

purge lists should reflect their distaste. When they address the world upon matters affecting the lives and fortunes of millions, or when they weep in public for the oppressed and downtrodden of other countries, it is well to remember that the voice is Democratia's voice, but the hands are the hands of the Toad. The purges go well.

How goes Congressional censorship of motion pictures? It goes excellently. The Committee on Un-American Activities called for the discharge of ten men on political grounds. The motion picture monopoly promptly broke all existing contracts with the accused men and, in theory at least, banned them for life from the practice of their profession. Beyond the blacklisted ten there extends a vague and shadowy "gray list" composed of scores of men and women whose ideas and politics might possibly give offense to the committee. And beyond the gray list lies a wide and spreading area of general fear in which unconventional ideas or unpopular thoughts are carefully concealed by self-censorship.

The committee did not only tell the producers whom they might not employ: it also told them what kind of pictures they must make in the future. Throughout the hearings the committee demanded over and over again why anti-Communist pictures were not being made and when they would be made. The producers returned to their studios and immediately set about the production of the films for which the committee had called. The Iron Curtain, I Married a Communist, The Red Menace, The Red Danube and Guilty of Treason—all of them calculated to provoke hatred and incite to war—were made without reference to audience demand, possible profit or normal entertainment value. They were produced as the direct result of Congressional command over the content of American motion pictures.

Even though it is customary in intellectual circles to deplore motion pictures as an art, it would be a fatal mistake to underestimate them as an influence. They constitute perhaps the most important medium for the communication of ideas in the world today. The Committee on Un-American Activities recognizes them as such. The Circuit Court of Appeals recognizes them as such. The Legion of Decency and the National Association of Manufacturers and the American Legion and the National Chamber of Commerce recognize them as such. Unless intellectuals quickly come to the same conclusion and act as vigorously as their enemies, there is an excellent chance that the American motion picture monopoly, abasing itself as the German monopoly did, will succeed in its assigned task of preparing the minds of its audiences for the violence and brutality and perverted morality which is fascism.

How goes the encroachment of politics upon science? It goes very well. Scholarships have been restricted to the elite; the Con-