

Treason's Laureate

THE esoteric poet, Ezra Pound, found it possible to "simplify" his language to make himself useful to Mussolini and the Axis. In fact, his broadcasts in English, shortwaved by Radio Rome to this country in wartime, extolled the delights of racism, oppression, murder, and the "new order" in language plain enough for all to understand—and for all to recognize Ezra Pound for what he is, a traitor. So obvious was Pound's devotion to the enemy that the District of Columbia grand jury indicted him for treason last July.

The case of Ezra Pound raises no questions of disputed fact. Pound, an American citizen who ran away from his native country because he hated it and what it stood for, willingly cooperated *in wartime* with the enemy to help destroy the United States. No one disputes the fact that he broadcast over the official Italian radio after Pearl Harbor, or that he praised Mussolini and fascism and held democracy and America up to ridicule. It would seem that Pound himself has abundantly proved his treason beyond a reasonable doubt.

But the National Institute of Arts and Letters in New York City, which elected Pound to its honorary organization in 1938 (after he had clearly stated his fascist beliefs), now refuses to expel him. The Institute's president, Arthur Train, declares that Pound "must be presumed innocent until proven guilty."

Mr. Train's reasoning is fully as esoteric as Pound's verse. The war and the realities of war are covered up by pious phrases that pervert the very essence of democracy. The National Institute does the nation and itself a deep disservice by aiding the enemy.

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