

ing from their pockets lurch through the halls in clumsy but determined pursuit of the few women present. Attire is anything but formal. Fist fights are not uncommon. Later, in corners and along the curving stairway, figures sprawl, some in snoring sleep, others with arms around their ladies.

Discipline is restored the morning after. The Soviet diplomat comes out the door, again the stiff, arrogant individual fighting his private war against the "capitalist exploiters" of the United States. This defensive attitude was clearly revealed in the case of the assistant military attaché and his war against the District traffic bureau.

The colonel was bolder than most of his Embassy comrades, who shy from the stiff District driving tests. When he flunked his first trial, he roared, "I cannot fail fairly!"

When he returned for the fourth test, he climbed behind the wheel with superb confidence. But by the time he and the haggard inspector came back, the Russian had achieved a record—123 demerits.

He was charged with failure to observe other traffic, exceeding the speed limit, failure to yield right of way to pedestrians, delayed braking, failure to give proper signals, turning corners too wide, failure to get into the correct turning lane, and seven other misdeeds.

When the colonel was told he had failed again, he cried in rage:

"Impossible! This is discrimination against a Soviet citizen!"

It is ironic that an employee of the Soviet Embassy should use the word "discrimination," especially when his lot is compared to that of the staff of the U. S. Embassy in Moscow. There, Americans lead a harsh and secluded life. They are cut off from contacts with the population; their mail is opened, their telephones tapped. The Ambassador is followed everywhere by two Red agents in a car. The staff lives mostly out of food supplies sent from the U. S., since so little can be purchased in Russia.

Meanwhile, in Washington, the official agents of the most totalitarian dictatorship on earth enjoy all the benefits of our democratic society. This includes the right to come and go as they choose, diplomatic immunity from traffic cops, access to our people and government, and, above all, the free air.

Perhaps their antagonism toward the United States would be laughable if the Soviet Embassy were merely a Hollywood movie prop. But it is not a prop; it is the headquarters of a sinister conspiracy against the peace and welfare of the Western World. No wonder many American citizens ask why our own representatives in Moscow cannot receive the same treatment and privileges that are enjoyed by the Soviet's agents—only four blocks from the White House.

# Coronet

*December, 1952 \* p. 92*

OldMagazineArticles.com