

## MEET GABOR DE BESSENYEY

# He Says He's Stopped Being 'Controversial'

By ANTHONY LEWIS

Gabor De Bessenyei, Hungarian baron, American citizen, doctor of philosophy and laws and man of plans, prefers the simple title "Dr." because, as he says, lecture circuits pay "\$50 or \$75 if they book you as count or baron, and \$100 to \$150 for doctor or captain or colonel."

Dr. De Bessenyei's plans these days include — hopefully — H. L. Hunt, the Texas millionaire and admirer of Sen. Joe McCarthy.

Dr. De Bessenyei perhaps can be best identified locally as the husband of Mrs. Agnes McCall Parker, of the Parker School of Personality and Speech. He was publicist and protocol instructor for the school before becoming master of the house.

Dr. De Bessenyei, 52, has been in the U. S. since 1925, but only a thin coating of American know-how covers his Central European manners and accent. He is well over six feet tall, intensely bald, moustached, and sometimes seems about to click his heels. His office is full of tapestries and medieval-type chairs.



BARON GABOR DE BESSENYEY

### TRAINING

The plan which involves Mr. Hunt would "orient" radio and television announcers at the Parker School, in politics and diplomacy as well as speech and manners. Mr. Hunt would provide the cash for about 100 "scholarship" students at a time.

"We train preachers and teachers," Dr. De Bessenyei explained, "but we leave it completely to chance who should be a radio or television announcer.

"We forget that even the smallest announcer has more influence than five university presidents."

The difficulty is that young college graduates and radio-television apprentices probably could not afford the course.

"We are working on a plan for scholarships," Dr. De Bessenyei said, "say 100 at a time—for a three-month orientation course. That's where Mr. Hunt comes in."

He said he'd talked the idea over with Mr. Hunt. There is no definite commitment yet, he said, but he was



"working on other persons, too," and was hopeful.

Dr. De Besseney has another project, too—he is planning to open offices here for an old outfit of his called the Academic Extension Center, Inc.

The center, he indicated, would help bring conferences, projects and publicity to small colleges so they might get money from corporations and individuals who won't give to more liberal institutions.

"There is one small group at the top of all the major educational foundations," Dr. De Besseney said. "These men are astute, patriotic, etc.—I give them everything—but they are left-liberal. Why should corporations give to them?"

"Corporations don't want to foster socialism. The Academic Extension Center, with personnel of more conservative standing, represents colleges with programs of a more constructive nature."

#### **NO MORE**

He indicated he had made his views on the leftism of foundations available to a House committee which is investigating them.

He said he was also a key witness at 1951 Senate Internal Security sub-committee hearings which brought charges of communist infiltration into the Voice of America but had given up being a witness, at least temporarily.

"As far as possible," Dr. De Besseney said, "I'm going to refrain from being a controversial personality."