

HOWARD FAST CRITICIZED BY SOVIET NEWSPAPER

MOSCOW, Aug. 25—The Soviet newspaper Literaturnia Gazetta accused Howard Fast yesterday of repeating "the intentions of bourgeois nationalists and the most bellicose reactionary agents of Zionism."

In reporting Fast's break with the C.P. the newspaper said "he preferred to make this known through the bourgeois New York Times in an interview with Harry Schwartz, well known specialist in Soviet slander. Later, in the pages of Mainstream, Fast attempted to explain."

Concerning Fast's article in Mainstream Literaturnia Gazetta wrote:

"Nine tenths of the article Fast devotes not at all to explain the motives for this decision or to characterize the state of affairs in the United States Communist party, a member of which he was, but to anti-Soviet slander, a malicious attack on the Communist party of the Soviet Union and the Socialist system of our country.

"In a tone favored by anti Communist fanatics from overseas propagandists, he borrows their false arguments and slanderous methods. Fast writes about the 'consequences of the cult of the individual in the Soviet Union' on the foreign policy of our Govern-

ment, on Socialist democracy and morals.

"He also chose as a target of his attacks the nationalities policy of the Soviet Union. He speaks of 'discrimination' against national minorities in the U.S.S.R. and repeats the inventions of bourgeois nationalists and the most bellicose reactionary agents of Zionism.

"Enlarging the 'wonderful thing,' American democracy (for which Fast uses capital letters), he draws a dark and very far from real picture of the life of the Soviet people, who are allegedly deprived of anything approaching 'civil rights.' He comes out against the dictatorship of the proletariat, calling it 'tyranny' and against discipline and unity in the Communist party."

Howard Fast, yesterday, discussing the article on him in the Soviet Union Literary Gazette, said the magazine was the "whip of the central committee of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union." He said it was used "to discipline and intimidate Soviet writers of courage and independent." Fast, in a press interview said he made "no statement of fact about Russia that did not come from communist sources."

"I asked many questions, no one of which was answered," he said. "I think it is time that Soviet spokesmen behaved like adults than petulant children."