

Washington Digest

Allied Occupation of Germany Thankless Job

Methods for Restoring Normalcy to Reich Meet With Criticism From Smaller Liberated Nations of Europe.

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With the fanfare accompanying the first steps of the occupation of Japan now dying on the Pacific breezes, some hints of the heavy responsibilities of Uncle Sam's European problems begin to appear.

Already the small nations which were occupied by the Axis and whose peoples resisted the Nazi-Fascist yoke are being heard from in a rising chorus of complaint and criticism against the Allies.

Belgium and Holland are perhaps loudest in their charges of what they feel is discrimination against them in favor of their former enemy-neighbor, but voices are raised as far away as Greece and Yugoslavia, which say that Germany and Italy should not receive material assistance on the same basis as the once-occupied countries.

The charges from Holland are the most specific. The Netherlands government has presented claims for a share in both the external and internal assets of Germany as reparations. The note handed the Allies asks for immediate return of loot now within the occupied zones in Germany, which the Dutch claim is listed and identifiable. They say that parts of their country were stripped bare of capital and consumer goods; that some of the former, such as machinery, is now being used to the advantage of the Germans.

In addition to the formal protest, Col. J. C. A. Faure, deputy chief of staff of the Netherlands civil affairs administration, was quoted in London as saying that the Allied military governors were playing into German hands when they prevented the Dutch, Belgians and French from reclaiming immediately machinery and other property stolen from them by the Nazi armies.

He said that protests to SHAEF, while it existed, were fruitless "and when the new child (the British and American occupation organization) was born it was too young." He explained it was understandable that since the Allied commanders in their respective spheres have their hands full in creating order out of chaos in Germany, each wants to do a good job, and for that reason doesn't want to lose any material aid that will help. But that doesn't provide much comfort for the Dutch or Belgian farmer who looks across the frontier and sees a German peasant driving home a cow which he swears he knows is his by its crumpled horn and the spot on its rump. The same applies to the factory owner who is positive his property is turning wheels in Germany.

Army Aim: Speed Job

From sources in close touch with conditions in Germany I heard this example which pretty well echoes Dutch explanations but doesn't solve their problem. For instance: An Allied commander moves into a German town. One of the first things he wants is light and power. His men repair the power plant. Later it is claimed that the main dynamo was stolen from Holland. That is not the commander's affair. Lighting the town is his job is to restore the place as nearly as possible to a self-supporting community.

But that is not the end, for the restoration of European economy as a whole is of vital importance and naturally those nations which suffered under the German heel feel they should have first call on the sinews of normality, especially when those sinews were torn from their body economic by Nazi hands.

On this score there have already been rumblings of complaint against the American occupation. Already the wheels of German factories are turning in the American zone. The purpose is to manufacture goods and provide services required to keep the occupation forces going and to supply the minimum needs of the community.

The Germans have to have shovels and hoes and rakes if they are to till their fields and cultivate their gardens in order to get enough food to live on. These tools, if made and sold, would be in competition with goods the Americans make. But there are not enough ships to carry a vast supply of such products across the Atlantic and besides

America has a big waiting demand of her own. Therefore, in many cases German capital may be used to resuscitate German factories and Germany money will buy its products. The Americans are doing everything to facilitate this type of reconstruction (light industry and manufacture of household equipment). If necessary and they can do it, they will see that a missing shaft or flywheel is obtained somehow. They permit the Germans to combine partly damaged factories into one complete plant. They encourage reconversion of certain plants from wartime to civilian use. It so happens that of all the occupied zones the one which the Americans control is capable of creating most easily a balanced economy. It is a land of small towns and villages, most of which were not important enough to have been bombed. It is a land of cattle and of orchards, of fields and meadows. It is highly probable that with American organization to guide the people this area will be the first to regain a fairly normal life.

If we don't help the Germans, we'll be criticized for fumbling; the occupation will be made more difficult. If we do help, we will be under heavy criticism from the peoples of less fortunate areas and charged with treating the former enemy better than we treat our friends.

The British operate in a far less favorable area, for they have the bombed-out Ruhr on their hands and they control a territory whose existence depended on industries which no longer exist and which will not be permitted to exist in the future. Such factories as they can operate to make the community self-supporting may well be equipped in part with stolen machinery.

Russ Strip German Industry

The pattern of Russian occupation is quite different. The Russians know what they are doing in their zone. They are treating the "little people" with kindness, assuring them that they need have no fear of oppression. Their apparent intention is to divide up the land and give the Germans a chance to win a livelihood from the soil, meanwhile giving them a thorough indoctrination in the advantages of the Soviet form of government. At the same time they are removing every movable piece of machinery to Russia.

Meanwhile, Poland will be allowed to scrape together such German agricultural equipment as she can salvage in East Prussia. Disease is rampant in Poland; there are shortages in all kinds of equipment. The Germans took most of the agricultural machinery; much of the rest was destroyed and the whole country wrecked. The other next-door neighbors have not even such an opportunity to recuperate their losses.

And so the Americans will probably bear the onus of helping the former enemy most of all, although their only intent is to carry out the program agreed upon by the Allies. America wants no loot. She does want all she can get in the way of important formulae; all she can learn of German methods; all of the ideas which can be adapted successfully to American life. Already some valuable scientific information has been obtained and in many cases the German scientists, with that disinterested attitude characteristic of their profession, are quite as willing to work in an American laboratory as they were in one run by the Nazis. America also wants to finish her occupation job and get out. A part of that job is to make the Germans self-supporting.

Thus, it is quite likely that another complaint will be raised that we are forming too friendly a bond with people of a nation the world came to detest so thoroughly.

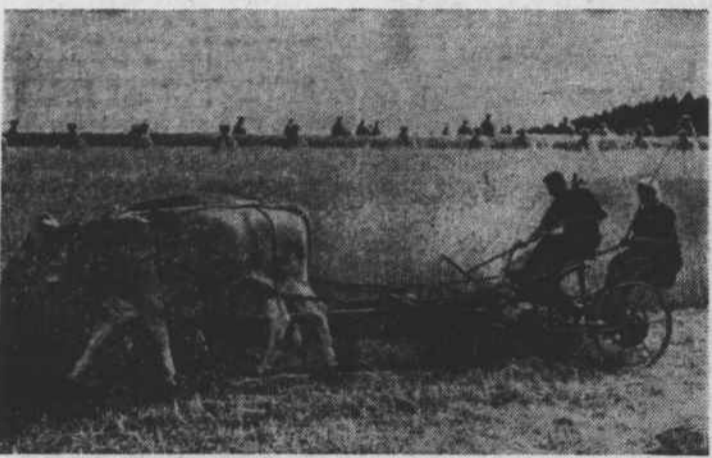
In the years 1940-43, a total of 7,851 persons were killed in farm accidents in the U. S. Machinery caused 47 per cent of the deaths, livestock 20 per cent, and all other causes 33 per cent. Wisconsin was the most dangerous state for farm workers, with 502 killed in four years; and New York had 456 accidental farm deaths.

Official Pearl Harbor Blame



Rear Adm. Husband E. Kimmel, upper right; Adm. Harold B. Stark, left; and Maj. Gen. Walter C. Short, lower right, shown on background of attack on Pearl Harbor, have been given the official blame for the unpreparedness of American forces when the Japs attacked the islands. General Marshall, also named, was declared not responsible by President Truman.

Germans Try at Postwar Farming



Complying with General Eisenhower's order of "harvest or starve," German farm people are utilizing anything and everything in order to harvest their crops for winter usage. Here a farmer and his wife use a pair of oxen to draw their reaper, in the absence of power machinery, on a war-torn farm near Honad, Germany.

Siamese Twins Start Life



Siamese twin girls, delivered by their grandmother, were given a good chance to live, although physicians expressed doubt if they could be severed. The twins, born to Mrs. Miranda of Coldwater, Ariz., a suburb of Phoenix, weighed a total of 8 pounds 9 ounces, and are almost identical in size. Their condition seems to be improving.

War Chiefs Honored by France



Four American officers of five-star rank are shown wearing their new decorations after they had received the Grand Cross of the Legion of Honor of France from Gen. Charles de Gaulle. Left to right are: Adm. William D. Leahy; Gen. George C. Marshall; Adm. Ernest King and Gen. H. H. Arnold. General de Gaulle conferred the honors in Washington.

General Wainwright



Lt. Gen. Jonathan W. Wainwright, who commanded the American forces in the Philippines when Corregidor surrendered, is shown after his release from Jap prison camp.

Has Occupied Tokyo



Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger, commanding general of the U. S. 8th army, who has been designated to occupy the Tokyo area. He has long been considered the most experienced jungle and Jap fighter in the Allied armies—and marked as a Jap hater.

Old Mission Fiesta



Reviving the romance and colorful hospitality of the California of a century or more ago, the annual fiesta, interrupted during the war years, is being renewed at the San Gabriel mission, fourth of the Spanish missions built along El Camino Real.

Discoverer of DDT



Dr. Paul Muller, who with Dr. Paul Lauer, now in the United States, gave DDT, the miracle insecticide, to the world. He asserts that by proper methods all insects can be controlled.



(Note—While Drew Pearson is on vacation, Secretary of Agriculture Clinton P. Anderson contributes a guest column.)

By CLINTON P. ANDERSON
Secretary of Agriculture

WASHINGTON. — The first Sunday after V-J Day, a friend came by with an automobile to take my family and his for a drive into the country to have dinner with another friend. Nothing like that had happened in years. We were all delighted at the chance to ride through country lanes, to talk about the height of the corn, the possibilities of crops, and the probability that we would enjoy meat for dinner.

But as we started back into Washington, we could not help but notice that the roads were filling up. There was a long line of traffic and many folks drove by at speeds which seemed reckless to us. They were perhaps driving 40 or 45 miles an hour and we had become accustomed to the 35-mile an hour leisurely gait.

When one speeding car swirled past us, I heard my wife murmur, "My, what I wouldn't give to have gasoline rationing back."

I began to wonder how many of the things that war had brought to us as sacrifices or privations we would soon come to appreciate as blessings in disguise. I began to wonder how long it would be before people would sometimes sigh for some of the real advantages of the days during the war when we all lived a little closer together, a little more simply, and perhaps a little more in the traditional American pattern that had started this country on its way to becoming a great nation.

Real Values of Life. Do you remember back in the years of the depression that Henry Ansley out in Amarillo, Texas, wrote a book entitled, "I Like the Depression?" Frankly, I liked his little book, because he told of the blessings that had come to him with a reversal in his financial situation. He told of the discoveries that he had made as the period of wild prosperity passed and the long months of depression set in. He told of the farmers who had gone back to living on their farms instead of living off their farms.

The war has done something to all of us. It made us appreciate some of the real values of life that many of us had lost sight of. We all complained a little about the war, didn't we? We were a little disappointed when we found that the stocks of new cars were frozen, but we discovered that the old car was a lot better and would run a lot longer than we had thought.

Car-Pool Neighbors. I remember my first experience with a car pool. We had two automobiles at our house; our next door neighbor had two automobiles at his place. We were not well acquainted, mostly because it wasn't necessary, until the war came along. Then my next door neighbor and I and two others, who heretofore had gone to our offices by separate means, found ourselves fused together into a car pool. We were irrevocably tied to each other. We had to rise at the same time in the morning, leave at the same hour for work, and return home together in the evening.

I am sure that at first we all resented a little the fact that we lost our freedom of action, but we gained a great lesson in neighborliness. We found out that the people who lived next to us might be just as interesting and attractive, just as pleasant and just as companionable as the people whom we had always known who lived down the street or across the city.

Victory Garden Blessing. How many women improved their figures as they walked to market! And think what Victory gardens did for the men!

Like Drew Pearson, I will perhaps be away from Washington when this column is printed, away on a short vacation. While I am gone, someone will be mowing my lawn. During the war I had to mow my own lawn. I couldn't find anyone interested in taking care of my particular little piece of property. And a strange thing happened: I found that I could mow it as well as anyone else, that I could mow it quickly, and that I could learn within a short time exactly how each particular section could be best mowed to develop the best cut of grass. And I found out also that when I mowed it myself, I not only improved the lawn, I improved my own digestion.

I'll miss that now that the war is over, because I'll tell myself that I'm too busy to do it when I can hire someone else for the job. I suppose that my wife will miss something, too, because she used to walk to market and carry her groceries back home in a basket.

As for myself, I reflect upon the fact that an automobile salesman used to be able to sell me a new car each year. But when the war came I learned that automobiles will go 50,000 or 100,000 miles and still be pretty dependable as a means of transportation.

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BARBS... by Baukhage

Now that we can get 'em by the carton, a lot of us will go back to a pack a day and be satisfied.

The administration is approaching the proposed labor-management-government conference with gloves on—not boxing gloves, but that is what they are afraid they might need unless the animals are tamed in advance.

Business Week predicts a boom by next summer. Remember '29—what goes up comes down. Meanwhile there may be tough going. Which is another good argument for keeping those war bonds and buying more.

The honeymoon may be over in Washington but the bills are just coming in to congress.