

enterprise in America are real and not a hypocritical sham. Although they seemed to be men of intelligence and ability, you say that you were unable to evoke from them any sign of being the least bit impressed by the facts and arguments that you and your friends considered so strong. On this point I believe that your column was unduly pessimistic.

You would not feel so frustrated if you put yourself in their situation. Probably all of them have families in Russia. They themselves expect to return to that country. If you had been able to elicit from them even one word of criticism of their system or praise of ours, it might result in tragedy for them and for those they love. One who has lived in free America cannot imagine the constant fear that results from living in a country where every idle word is under constant investigation, and where hundreds of thousands of people are herded off to the misery of concentration camps, merely for expressing a slight shade of doubt as to the absolute perfection of whatever view is advocated by the party in power.

The words that these men expressed do not necessarily show their real thoughts. Your data and your arguments may have made far more impression than you imagine. A few more such interviews and one or more of them, if not prevented by fear of reprisals to his family, might decide to defect and, like Kravchenko, to choose freedom.

In Kravchenko's book, *I Chose Freedom*, he mentioned that after he decided to seek entrance to the free world, he found it necessary to be particularly careful not to say anything that might arouse suspicion. Constantly spies tried to lead him into making some critical remark about the Soviet regime, but he constantly spoke all the more strongly in its favor, when he had determined to escape from it as soon as he could.

In addition to this note of encouragement, I feel that I must express my dissent from the main thought of your editorial. The heavy wall that separates Russians and westerners is not, in most cases, a wall of Marxist ideology. It is the difference between living under a regime where one is permitted to think for himself and to express his ideas freely, and living under a regime in which free expression is forbidden and is extremely dangerous. If the Russians were free to express themselves about their system, I wonder if as many as ten percent would declare a real