THE CENSORS AT THEIR WORK
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Many Governments still do not dare allow their own people or the world at large to know what is going on in the territories they control. This is the gist of the latest Associated Press report on censorship, made public yesterday. The whole truth is not available in Russia, China or any other Communist-controlled country; nor in Yugoslavia, which has its own anti-Moscow brand of communism; nor in other dictator-ruled countries, such as Spain, Portugal and Argentina; nor in Bolivia, Venezuela, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Egypt. In some countries newspapers may be bribed rather than censored, but this policy, too, distorts the news and discourages criticism of men in office.

The Associated Press and other news-gathering agencies, including this newspaper, do their best to present a complete world picture, but this is not possible so long as in any area the publication of news is prevented or treated as a crime. All that newspapers and news agencies can do in such circumstances is to publish what they know to be true, without pretending that it is the whole truth. For instance, we simply do not pretend to know the whole truth about Russia.

The reasons for censorship do not change. Censorship is always and everywhere intended to conceal facts that might hurt those in power. In war this is understandable. It is also understandable when the facts concern defense. In other cases the censorship of news and opinion covers up mistakes, weaknesses and offenses against the common welfare. In a certain Book there is a saying, "The truth shall make you free." And this is mostly what the censors fear.

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