American Zone of Germany Finds Itself in Midst of Newspaper Circulation War

(Special Story From Our Weiton Bureau)

By Joseph A. Dear

MUNICH — American-Germany is today the scene of a gigantic newspaper circulation war. Its outcome will be a yardstick by which the degree of Germany's conversion to democracy can be measured.

Twenty-five newspapers run by Germans who never belonged to the Nazi Party are struggling to hold readers now being wooed by 100 other papers operated by ex-Nazis and German nationalists. That is the picture in Bavaria and it is the same all over western Germany.

Before the war there were about 800 newspapers—dailies, weeklies, and semi-weeklies—in Bavaria. All of them bowed to the party line laid down by Herr Goebbels. Uncle Sam decided democracy would never have a chance in Germany unless the people here had a chance to read propaganda-less news in a free press. So all the papers in Bavaria were suspended when the occupation began.

Printing Plants Seized

The printing plants of the large German dailies were seized by the U.S.-run Property Control Boards, and were then released to German newsmen who had anti-Nazi records. Only 50-odd Germans out of 2,000 were granted licenses enabling them to publish papers. The Property Boards acted the part of referees. Through them the American-licensed editors received leases from former Nazi owners.

Until August 22 this year there were only 26 papers being published in Bavaria. They were run by the German newsmen whose records the United States had approved. This situation led Germans to charge that Uncle Sam had created a press monoply, and that the press was no more free under American rule than it had been in Hitler's day.

The element of truth in the accusation (the American-backed papers had been carefully nursed along for more than four years) caused the American Military Government to lift the bans. That happened on August 22.

100 More Started

Within a month 100 new papers were in business.

The total circulation of the newcomers is about 350,000. They gained about one-third of this circulation at the expense of the American licensed papers. The average sale of the new papers is small.

Most of them are local affairs published in medium towns and county seats. Their editors and publishers survived the suspension period, for the most part, by jobprinting.

The content of the newspapers is disquieting. The Neuer Kurier (Nuremberg), published by ex-Nazi Dr. Othmar Best, told its readers the U. S. government used 3 billion pounds of egg powder for fertilizer. That was the only U. S. news the paper carried in three consecutive issues.

Nazi Stuff Reprinted

The Straubinger Tagblatt informed its readers that FDR was a suicide.

One small paper recently reprinted the following from an article of Nazi days (in connection with a harvest festival): "All hearts join in a mighty wave of thanks for the Almighty God in heaven and the Fuehrer to whose strong hand we owe this new conception of life . . ."

News analyst Langendorf, an anti-Nazi who now works for the United States, find "the distortion of United States news today is similar to the situation in the Nazi era . . ."

In addition to distortion, many of the new papers are highly sensational. Further, several apparently subscribe to a service which supplies "canned" copy, both distorted and sensational. Five of the new papers, though widely separated by miles, recently published issues in which the contents of their front pages were identical.

Will Papers Be Censored?

The Office of the U. S. Higher Commissioner for Germany still has power to brake the activities of the new papers should they become too violently anti-American. But the question is: Will the High Commissioner use this power?

To do so would bring charges of "censorship." And for the U.S. to overrule the findings of German courts is a cold war political consideration. The new West German government at Bonn can point a gun at the heads of High Commissioners whenever it wants.

"Do it our way," they can say, "or our government falls, is discredited in German eyes as your puppet, and we turn to the Russians." It's a bluff, but United States cannot let the Bonn government become bluff.

It is too soon to say that all the new papers will continue to follow a policy of news distortion and nationalism. They may be financial successes. But at this writing they are becoming as successful as they are nationalistic.

Even more important is the fate of the 6 mass-circulation papers Uncle Sam put in business. One of them fell by the wayside in the face of the new competition. But the others seem secure at the moment.

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In replying, please write Box No. 976 giving description of business and other details. Acknowledgements will be treated confidentially.

ALWAYS ROOM FOR ONE MORE—Displaying the utmost in canine hospitality, this fox terrier invites a new-born jaguar at the Milwaukee Zoo to join one of her four puppies for lunch. The spotted newcomer, unwanted by its own mother, accepts the offer eagerly.

Congress, Generous With Aid to Farmer Shies Away From Subsidies to Business

By Bill Levin

WASHINGTON—Just how far will the government go in "subsidizing" private industry?

With U. S. already spending more than a half billion dollars annually on programs clearly defined as subsidies, Congress is becoming less and less willing to go along with requests for financial help from various interests.

The rejection by the House, in the closing days of Congress, of a bill providing for federal aid to marginal mines proves that.

But the "we had better go easy on these handouts" attitude of Congress didn't extend to the farmers. Agriculture has, over the past 15 years, received over $10 billion from the fedral government through price support programs.

Gives No Indication

And this year's farm bill, as eventually passed by a badly-split Congress, gives no indication the farmers will receive less government help in the next few years.

Mining interests, too, have had plenty of dollars handed them by Uncle Sam. RFC subsidies for production of copper, lead, zinc, coal and petroleum during wartime cost $889 million. Total RFC wartime subsidy operations to hike production of critical materials was $3.4 billion.

And how much have the airlines been receiving, supposedly as payment for air mail service, but actually—at least to a large extent—a grant? Amazingly enough, no one knows. Even Civil Aeronautics Board Chairman Joseph O'Connell has said he's "not sure" of the amount.

Represent Half the Sum

But the estimated cost for airline subsidies for the years 1946-48 is $287,795,220. This represents about half the sum paid airlines for "services rendered".

Don't blame the "big interests" for all these government losses. That penny post card you send has been a losing proposition to the Post Office Department for many years.

Altogether, subsidies to commercial mail users for the 15 years are estimated at $2.4 billion.

Of course, many government activities have the effect of assisting businesses and farmers even though they can't actually be called "subsidies".

Take, for example, the Weather Bureau or flood control. And there are the trade promotion activities of the Department of Commerce and the maintenance of air navigation facilities.

Tax Payer Foots the Bill

The critics of these programs say they "cost too much"; that subsidies are "undemocratic and paternalistic"; that with subsidies come more government controls.

Even the bitterest opponents of the farm support program admitted if the program of high supports went through (as it did), the Secretary of Agriculture must be given great control over production.

And what about the proponents of these government-aid programs? How do they justify the fact that certain—but not all—businesses are picked out for financial help?

They point to the basic importance of the farmer in the economic picture; to the need of a strong merchant marine and well-developed airlines as a defense measure; to valuable information given the public by too-low postal rates of commercial users.

Ultimately, this problem of government subsidies will be answered by the taxpayer. He's footing the bill.

YMCA Varsity Squad Faces Busy Season

The Birmingham YMCA aggregation will again be represented in the Metropolitan YMCA basketball league. They will play 14 games starting Dec. 1, and face opponents from the St. Antoine, Downtown, Northern, Fisher, Western, and Hannan branches.

Half their games will be played away from Birmingham with the remainder to be staged on the Barnum junior high floor.

Don Little will serve as convenor for the group which will have Roge Reynolds, Jim Kothe, Gene Wilkens, Bike Sutton, Al Larsen, Harold and Paul Kelley, John MacDonald, Walter Allison and others.

Practice sessions will be held at Baldwin high school Nov. 21 at 8:00 p.m. Anyone interested in trying out for the squad is invited to attend or communicate with the 'Y' office at 144 West Maple.

Birthdays, anniversaries, guests, births, parties are all news—call the society editor about them.

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
ORDINANCE NUMBER 887
AN ORDINANCE TO PROVIDE FOR THE PREPARATION OF A PROPOSED ANNUAL BUDGET FOR THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, THE PREPARATION OF AN ANNUAL APPROPRIATION RESOLUTION, THE PREPARATION OF AN ASSESSMENT ROLL, FOR SAID CITY AND FOR THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF REVIEW FOR PURPOSES OF REVIEWING AND CORRECTING SAID ROLL.

The City of Birmingham Ordains:

Section 1. That the proposed Annual Budget contemplated by Section 11 of Chapter 7 of the City Charter shall be prepared on or before the first day of March of each year.

Section 2. That the Appropriation Resolution contemplated by Section 12 of Chapter 7 of the City Charter shall be prepared not later than the 24th day of March of each year.

Section 3. That the Assessment Roll contemplated by provisions of Section 1 of Chapter 9 of the City Charter shall be prepared by the Assessor of the City of Birmingham on or before the first Monday in March of each year.

Section 4. That the Board of Review provided by the Charter of the City of Birmingham shall hold its first meeting on the Tuesday following the first Monday in March in each year and on the day following if deemed necessary, and shall hold its second meeting on the second Monday in March of each year, and on the day following. Such Board of Review shall convene at nine o'clock in the forenoon, and shall hold session until twelve o'clock noon, and shall reconvene at one o'clock in the afternoon, and hold session until at least four o'clock in the afternoon; provided that said Board shall hold longer or additional sessions to deal with matters coming before it, if necessary.

Section 5. The City Assessment Roll of the City of Birmingham and the final review thereof shall be completed not later than the first Monday in April of each year.

Section 6. This Ordinance is enacted in pursuance of the authority granted under provisions of Act No. 285 of the Public Acts for the State of Michigan for the year 1949, which Act takes priority over the provisions of the Charter of the City of Birmingham covering matters herein set forth.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication following passage hereof.

Passed by the City Commission of the City of Birmingham this 31st day of October, 1949.

Yeas:- 7
Nays:- 0

DONALD S. BELL, Mayor
IRENE E. HANLEY, Clerk
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CITY OF BIRMINGHAM
ORDINANCE NUMBER 388
AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE NO. 185
AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND ORDINANCE NO. 185 OF THE CITY OF BIRMINGHAM, ENTITLED "FIRE PREVENTION ORDINANCE" BY AMENDING SECTION 516 THEREOF.

The City of Birmingham Ordains:

That Ordinance No. 185 of the City of Birmingham, entitled "Fire Prevention Ordinance" be and the same is hereby amended by amending Section No. 516 thereof to read as follows:

Section 516. Except as otherwise permitted in this Ordinance, the storage of flammable liquids shall be outside buildings, in underground or above ground tanks. Above ground tanks are prohibited in the fire limits district, as established by the Building Code, as amended, of the City of Birmingham. PROVIDED, HOWEVER, that where liquefied petroleum is used as a substitute for natural gas for the heating of any building, use of the same in approved appliances may be permitted until natural gas is available, but in any case for not longer than one year, subject to the following terms and conditions:

(a) Installation, maintenance and servicing of tanks and any and all equipment used in connection therewith, or in any such heating plant shall in all things comply with regulations of the Fire Marshal Division of the Michigan State Police, dated June 2, 1947, or any amendments thereto.

(b) Tanks used in connection with such installation shall be installed on a solid foundation not less than three feet above the level of the surrounding terrain, constructed of solid concrete, or having a concrete base of not less than 6 inches, on a concrete or cement block wall, with the space beneath the same completely filled with packed earth.

(c) Buildings serviced thereby shall not be connected with, or located within fifty feet of any other building or buildings.

(d) The permit for such installation shall be approved by the Chief of the Fire Department, or his authorized deputy, and such installation shall be subject to inspection at all reasonable times.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon publication following passage hereof.

DONALD S. BELL, Mayor
IRENE E. HANLEY, Clerk
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Condition Improves

The condition of Mrs. James Reilly of Linden Rd. who suffered, a broken ankle in an automobile accident two weeks ago, is reported as favorable at St. Joseph Mercy hospital, Pontiac. The accident happened at Woodward and 8 Mile, when the Riley car was struck by another vehicle. Neither Dr. Riley nor their little son were injured.

Wayne Professor Is Hygiene Speaker

The second general meeting of the Oakland county chapter of the Michigan society for mental hygiene was held Tuesday at Christ Church Cranbrook.

Fritz Redl, Ph. D., spoke on "Discipline and Mental Hygiene." Dr. Redl is the professor of social work at Wayne university.

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Perch ---- lb. 29c
Shrimp ---- lb. 89c
Sole (Frozen) ---- lb. 39c

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Oscar Mayer TENDER HAM Whole lb. 55c
Stuffed LAMB CHOPS lb. 49c
Baby Beef LIVER lb. 59c
McMillen's Country ROLL BUTTER lb. 66c
Fresh Dressed STEWERS lb. 39c
Pinconning CHEESE It's Mellow lb. 69c
Baby Pork LOIN ROAST Rib End lb. 35c

SOCIETY DOG FOOD — BEST FOR YOUR DOG
2 tins 29c

CRISCO
3 lb. can 83c

California New Crop WALNUTS ---- lb. pkg. 45c
California DATES ---- pkg. 35c
California FIGS ---- pkg. 45c
Crosse & Blackwell PUDDINGS ---- each 49c
Crosse & Blackwell MINCE MEAT ---- jar 43c

Star Cross TOMATO JUICE 46 oz. tin 23c
Star Cross TOMATOES 2 No. 2 tins 31c
Tide — Oxydol Ivory Flakes Ivory Snow or Duz pkg. 27c

Marlo Brand Freestone PEACHES ---- No. 2½ can 35c
3 cans $1.00
Marlo Brand APRICOTS, No. 2½ cans ---- 2 for 55c
Marlo Brand KIDNEY BEANS ---- 2 cans 27c
Stokely PUMPKIN, No. 2 cans ---- 2 for 27c
Ocean Spray Whole or Strained CRANBERRY SAUCE ---- 2 cans 31c

CAL. ORANGES
Doz. ---- 29c
4 doz. ---- $1.00

Awrey Bakery
Delicious Peanut Butter Cookies ---- per doz. 39c
Individual Butterscotch Whipped Cream Pies ---- 3 for 50c
Apple Filled Danish Sweet Rolls ---- 3 for 25c
Chocolate Fudge Angel Food Cakes ---- each 59c
Delicious Devils Food Snowballs ---- 3 for 28c
Tasty Peach Pineapple Pan Rolls ---- per pan 65c
Crunchee Toasted Coconut Fried Cakes ---- 6 for 35c
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY)
Buttercream Bittersweet Chocolate Layer Cakes ---- each 65c
(FRIDAY & SATURDAY ONLY)
Caramel Pecan Taffy Layer Cakes ---- each $1.15
(SATURDAY ONLY)
Whipped Cream Chocolate Layer Cakes ---- each $1.00

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