



Cyrus Eaton looking over his fan mail.

Outspoken Eaton's Mail Mounts

By EMERSON L. BATDORFF
Cyrus Eaton, the rugged industrialist who calls 'em as he see 'em, finds his office pretty well stacked up with fan mail these days.

President Eisenhower of Washington, Albert Schweitzer of Equatorial Africa and Billie Jo Marshall of Leetonia, O., might be taken as a cross section of the several thousand persons who wrote.

The letters came after Eaton on television, mentioned that agencies of the United States, including the FBI, are engaged "in investigating, in snooping, in informing, in creeping up on the people."

"Most of the letters are favorable," Eaton said yesterday in his office on the 36th floor of the Terminal Tower.

The letters were displayed on his desk, making an impressive heap of letter writing.

Eaton said that all of the letters would be answered where a return address was supplied, and that this would include most letters.

Those who disagreed with Eaton's right to say what he did made a small folder that was fairly unimpressive in the heap.

Eaton's remarks about snooping, with his idea that the Communists must be lived with or everybody dies, brought the first letters a day after the now-celebrated television program was over.

More letters came when the House Un-American Activities Committee decided to subpoena him in the wake of his remarks.

"I suppose he gets a 100 letters a day on this general subject," said his secretary, Miss

Betty Royce.

The answers are lagging a little, but on some days 100 answers go out.

The letters come from all over the world—Finland, England, France, Spain, China and, of course, the United States and Canada.

Eaton and his staff deemed it inadvisable to permit publication of the text of President Eisenhower's letter, but it was strong in its support of the right of free speech, although it did not mention Eaton's stand on dealing with Communists.

Many legislators wrote him deploring the attitude of the House committee in threatening to call him before that body for making the remarks he did.

Other letter writers took a broader view of the whole situation, as did Albert Schweitzer, famed philosopher, physician, organist and humanitarian.

In his own hand Schweitzer wrote:

"I am informed that great vexations are being visited upon you because you have taken a position on the evaluation of the danger of radioactivity resulting from nuclear tests that is displeasing to present political leaders. Let me say how strongly I side with everything that concerns you. All of us who are working for the triumph of truth hold you in high consideration. You were one of the first to make it possible for leading scientists of the East and of the West to meet and discuss the urgent problem. This has a tremendous importance for all of us and

we owe you the fullest recognition.

"With my kindest thoughts,
"Your Devoted
"Albert Schweitzer."

Billie Jo Marshall of Leetonia is 10. Her letter to Eaton concerned what her father said about him.

"He says you are a rich man and are trying to make peace, which most rich people don't try to do," she wrote. "We think you are a very good man and hope you can help."

It is fortunate that Eaton is a rich man, even as Billie Jo said, because answering all those letters would keep a poor man occupied for years.

From Finland an admirer wrote: "Commodities are not carriers of isms as rats are of disease."

Included in the vast pile of correspondence are enough requests for speeches to keep Eaton eating banquet chicken and talking every night for a decade, according to his secretary. Also a number of people would like to go along with him on his trip to Russia early next fall.

Neither of these requests has much chance to fruition.

"I am a capitalist," said the white-haired industrialist, surveying his correspondence, "and I want my grandchildren to have a chance to grow up to be capitalists, too.

"We have to reach some kind of understanding with Russia, even though we dislike them and have no use for their philosophy. The alternative is the annihilation of the civilized world. No more Communists and no more capitalists."