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Esti Hirlep (May 24, 1959)

WE ARE WRONGLY INFORMED ABOUT HUNGARY - AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN
SPEAK ABOUT THEIR EXPERIENCES IN HUNGARY

(Excerpts) Before leaving Budapest, 12 American businessmen expressed satisfaction with their visit.

"Though 'officially' we came as tourists to Budapest", said George Gilleland, Florida attorney and counsel for several industrial concerns in the U.S.A., "we were glad that, through your Chamber of Commerce, we could start useful business discussions. Of course, I cannot talk yet about concrete and final results, but I think that I am leaving with serious plans for the future."

Mr. Gilleland then added: "I have travelled a lot in the world, but I consider Budapest the most beautiful and most sympathetic city. Certain information compelled me not to bring my wife and three children, but I have now decided that I shall pack them up and show them this beautiful city."

In this connexion, Thomas Flemming, a banker from Miami, noted: "I shall certainly tell them at home that we are wrongly informed about Hungary."

George Brumlik, Director-General of the American Rubber Corporation in Alabama, said:

"Our capacity for import is quite limited. We need, rather, new markets for export. We could supply you with our wonderful, modern and cheap rubber products, and we would be glad to buy from you machine-industry products which are produced much more cheaply here than in the U.S. We are businessmen and we want to 'do business'. We know that we need first to have the international tension eased and to have peace."

An interesting statement was made by Leonard J. Dudziak, a judge in Florida whose parents came from Poland. He said: "Of course, we do not like your social structure, but we have our eyes open. I was very much interested to see that you have shown Budapest to us - 'big capitalists', as you call us - in the same way that you show it to the local population, who certainly are not capitalists. In this way I have seen democracy in your country, and I liked it."

The American visitors distributed a great amount of chewing-gum among children who were visiting the Gellert-Hegy at the same time. But an even greater sensation was created by Mr. Robert Z. Green's camera, from which, in a few seconds, he produced finished photos. Mr. Green made several hundred such pictures in Hungary and presented them to the people whose picture he took.

When asked about his business activities, he said that he owns several textile factories in New York, and recently acquired a financial interest in the photo industry producing such quick photos.