

# Looking at WASHINGTON

## Army Investigates Appeal Of Convicted German Soldiers

When the United States Supreme Court, by a tie vote, declined to hear the appeal of seventeen German soldiers, convicted and sentenced to die in connection with the massacre of unarmed American prisoners of war near Malmédy, Secretary of the Army Kenneth Royall stayed the executions until proper Army officials could investigate.

The Court, it should be understood, did not pass upon the petition of the convicted Germans. Because of a tie vote upon the question of allowing a hearing the matter was rejected and the petition was automatically dismissed. The custom in connection with our Supreme Court, is that litigants must have the permission of the Court in order to proceed.

The action of Secretary Royall should demonstrate, to all the peoples of Europe, the attention which officials of this country pay to the judicial processes. It is an object lesson in the supremacy of law, and fundamental ideas of justice, in connection with governmental affairs, even including the punishment of those who have been convicted of killing American soldiers in cold blood.

When we say this much, we have said all that can be said favorably about the matter. The petition for the German prisoners was filed by a former army officer who defended the prisoners while in the service. This attorney alleges that the United States used "sham" courts, threats and third degree methods to force confessions from the prisoners. Incidentally, this is the same allegation that is often made against the Russian government, just like it was made against the Nazi government.

The charges are rather serious and it is well for the Army to thoroughly investigate them. If they are true, something should be done. More to the point, if they are false, something should also be done. The public would be interested in knowing whether there exists any basis for such charges against the Army, and those who conducted the trials in Germany. Moreover, the people of this country are entitled to know whether they represent nothing more than the process adopted by an over-enthusiastic attorney to win a point.

## Stalin's Proposal May Lead To Feeling Of False Security

Included in the text of the reply by Premier Joseph Stalin to the open letter of Henry A. Wallace, one finds the following:

"The U. S. S. R. government considers that, despite the difference in the economic system and ideologies, the co-existence of these systems and a peaceful settlement of differences between the U. S. S. R. and the United States are not only possible but also doubtlessly necessary in the interest of a general peace."

We do not think that the Government of the United States, or of the other Western Democracies, is unwilling to enter into a discussion with the Soviet Government when firmly convinced that the Russians are ready to cooperate with the other nations of the world on a basis of sensible compromise.

The background of the Russian Government's conclusion, that the ec-

onomic systems can co-exist in peace is to be understood by (a) the steady growth of the Soviet's sphere of influence in Europe since the end of the war and (b) the end of this era of unlimited advance because of an apparent determination on the part of the United States to contest, by force, if necessary, the imposition of Russian control upon other areas.

If the Soviet conclusion is based upon a frank recognition of the impossibility of further advances without the serious risk of war and does not stem from a sincere desire to live cooperatively in a modern world, there is little use in proceeding with negotiations.

The danger in the Soviet proposal is that it will lull the people of the United States into a false security, making them believe that it is not necessary to be thoroughly prepared for war and thus lead to the weakening of democratic forces that are now accelerating and rapidly acquiring a position sufficiently strong to stop the Russians even in case of a war.

This situation, we believe, has much to do with the decision of the Communist government to seek a peaceful settlement of differences in the interest of "a general peace". Such a peace, however, must not be a period of quiescence or over-confidence on the part of the democracies while the Soviet Union continues to maintain disproportionate armed strength or to augment it and thus become more powerful relative to the free countries of the world.

## Exports To Russia Bar War-making Material

American sales to Russian-dominated areas in Eastern Europe have dropped sharply since March first. This freeze on exports to Russia was one of the points raised by the Soviet in reply to Ambassador Smith's statement of American policy.

Charles Sawyer, new Secretary of Commerce, is working on a plan to boost our sales in Eastern Europe. He is preparing a list of things which the United States can safely sell after eliminating weapons, ammunition and industrial goods that might add to Russia's potential.

In the report sent to Congress, the Secretary of Commerce calls attention to the "periodic outburst of unwarranted hysteria" that has accompanied reports of goods being shipped to Eastern Europe. Without saying so, the Secretary referred to the practice of those seeking popular favor by denouncing every shipment of goods that went to Russia or her satellite nations.

Regardless of political or economic differences with Russia, there is a safe area in which to develop normal trade policies. It is hardly intelligent for the American people to worry about the goods going to Russia when these amounted to only \$524,000 in the month of March.

## Lack of American Dollars Causes U. S. Export Lag

European and Asiatic countries, for the most part, cannot buy goods in the United States because they do not have any dollar credit in this country.

Now comes the news that the Latin-American countries have exhausted credit worth \$4,500,000,000

in American banks since the end of the war and nineteen trade experts recently told the National Association of Credit Men that there is an acute shortage of dollars in Latin-America.

While this condition has been aggravated by the use of productive facilities for war purposes, one should note that the acute dollar shortage has not been lessened by the advent of so-called peace. The truth of the matter is that the rest of the world cannot build up dollar-credits in this country, for the purpose of buying American products, solely because the United States is unwilling to buy the products of other countries.

Obviously, if country B sells a billion dollars worth of its products to the people of the United States, it secures a billion dollars which can be used to purchase the products of our farms and factories. If country B is limited in its sales to the United States, by tariff walls, quota restrictions, currency regulations or other controls, the extent of its purchases in this country is reduced.

In other words, if the United States expects to sell its products to foreign countries, it must be willing to buy some of the products of other peoples of the world.

## Communist-control Bill Will Do Little Harm

The so-called Communist-Control bill, recently passed by the House, states as a conventional finding that a world Communist movement is attempting to establish in all countries totalitarian dictatorships, controlled and directed by the "Communist dictatorship of a foreign country."

Consequently, the measure makes it a crime to attempt to establish in this country such a dictatorship, when the direction and control are to be under the domination of any foreign government, foreign organization or foreign individual.

Passage of the measure by the House represents something of a condemnation of such action on the part of American citizens but whether it will be possible to prove in the courts of this country that a political movement is under the domination of a foreign government is something else.

While we are not in favor of attempting to legislate against the political rights of the people of this (Concluded on Page Six)

At every trifle scorn to take offense— That always shows great pride or little sense. —Pope.

## ONE MINUTE SPORTS QUIZ

1. Has Dick (Bonus) Wakefield been playing regularly this season?
2. Who won the recent Beau Jack-Tony Janiero fight?
3. Had Janiero ever beaten Jack before their last scrap?
4. Is Marcel Cerdan still European middleweight champion?
5. What horse came in second in the Preakness?

### The Answers

1. No.
2. Beau Jack—a ten round unanimous decision.
3. Yes, he won the fight before this last one, on a T. K. L.
4. No, he was decisioned and lost the crown to a Belgian.
5. Coaltown.

## There's Nothing Like Milk AS A FOOD OR DRINK—ORDER IT TODAY

We have plenty of fresh, wholesome milk and make delivery in Hertford and this area daily. Call us for prompt service.

Phone 3571

**SUMNER and HURDLE**

MILK DISTRIBUTORS

HERTFORD, N. C.

## SOMETHING NEW FOR MATERIAL HANDLING



### The BELL Prime-Mover

Known as the "one-man half-ton mover that goes anywhere with anything" . . . the Bell Prime-Mover actually does the work of four men with wheelbarrows

This versatile, mechanically-dumping barrow is mounted on a powered three-wheel chassis. Bucket is quickly interchangeable with spacious platform deck . . . a feature permitting easy, rapid handling of material in any form. Fingertip throttle controls speed of 3 h.p. engine . . . foot pedal activates dumping mechanism. Full information about Prime-Mover and its extraordinary utility is available to you.

### "International Diesel Power"

Representative, J. F. MELSON, Elizabeth City, N. C. PHONE 1046

## HAMPTON ROADS TRACTOR & EQUIPMENT COMPANY

W. 39th Street & Killam Ave. Norfolk, Virginia  
Phone 2-2717

# It'll knock your hat off...



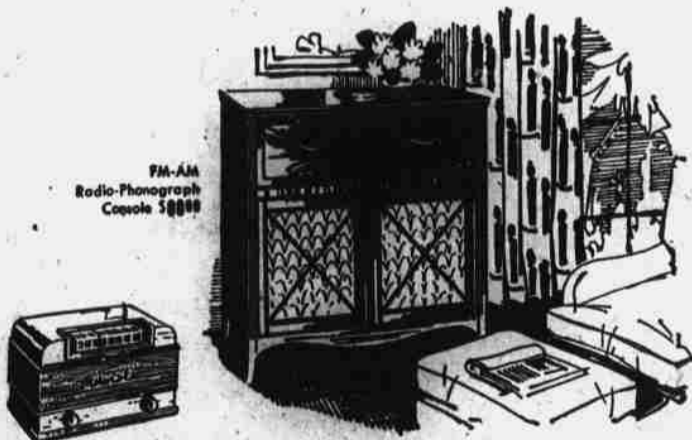
Your dreams will come true  
**Friday June 18<sup>th</sup>!**

## YOUR EAGER FORD DEALER

A FURNITURE STYLED

**Motorola**

for every purpose . . . for every room



FM-AM Radio-Phonograph Console 58888

**Motorola**

"GOLDEN VOICE"

Here are radio cabinets designed by interior decorators—built by furniture craftsmen to be "at home" in your home. Each is a masterpiece of precision radio engineering—each tops in tone, power and beauty.

Come in—see them, hear them—today!

**ELLIOTT LAYDEN**

RADIO REPAIRS  
Court House Square  
HERTFORD, N. C.