

My name is Kirk Douglas. I'm an American actor. Some time ago I made a movie in Italy based on Homer's ODYSSEY. Recently, in a broadcast of Radio Moscow, your leaders said that when I was asked to play in this picture, I replied by wanting to know what movie scripts Mr. Homer had written.

Things certainly must get distorted when viewed through an iron curtain.

The fact that you have attempted to slur me is unimportant. What is important is that I have been used as an instrument in an attempt to show you that Americans are lacking in education.

As a son of Russian immigrants, I perhaps, more than many others, can appreciate the opportunities afforded me in this country. I bitterly resent this attack. My mother and father were born in Russia. They were married there. In Russia they were told one could find gold bricks lying in the streets of America. When they arrived here, they found, not gold bricks, but something more important: a way of life that enabled their son to grow up in freedom, to get a college education and go into the work he has chosen.

Yes, here in America, I have had, not only the freedom to study Homer - but also the freedom to take an Odyssey.

\*\*\*\*\*