

## Red Refugees Refute Old China Hand

By ALLAN H. RYSKIND

The opinions of journalist Edgar Snow on the subject of China, we should have learned by the year 1962, are to be taken with something stronger than just a grain of salt. Ever since he wrote *Red Star Over China* back in the 1930's, Snow has continued to write warm and tender descriptions of the Red Chinese. Hardly an article of his went by during the bad old days in China under Chiang Kai-shek in which Edgar wasn't telling the world that Chiang's Red opponents didn't really believe in communism. They were, he solemnly told his readers in the May 12, 1945, *Saturday Evening Post*, mainly ardent advocates of an "agrarian reform movement."

Well, the belief that Mao was an agrarian reformer has reaped a whirlwind which swept 600,000,000 Chinese into slavery, and Edgar Snow—in all decency—should now keep his mouth shut. But, alas, not so.

In a book called *The Other Side of the River* (Random House, 1962), Edgar has launched another—forgive the pun—snow job on the American people regarding Red China, allegedly recounting his four month journey through mainland China in 1960. And, unfortunately, it looks as if the "job" has worked. Reviewers in newspapers around the country seem to be taking Edgar's word as the gospel.

Snow's main contention is that the average Chinese, despite his troubles, is happier and less hungry than during the days pre-Mao Tse-tung. He also ridicules the notion that the people would welcome Chiang's return to the mainland.

Yet the best available evidence flatly contradicts this rosy view of Red China. The hundreds of thousands of Chinese who fled mainland China into Hong Kong earlier this spring massively refute any argument that the Chinese are somehow "contented" with Mao's regime. Such freedom flights, it might be recalled, never

### **Senator Thomas Dodd (D.-Conn.) Backs Testimony of Chao Fu:**

"Mr. Chao Fu, through his testimony before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security, has rendered an important service to the Free World.

"While Mr. Chao is the first member of the Chinese Communist diplomatic corps to defect, the hatred of the Chinese people for the regime that oppresses them has been manifested over the years in the mass flight of refugees to Hong Kong and Macap and in the refusal of the great majority of the Chinese prisoners in Korea to return home.

"The special significance of Mr. Chao's defection is that discontent and disillusionment are now also beginning to spread in the ranks of Chinese officialdom.

"The Free World must stand ready at all times to welcome people like Mr. Chao, who have the courage to break with home and country in order to bear witness against the tyranny of communism."

took place when Chiang Kai-shek was on the mainland. But let us, before the pro-Snow reviews drown out the truth, hear the testimony of a former Chinese Communist, Chao Fu. Mr. Chao fled the Red Chinese Embassy in Stockholm, Sweden, on August 31, of this year, and is believed to be the first Communist party member ever to defect to the free world from an official Chinese installation.

Chao, who is of peasant origin and was given highly favorable treatment by the Red Chinese, made some pointed observations in recent testimony before the Senate Internal Security Subcommittee.

On the subject of happiness and freedom: "I used to lie awake at night and think about what we were free to do in China, but no matter how hard I tried, I could not think of one thing. We were not free to speak, to travel, to change jobs or homes, or even to have our own thoughts. I finally realized that the Chinese Communists denied all freedoms because they did not trust, and were in fact afraid of the Chinese people. . . ."

Regarding hunger: "In spite of the fact that natural catastrophes were blamed for food shortages, people could not even get fish while I was in China and the ocean was certainly not affected by droughts and floods. Further, dogs had disappeared from the entire country, the meat-starved people being forced to eat them. I wondered, and I am sure others in the Embassy also wondered, why natural calamities caused drastic shortages only in China. . . ."

"Although we were of the poor peasant class, we were never hungry in the old days, but since the Communists took over, my family reports they do not have enough to eat. Life was hard in the old days, but at the end of each year we killed a pig and had pork to eat. Since Mao Tse-tung established his regime, for more than ten years our family has not killed a single pig."

On the possibility of Chiang being welcomed back to the mainland: ". . . outstanding in my memory was the fear that if Chiang Kai-shek troops attacked at the same time as other enemies like India, the Chinese Communists would be in a very critical situation." What was feared, said Chao, was that the people "would respond to the attack," by taking sides with "Chiang's troops."

This picture of Red China, it might be added, has recently been substantiated by Robert Loh, a Chinese businessman who served the Communist cause until he escaped from China in 1957. In his book *Escape From Red China*, Loh—who acted as an interpreter for Chao—depicts the massive terror conducted by Mao Tse-tung, recalling that "almost everyone had some relative or acquaintance who simply disappeared." Mr. Loh also states: "I would guess that most, if not all, the Communists I knew would escape if they could."

This, of course, is the real Red China, but that hasn't stopped many book reviewers from agreeing with Snow. Maybe they're grooming him for the job recently vacated by Owen Lattimore at John Hopkins University.