

Letter :

Editors, M & M:

When George Marion died in October 1955, it was a blow to me, for here was a man who had gone to the Soviet Union, had met Lysenko, and who had dared to say that he had not liked Lysenko's personality and attitudes. I, who have never come closer to a study of the soil than a gardening course and active gardening, could not make an evaluation of Lysenko's theories. But, and here is a very important "but," and one "but" whereby I differed from many around me—I could be swayed by the non-committal attitude of the *scientist* Haldane, and be frightfully annoyed by the rhapsodic utterance in behalf of the Lysenko theories by a fine *poet*, Louis Aragon!

Why bring this up now? It is a worthwhile example of the American Communist's extreme tendency to endorse wholesale whatever comes out of the Soviet Union. I believe it is fortunate for me that I read the *New York Times* every day. Don't misunderstand—I loathe their editorial policies, I know they inject innuendoes and distortions, but there is such full news coverage, that a progressive who reads M & M, the *National Guardian*, the *Nation*, I. F. Stone, *Jewish Life*, etc., can reach a fairly accurate conclusion. I remember full well that many prominent Soviet scientists just rode along while Lysenko was being officially boosted and groomed. I myself believe we shall learn soon enough that scientists were intimidated by the display of official backing, and afraid to contradict Lysenkian theories.

Another shock, was to read "Opinion and Reality" by George Marion, printed after his death in M&M, and note that your article ended where the *National Guardian* "In Memoriam" (Standard Brand ad) article began. This wonderful article of Marion's goes on to say

"The democratic essence *is* good; the freedom of personal movement, freedom of communication, freedom of expression that remain the SPIRIT of American life even in these times of fascist-like repression, are not to be matched anywhere else in the world."

I cut the article out at that time because it seemed to me he was saying something that was quite different, and I fully believed *then* and believe now that he was trying to show us indirectly that not all was well in the Socialist area of the world. Whatever the FBI has done in amassing dossiers on several millions of people, nevertheless the numbers of those who have been imprisoned is very small; the "security camps" that have been built remain unoccupied to this day. The fact remains inescapable that the American people's loss of traditional liberties has come about not through mass force and violence and repression, but in part because of a lack of moral and intellectual integrity. Was M&M's omission intentional? I daresay had Marion lived, he would have been criticized by many. . . .

I believe we will find that we were and are wrong not to condemn the Soviet sale of arms to Israel. I despise the Zionist point of view; but I feel that Israel initially required the financial aid of American Jewry; but I also feel that Israel's complete orientation toward the West, instead of being concerned with Middle East integration and becoming a neutral in the same sense that India is, is dangerous for Israel and the world. If I have written repeatedly to my own representatives and deplored and condemned shipments of arms both to Israel and to the Arabs, can I suddenly feel that weapons that kill and maim and can start a major conflagration are any less wrong because they are made by the Soviet Union? I take an international point of view here . . . arms

should not go to the Middle East at all, from any source.

I believe that the raids on the *Worker* offices flow logically from Edgar Hoover's statement that we have been more outspoken and active in recent months, and

that they fear our activity and the clarity we give to the American people as they question and seek to find a better path for America to travel in the years ahead.

Yours very truly,
A Friend