

+ Dec. 19 - 1967 in Wien 141  
(68 yrs old)

Havas Jenő

volt újságíró, a londoni „Economist”  
volt munkatársa, a washingtoni  
Mr. Kévétséj pénzügyi tanácsosa,  
aki a diplomatisz internálása  
után a svéd Kévétséj titélésében  
dolgozott a magyar pénzügyekben.

Először találok nyomra vele 1942  
február 27-én, de Bolányi Antal  
és Madányi Pál levelezésében

### “The Budapest Trials”

It is a very praiseworthy attitude of a newspaper to admit an editorial error. However, such admissions should not be abused by letter writers unknown to your readers.

You publish on your editorial page of September 25 a letter, correcting the name of Bela Kun to George Dimitrov, by an anonymous correspondent signed L. H. B., who for reasons known only to himself does not want to reveal his name. And then he proceeds under your protection of anonymity to distort the meaning of your editorial of September 20 on the Budapest trials, which, according to him “... reveal a long-range Western-Titoist master plan within the Soviet orbit to arrange the assassination of Red chieftains pledged to follow the guidance of the Politbureau and the Cominform.”

I doubt very much that the editorial writers or the readers of *The Washington Post* would believe that Mr. Churchill, Mr. Allen Dulles, or Mr. Chapin, our former Minister to Budapest, are, or ever were, parties of such a fantastic plan.

Though you say that L. H. B. is absolutely right—no doubt meaning the correction of the names but surely not the rest of the letter—I am certain your editors cannot possibly agree with the concluding paragraph of the anonymous letter writer who says that “... the Budapest trials are just another manifestation of the head-on collision of the two opposing world social systems and philosophies and an episode of this world strug-

gle, of which we are allowed to see only the cops and robbers antics of the spy and intelligence services of the rivals trying to outsmart and exterminate each other.”

These are amazing accusations, not only against American diplomats serving in Budapest but in a broader sense against all the Western governments, including our own Administration, past and present. Unlike the Soviet, ours is a free country, and it is to be wondered why anybody who cares to make such sweeping accusations against the British and American governments, referring to their official representatives as “Western-Titoist master planners of assassinations, etc.,” should do so behind a screen of anonymity, posing as a dispassionate observer, as if watching the struggle from an Olympian height and dishing out words of wisdom and correction to erring editors and their readers.

If he knows, as he intimates, “that perhaps there is more to these trials than meets the eye of the superficial and detached observer,” then he should tell us what he knows and should not hide behind editorial courtesy of anonymity to tell stories which follow pretty closely the lines of the devious method of the fellow travelers to confuse the issues. This is precisely what L. H. B. was doing, by abusing your editorial page.

EUGENE HAVAS,

Budapest correspondent for the *London Economist* from 1926 to 1937, financial adviser to the Royal Hungarian Legation from 1937 to 1941, and now an American citizen resident in Washington.

Roosevelt, Nicholas:

a front row seat, 1953  
P. 187-8 (own)

(Jeremiah Smith recommended  
him to N. Roosevelt)

**Eugene Havas**

## Hungarian Legation Counselor

Eugene Havas, 68, former financial counselor of the Hungarian Legation here, died last Tuesday after a heart attack in Vienna, where he was visiting.

Born in Hungary, Mr. Havas was educated in Hungary, Vienna and the University of Oxford. He then served eight years as the central European correspondent of the London Economist. In the early 1930s he came to the United States as a Rockefeller scholar. At this time he also did graduate work at the University of Princeton.

He was named representative in New York of the Hungarian Ministry of Finance. In the mid 1930s he moved to Washington, where he served as financial counselor of the Hungarian Legation, a job he held until the Hungarian government was taken over by the Nazis, at which time he resigned.

After resigning from the Hungarian Legation, he became an American citizen and began working as a private financial consultant.

His views were asked for by several congressional committees on fiscal and industrial matters. In 1959 he testified on the effects of steel price increases before the Senate Antitrust and Monopoly Subcommittee.

He is survived by his wife, Olli, of 3205 R st. nw., and two brothers, Imre, of New York, and Michael, of London.

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Dec. 27-1967

