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BOOKS and REVIEWS

Masters of Deceit
 By J. Edgar Hoover. 336 pp. New York. Henry Holt & Co. \$6.00.

A Summer Place
 By Sloan Wilson. 369 pp. New York. Ridge Press. \$4.50.

Reviewed by **HERB FISHER**

In this book, "Masters of Deceit," J. Edgar Hoover refers to the period mid-1951 to mid-1958 as a time of intense pressure upon the communists in this country, so much so that the party was virtually driven underground. After reading what Mr. Hoover has to say, one can speculate that he regrets the recent swing of the pendulum toward a more relaxed attitude, as evidenced by a number of Supreme Court decisions, "Summit" speculations, and cultural exchanges.

Perhaps Mr. Hoover senses a return to the pre-McCarthy era of relative "softness" toward communism in this country and has timed his book to stiffen a public opinion that is showing signs of laxity.

WHATEVER the case, the FBI chief has written a powerful reminder of the three posed by the internal communists. He describes a movement dedicated to one distasteful objective—the overthrow of our government by revolution, to be superseded by a "dictatorship of the proletariat" with headquarters in the Kremlin.

Mr. Hoover reminds us that, no matter how the party might alter its signals, no matter what its tactical maneuvering, the guiding philosophy is Marxist "scientific materialism," as interpreted by the revolutionary Lenin.

The picture of communism in this country is not a comforting one; a highly disciplined band of zealots whose only religion is the party; a tightly woven organization marshaled under a chain of command reaching its tentacles throughout the nation; the appeal to the naive idealist, the marginal and the neurotic, the underdog, the curious intellectual; the art of exploiting issues that will breed social and economic discontent; the practices of mass agitation, infiltration, use of front organizations, shifting position and compromising and attacking as the climate dictates—all aimed at eventual communist domination.

NO ONE is in a better position than Mr. Hoover to describe the workings of communism in this country. No one has better information.

But by the same token, Mr. Hoover is certainly no authority on Marxism, and his discussion of the origins and development of international communism is shallow. He is best when quoting from FBI files.

The author stresses that we must distinguish between communist thinking and the views of sincere radicals which may run parallel in certain respects, but where the motivation is totally different. A must to that.

But how many, after reading this book, will have a flicker of unwarranted suspicion each time an innocent liberal urges a ban on H-bomb tests, or greater co-operation with Russia or admission of China to the United Nations?

Mr. Hoover does not care for witch-hunts. He wants only to enforce the law. But we must be equally on guard against the loss of our fundamental democratic rights of self-expression that irrational fear of communism can generate.

He makes the point best with this statement: "We need to counter communism by making the hopes and aspirations of the American ideal a reality for all to enjoy."

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The Stars Grow Pale
 By Karl Bjarrhof. \$10 pp. New York. Alfred A. Knopf. \$4.00.

Reviewed by **JOSEPHINE MASON**

Karl Bjarrhof is one of Denmark's most distinguished sons. Both writer and musician, he has been blind for many years. "The Stars Grow Pale" is the story of the author's childhood in the small, provincial town of Vejle, and his awareness even as a small boy of approaching blindness.

AT SCHOOL young Karl was called "straps" by his teachers and ridiculed by his playmates because he bumped into things and couldn't see to play ball. A lonely child, he early developed an attitude of stoicism and a maturity far beyond his years.

The characters in this novel (for this is a novel) are what E. M. Forster calls "round." They are unpredictable and astonishingly vivid. There is grandmother who came all the way from Sweden because she thought that death was near. Each day she sat in her basket chair reading her hymn book, waiting for death as other people wait for the postman.

Stougaard, the brewery attendant, lived on potatoes and brandwein because "poor people are always thirsty," and Anders, the idiot boy, dangled a brace of red reins and begged pitifully for the children to play "horsing" with him.

THE AUTHOR takes us up to the time he is about 14 and pre-

paring to leave home for training at a school for the blind in Copenhagen. Still sighted, he realizes his time is short. Even in translation the writing in this book is sensitive and poetic. It is a novel to be read, quoted and remembered.

Are you thinking of buying a new home? Then read the "For Sale-Houses" column on this week's Eccentric.

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This year, plan things so that you can take back-to-school expenses right in stride. Start tucking away a few dollars every week in a National Bank of Detroit savings account.

Then when school bells ring, you'll hear only a pleasant melody. No scrimping, fretting, scrambling or straining at the budget for you.

Open your account now—one dollar will do it—and save regularly at any of NBD's 61 friendly neighborhood offices, where sound management policies put solid security behind every dollar on deposit.

Let it rain school expenses. You'll have an umbrella of cash.

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