Maybe I shouldn't ask; these questions become almost too personal. But, how much of a difference is there in your ages? Not specifically, but . . .

CE: Well, Anne, tell your age. I've confessed mine.

AKE: Yes, well I'm 38.

MW: You're 38. So it's almost 40 years difference. Was that any concern to you when you decided to be married, or is this man so young, en fin, that that made no difference whatsoever.

AKE: Well, this is precisely the truth. As Mr. Eaton has told you, I first met him when I was about 8 years old, and he was also a friend of my father's. And he hasn't changed since then, you see, at all. He's the only man I ever knew when I was a little girl to whom I could talk about poetry. And when I saw him again after quite a long time, he hadn't changed at all. And I think he was the only adult whom I had admired tremendously as a child who turned out to be what I thought he would be.

MW: Um hmm. A remarkable couple, the Cyrus Eatons.