

Washington Digest

German Radio Takes New Tone Under U. S.

News, Education and Swing Replace Old Nazi Line; English Grammar Lessons Prove Popular Among Listeners.

By BAUKHAGE

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WASHINGTON. — Gradually the net is closing in about the "ether traitors," American citizens who broadcast in English from Berlin and elsewhere for the Nazis before and during the war. Recently the (in)famous "Axis Sally" was taken into custody. She devoted her air time to making G.I.s feel homesick overseas by dwelling on the joys and comforts back in the good old U. S. A. Another traitor is "Kaltenbach," an ex-Iowa boy who tried to awake nostalgia with corny realism about life down on the farm.

Then there is Constance Drexel, who pretended to be a cultured member of the old Philadelphia family whose name she used as a pseudonym when she worked on American newspapers. She was really born in Germany and brought here by her father who became naturalized. She was known here as pro-Hitler before the war. She made one broadcast for an American network when I was in Berlin, but I helped to make it her last.

It is hard to prove treason. You have to have witnesses who actually saw the person in the act of broadcasting. When the Americans took over German radio our methods were far different. We used a proved weapon—the truth.

U. S. Controls Air Facilities

When active military operations changed over to occupation, the Information Control division laid down a three-point program. The plan was negative at first—the wiping out of all Nazi media, including radio, to make way for American media.

Next came actual broadcasting. The early broadcasts were very stark and stern. Decrees, regulations, warnings to the people. No concerts, no plays, no music. Now we are in phase two and the Germans are finding more variety along the radio dial. Entertainment, as well as news and education, is being provided by the ICD.

The third phase will begin when German radio stations are turned over to the Germans themselves, much as the newspapers have been allowed to operate under German direction under license. A military government official examines and criticizes the newspaper after it appears. Presumably, radio programs will be supervised in roughly the same manner.

The first station to be taken over by the Americans was Radio Luxembourg. It was in pretty good shape, for the Germans had left in too much of a hurry to do any big-scale demolition.

Next station to go to work for the army was Frankfurt; then Stuttgart; then Munich. When I was in Germany, because of trouble with land lines, the Munich-Stuttgart-Frankfurt network was not running regularly. Perhaps it is now.

Radio is supported in Germany as it was before the war, by a tax on each set. Why, I asked, couldn't a radio owner conceal his set and thus get out of paying the tax? I was told there was no danger of that. If anyone concealed the fact he had a radio, his jealous neighbors would tell on him. The Nazi squealing habit is still strong in Germany.

All programs at present are in the German language, except for a few in Polish for displaced persons in camps. There is a large proportion of factual world news broadcast and an increasing number of German musical programs.

On the educational side, there are talks by German officials, and American military government men. Some jazz and swing, and lately, plays. The program periods have been running as long as 45 minutes which seems a long time for American radio fans—and now they are being extended to one hour.

Poll Reaction Of Audience

At first it wasn't easy to find out whether Germans liked what they were getting on the ICD schedule of broadcasts. Fan letters, the barometers of approval and disapproval

in America, were banned up until December of last year. However, reactions are coming in now, as the ICD conducts many secret radio polls—employing the methods of polltakers in this country. The surveys which I saw indicated that, on the whole, the programs are popular with the Germans—with certain reservations.

Take factual world news, for example. Germans are anxious to hear this, but they don't always understand it. For 12 years they have been taught to be suspicious of all news. And yet, in spite of this skepticism, they are so saturated with the propaganda idea that in some cases they don't like facts.

This came out in a conference with teenagers who said they preferred the Russian broadcasts to ours. Asked why, they said there was too much propaganda in ours.

I went over this answer with one of the psychological experts. He explained it this way: straight news without comment forces the listener to think for himself. This disturbs the German teenager, and he blames the program, calling it "propaganda."

English grammar lessons far outrun American music as radio favorites in Germany. All Germans want to learn English. This desire seems to stem from the long-range hope that some day America's gates will be open, and from the opportunistic feeling that the conquered can get along better with the conqueror if they're both talking the same language.

Zionists Wary Of Russians

For years, contending European nations have battled for the friendship and support of the Arabs. This struggle was intensified when, long before World War I, the Germans started their "drang nach Osten" and the British heightened their efforts to placate the Arabs in order to protect their empire's life-lines and to prevent a spread of a disaffection to the Moslems of India.

Now Russia steps into the picture. Reports from Baghdad tell us of the spread of communistic sympathies throughout the Middle East. And the Jews of Palestine find their troubles increasing.

The announcement of Britain's granting of independence to Trans-Jordania heightened Zionist resentment, for Trans-Jordan is a part of Greater Palestine and was supposed to be included in the territory allotted to the National Jewish home.

The Zionists claim the British action is part of a scheme to prevent the United Nations from creating a trusteeship of Greater Palestine which would include Trans-Jordan, as the old League of Nations mandate did. They also make the charge that the purpose is "to thwart Jewish rights by bolstering pro-Axis forces."

The Zionists feel too that Russia is playing a similar game. They point out the inconsistency of making friends with the Arabs, whose party leader in Palestine, Jamal Hussein, is calling for the reinstatement of the Grand Mufti, a Hitler collaborator.

In his testimony before the British-American inquiry committee Hussein said: "Germany was not our enemy and therefore we had no interest in the war," adding: "I've read somewhere that it was a Jewish war."

The Zionists believe they have discovered an additional reason for Russian animosity toward their efforts in Palestine. Like most of the causes of racial and other ructions, it is fear. They say that the Soviets are afraid that if the Palestine colony becomes a success it will prove an entering wedge for western capitalism in the Near East. There is really nothing in common between the feudalist, unprogressive Arab world and the economic and social principles represented by the Soviet system. The Arabs can't do the Soviets any harm but they could be used, the Zionists say, to hamstring what might become a live and up-and-coming Jewish nation imbued with capitalistic ideas, operating too close for communistic comfort.

BARBS... by Baukhage

A new triangular desk designed for executives is described by Business Week. Reducing the difficulty of viewing all sides of a problem by one-third. Efficiency.

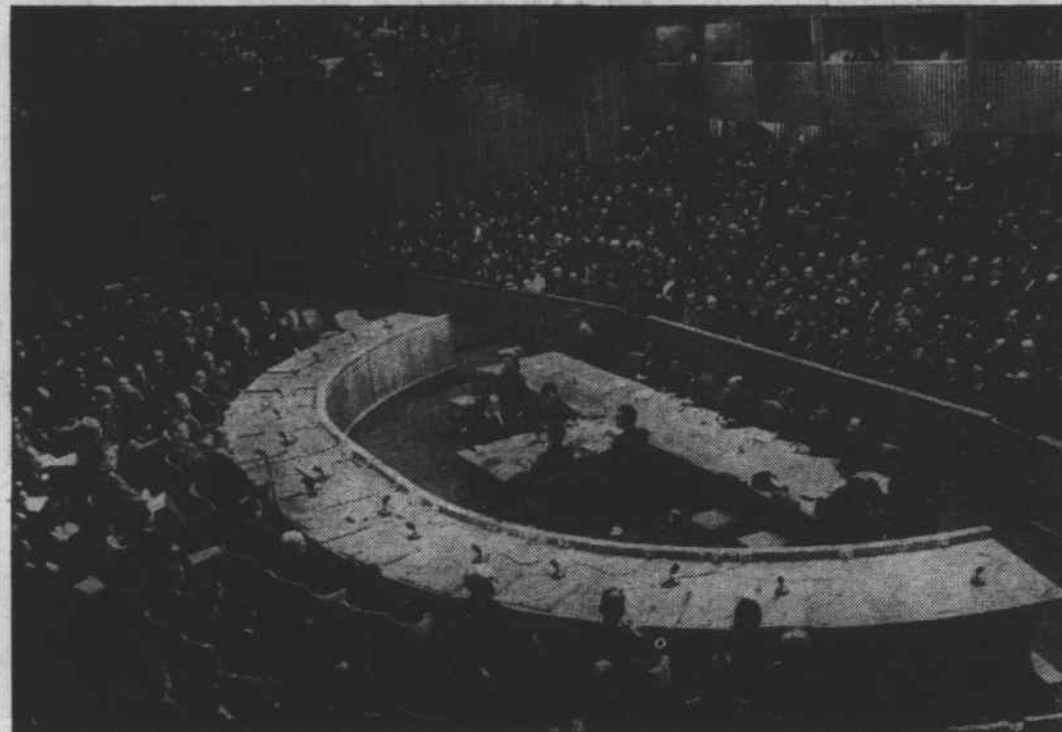
Those fierce tribesmen, the Kurds, don't rhyme with Miss Muffet's curds. The "U" is long in the Kurds, just as they are long in bel-ligerency.

If the people don't want prohibition of black marketeering any more than they wanted prohibition on the sale of liquor, inflation can't be stopped.

I don't like the derogative use of this word "puppet"—puppet parliaments, puppet rulers—it sounds so much like "puppy." I feel I have to apologize to my dog.



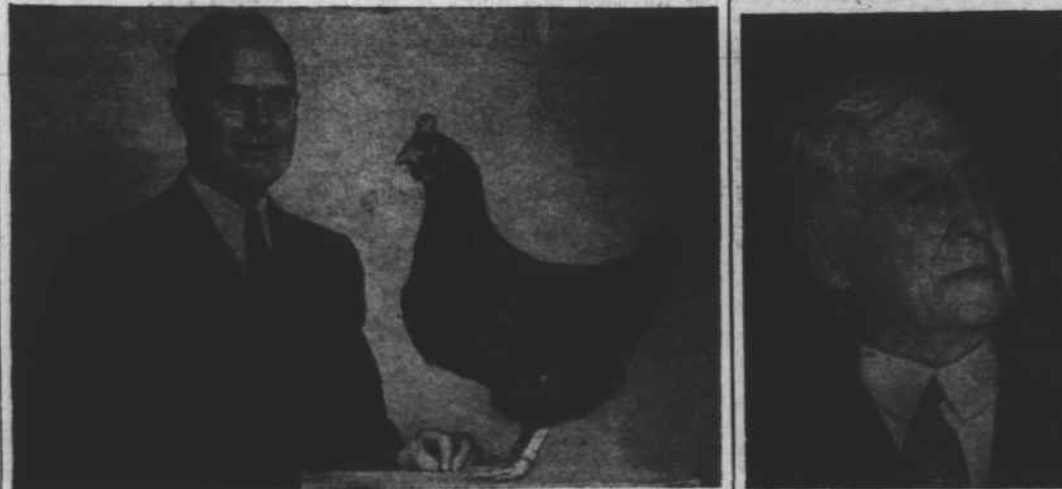
OKLAHOMA WINS NATIONAL BASKETBALL TITLE AGAIN... For the second year in a row, Oklahoma A. & M. college, Stillwater, won the NCAA basketball championship by conquering North Carolina at Madison Square Garden, 43 to 40. Photo shows the winning team circled around their coach, Henry Iba, as he accepts the St. Clair memorial trophy from Mrs. Jimmy W. St. Clair, widow of the late basketball committee chairman, in whose name the award is granted annually.



AT OPENING OF UNO SECURITY COUNCIL... A general view from the rear of the council chamber as the momentous opening session of the United Nations security council got underway at Hunter College, New York City. U. S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes is addressing the delegates. He declared flatly that no nation has the right to take the law into its own hands. Governor Dewey welcomed the delegates.



SPRING HAS TRULY ARRIVED... When the youngsters forsake the nursery for a day of fishing in New York's Central park lake. The gentleman, Bruce Fitzgerald, 2, has had nary a nibble as yet, but he doesn't fret so long as his lady, Eleanor Jessup, 3, is by his side. Eleanor has an apple in reserve, just in case they are not able to catch any fish for their lunch.



WORLD'S CHAMPION HEN... Ernest B. Farmer, Franklin, Mass., shown with "Miss Massachusetts," Rhode Island Red hen, which established a new world's record at official egg laying contests by producing 351 eggs in 257 days. During the past 14 years, Farmer's Reds have won 26 official egg laying contests from Maine to California. This champion may end up in the New England Museum of Natural History.



REUTHER ELECTED... Walter Reuther, former vice president of the United Automobile Workers of America, who was in charge of General Motors strike, defeated R. J. Thomas for the presidency of the union during a heated election. After election they both pledged united support to CIO.



URGES INCREASE... Bernard M. Baruch, 75, financier and counselor of Presidents, urged the granting of increased wages and prices as an immediate incentive to production.

NEWS BEHIND THE NEWS

By PAUL MALLON

Released by Western Newspaper Union.

SELECTION OF SMITH TO RUSSIAN POST WISE

WASHINGTON. — The condition of foreign affairs is apt to become more deeply involved before it gets better.

The military man, Lt. Gen. Walter Bedell Smith, selected by Mr. Truman to go to Russia as ambassador, has now been sent on his way to Moscow, presumably with new instructions on the course of Soviet-American affairs. My guess would be General Smith will enter into the confusing diplomatic fray with a purpose of establishing the usual direct non-political approach. Diplomats seldom say what they mean; military men speak directly. With them it is a question of "What do you want?" "What have you got?" and "What do you propose to do?" The West Point schooling always has taught practical considerations. For these reasons I judge the permanent mission of General Smith represents a fresh effort by this administration to establish some reasonable and practical grounds for future Russian negotiations.

Gen. Smith

IRAN DEVELOPMENTS REMAIN DEEP MYSTERY

This under- interpreted venture seems to me to be equally as important as the Iranian developments which are deeply involved in diplomacy. The filing by the Iranian government of a protest against Russia with the United Nations security council in its provisional nature, may have been too happily interpreted in this country. On the face, it represented a decision by the Iranian government to stand for its independence. This naturally has raised American hopes that a new stanchion has been built to resist the encroachments Russia has been making upon the basic peace doctrine of the four freedoms.

The wiles of diplomacy are such however, that this conclusion must be hedged. Some underlying doubts in the situation can be found upon analysis of the strength of the stanchion.

In the first place, the new premier of the Iranian government was established after the Soviets had protested the resistance policy of the former government head. The protest of his minister here to UNO was made after his recent visit to Stalin out of which many rumors have grown.

One story accredited to British circles is that the premier was told by Stalin not only that an appeal to UNO would be considered an unfriendly act — as announced—but his government would be replaced if he tried it. On the other hand, an unaccredited rumor here supposes that the protest will not be pressed before UNO as it occupies only a status on the provisional agenda of the council — that is, it may not be taken up. Regardless of rumors or reports on either side, the status of the protest, of course, is provisional. It can be taken up by a vote of seven members but a veto by Russia would shelve it.

With matters in this involved diplomatic state, the dispatch of General Smith represents the most encouraging development, and a firmer one.

As nearly as I can judge, few authorities are being swayed by the appeasement efforts such as represented most conspicuously by the speech of Senator Pepper. Big Three gatherings were important from a publicity standpoint and were necessary when the foundations of peace had not been laid. But now that the agreements have been established, the problem is to put them into effect.

My latest information suggests Russia has nothing of a military nature which we need fear. Specifically she does not have the atom bomb or early prospects of getting it. The bomb formula is so deeply covered by arrangements for secrecy made during the war, that it may be assumed to be safe.

The need for appeasement in the face of Russia's threatening diplomatic position is therefore not apparent.

The bellows of diplomacy blow faster, hot and cold. Although President Truman stood by the side of Mr. Churchill when he proposed an Anglo-American alliance, State Secretary Byrnes celebrated St. Patrick's Day shortly thereafter with a definite rejection of the Churchill plan. He submitted the counter-proposal of maintaining sufficient armaments to enforce our influence in world affairs through joint co-operation of UNO. Mr. Churchill likewise dropped his firm manner and pinked Stalin with a needle dipped in humor.

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