

# The Birmingham Eccentric

Parental failure to develop the habit of personal responsibility in their children can do great harm to their adult lives. In adults, responsibility is a virtue that opens the doors to security and happiness.

## B'ham Intelligence Officer Explains Why Russia Allows Operation of USIA Industries

By ROBERT BALL  
Special Correspondent for The Eccentric.  
VIENNA, Austria—The Soviet Zone of Austria is an interesting test-tube for studying the more peaceful methods of Soviet exploitation.  
Here, for example, the Russians have by legal means acquired a piece of gigantic industrial complex, the 74 Russia in Austria. Hoping to find out more about so-called USIA industries, which they administer extraterritorially in the manner in which this world-

came into Russian hands and the ways and means employed in administering them, the author is to get an interview at the Soviet Control Board.



BALL

Receiving a veto there is expected to an American intelligence officer, who is to be asked to answer USIA questions, who seemed to know about as much about the factories as the Russians could.  
His NAME may not be mentioned, but his home is Birmingham, Michigan.  
The USIA story began in Potsdam. There the Four Powers agreed that former German assets in Austria should be temporarily taken over by the victors pending disposal by the peace treaty.  
Not surprisingly, the Russians were less inhibited than we in deciding what constituted a German asset, the officer explained.  
"In some cases a few shares of German-held stock were enough to make the entire plant a German asset."  
"In this manner they came into control of some three hundred highly assorted factories and mines, about one-third of the total industry of their Zone, which is the industrial heart of Austria."  
At the same time the Soviets acquired the Danube Shipping Co. and the Zistersdorf oil fields on pretexts which, to Western observers, seemed to stretch Potsdam as out of shape as a tea dollar suit.

## Well Construction Underway



Troy Township Engineer Edwin Orr and Supervisor Charles Ryan look on as construction work proceeds on the new 12-inch well on the Walker property on Butterfield road. The well will be the third in Troy township.

## 1950 Adams Antics Set for Nov. 10-11

"The Birth of the Blues" will be the theme of the 1950 Adams Antics, a two-night show set for Nov. 10-11. The shows will be given in the school gymnasium at 8 o'clock each evening.  
The Adams Dads, accompanied by Fred Meyer at the piano, are again rehearsing the old New Orleans favorites of all minstrel, Roland Reese, director, and Robert Gougeon, assistant, stated today that they have discovered exceptional talent and voices among the numerous members of the cast.  
Forrest Hubert will preside as interlocutor over endmen Robert Gougeon, Robert Gilray, Al Parrish, Jack Williams, Jack Houch and Wayne Mortimer.

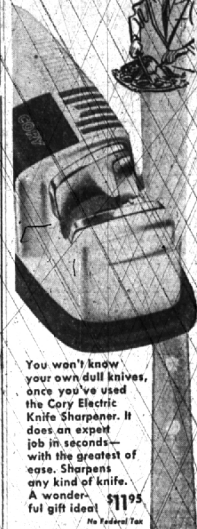
feets are being handled by Richard Featherstone. Ticket sales are in charge of Mrs. Claude Ulrich who says they may be purchased at the school office or from any member of the cast.

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AMERICAN authorities were disturbed but held their patience, expecting that the forthcoming conference would clear matters up.  
Apparently the Soviets were expecting a short-term plan for the plants at that time," the officer continued. "Their administration consisted of unloading part of the inventories and raw material stocks for Austrian shippers or hand currency and shipping the rest East.  
"What work policy there was aimed at immediate production of goods without sparing either workers or plant."  
The failure of the London Conference convinced both sides that the peace treaty was in the far distant future. Accordingly the Western Allies turned the assets in their zones over to the Austrian government.  
THE SOVIETS kept their calls a halt to the program of short-term exploitation and reorganized the administration. Industrial experts and skilled managers replaced the military members of the Control Board.  
The Russians began to run the plants like someone who expects to keep them a long time.  
"USIA is probably one of the reasons why the Russians have left Austria as a trap door in the curtain," the officer asserted.  
From Marshall Planned, West-oriented Austria, USIA plants can sell their products freely for Western currencies. With the profits, Russia can buy things she needs in the West.  
Besides that, USIA is formidable competition for private Austrian firms—and the Austrian government is weakened by the loss of tax revenue from this vast industrial empire.  
The government loses export duties, too, on all east-bound shipments. These go over the border in customs-exempt Red Army trucks.  
"YOU CAN SEE why the Russians are in no hurry for a peace treaty," the officer laughed. All attention of the Austrian government to acquire custody of the

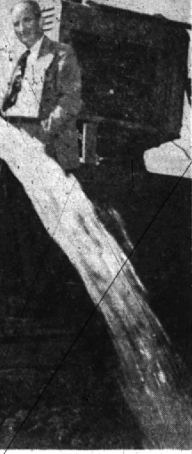
plants from the Soviets have been met with the same answer. For a payment of 150 million dollars it might be done. (Obviously this sum represents Russian-financed improvements.)  
The Austrians point out that all improvements have been made out of current earnings. There the matter rests.  
Austrian workers have another one to pick with the Soviets. A large number of the USIA firms have held on—compulsory payments to the workers' health insurance funds, a branch of contractual obligations amounting to more than 400,000 dollars.  
Workers and owners of non-USIA firms must now pay higher premiums or the USIA workers must go without sick leave and medical care.

THE USIA WORKERS wonder—every week their share of the premium is deducted from their pay by the Russian administration, but the money never reaches the fund.  
In general, the representatives of the workers' paradise have shown little team spirit where Austrian workers are concerned.  
When the Austrian Communist Party recently proclaimed a general strike in protest against the Austrian government, Soviet administrators announced that USIA workers would not participate.  
"They have too much to do," said the Russians.

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LYNN D. ALLEN is a life long resident of Oakland County, born in Birmingham, Michigan, educated in Hill School, Detroit Central and the University of Detroit.

## Well Construction Underway



Troy Township Engineer Edwin Orr and Supervisor Charles Ryan look on as construction work proceeds on the new 12-inch well on the Walker property on Butterfield road. The well will be the third in Troy township.

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