

I beg to disagree -- to put it mildly -- with almost everything Mr. Leslie B. Bain said in his "The Reluctant Satellites," as quoted in your bookreview March 27/

It should be stressed that I did not read the book itself. My remarks are based on the quotes of the review.

There is no space here to discuss debatable allegations, such as the charge that déclassé elements in Hungary (bankers, priests, etc.) were the source from whom American diplomats in Budapest received their information.

Briefly, however, it should be stated that what the author (according to the review) said is a gross generalization. I submit that I know it better and know it differently.

What should be rejected, however, immediately is Mr. Bain's rude insult aimed at the refugees. He is quoted as writing ^{that} -- if my arithmetic is correct -- ~~about~~ 45 per cent of them are juvenile delinquents, hoodlums, escaped convicts, and prostitutes.

About 190,000 escaped from Hungary, roughly 39,000 came to the United States. Are we to understand that 85,000 of them, and almost 18,000 in this country belong to the above categories? Surely not even Mr. Bain believes what he wrote. Did your reviewer?

In June 1958 The Associated Press made public a survey by Endre Marton on the refugee situation, followed by the New York Times one month later. Both quoted U.S. officials as voicing their satisfaction with the refugees. Harrison E. Salisbury

found in the Times that "...it is agreed...that no other immigrant group has adapted so rapidly and so constructively to the American way of life." I have serious doubts that hoodlums and prostitutes could have made what Salisbury called constructive adaptation little more than one year after their arrival here.

Mr. Bain, according to the review, also said that only 10 per cent of refugees were representatives of Hungary as a nation. Half of the rest were "opportunists... posing as freedom fighters," the other half the already mentioned hoodlums, etc.

It is an established fact that though the revolt was an uprising of a whole nation, only a few thousand young men fought actively, e.g. with arms in their hands, certainly only a small fraction of those who escaped. The reason is obvious: there were simply no weapons for the rest. Moreover, not all of them escaped when the revolt was crushed. Many were killed, others stayed behind.

But is this reason to brand the rest? Are those who chose freedom the very moment when this was possible, during the few days then the border was unguarded, opportunists, hoodlums or prostitutes? Did Einstein, Teller, or von Neuman, or any of those prominent persons who escaped another terror, belong to one of Mr. Bain's categories?

Only unexplainable hatred could have inspired the author when he made such monstrous allegations.

I am looking forward to reading the book. What particularly interests me is how the author describes his role in the escape of Father Turchanyi, Cardinal Mindszenty's secretary.

Mr. Bain, I was told by many distinguished American reporters, promised to bring the priest to Austria from the safety of the U.S. Legation. Turchanyi was taken from

Mr. Bain's automobile at the first Russian control post. He died in prison.

The author certainly cannot boast with this ^{feat}~~feat~~ of his.

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