

## **SOFIA PAPER SCORES WEST**

### **Says Confessions of 15 Pastors Confounded Foreign Critics**

**SOFIA, Bulgaria, March 6 (AP)**

—The official newspaper of Bulgaria's Communist Government said today Western attempts to discredit the espionage trial of fifteen Protestant pastors had failed.

"He who laughs last laughs best," the editorial said. It joked about "the Western mind" for having regarded as inconceivable the confessions made by the defendants and indignantly rejected suggestions that the state secret police obtained the confessions by force.

The trial of the pastors was concluded yesterday. The judgment of the three-man court is due Tuesday. The prosecution has asked death by hanging for four of them and "heavy sentences," up to life, for the remainder.

Throughout the seven days the trial was in session "Western capitalism" and foreign church missions were attacked as the "real masters" of the accused clergymen.