Washington Digest

America Faces Task of Finishing Job in Germany



New Policy Needed for Constructive Restoration of Reich; British and Russians Ahead Of U. S. in Creating Order.

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En route to Washington.—This is being written somewhere over the Atlantic ocean. It's the bright sunlight several thousand feet above a ceiling of snowy cloud. Hours ago we dropped down on Santa Maria in the Azores into one of the island's typical gray, windy, winter dreams. After a good breakfast and a little rest we took off for Bermuda.

This is not going to be a travelogue. If in a circulation of some of the impressions I have garnered as I watched America enter its second phase as a world power, actively at work in attempting to build a new Europe. Everywhere, from almost the first day I reached the Paris airport and chatted with some Americans bound for an international labor conference, to the moment a little while ago when a bespectacled air corps general "moaned low" to me, as he called it, to the accompaniment of the wind outside everywhere I have heard earnest, anxious voices raised in the same query: Is America willing to finish the job?

I heard this concern frankly expressed from the lips of American officials like Minister Murphy and Military Governor General Clay in Berlin. I heard another version of it from Ambassador Caffrey in the American Embassy in Paris. I heard it repeated by professors and doctors, among the civilians and technicians and specialists, among the military—the men who are doing "better than a good job" as Byron Price said in the special report to the President in November.

I do not pretend to have been able to make an exhaustive study of conditions in American occupied Germany as Price did but what I would like to do is to report some of my own impressions formed in discussing the main points he stressed.

Although less than a month intervened since Price wrote up his findings and I followed his trail, I get the impression that the "psychological war" of the American government in Germany has well begun and will move steadily forward toward its goal of completion in June as Price suggests it should. Personally, it seems to me that it might be better to set as a limit for the period of complete demobilization from uniformed regions to pinch civilian, a minimum of accomplishment. Circumstances might alter specifications.

Make Change In Sentiment

Typical of the rapidity of the change in conditions in Germany and in sentiment at home is the question of whether America would be willing to send enough food to Germany to prevent starvation and the epidemics which would surely be expected if starvation gives way to unrest. I might say that you would be surprised at the surprise expressed by a certain high official in Berlin when Washington "turned around." Sentiment in that respect did change in the States but I am afraid it wasn't due to any keen realization that it was part of facing an important job. It was just a sentimental and charitable gesture, typical of Americans who don't like to see anybody starve. It was not a practical response to a military necessity.

Nevertheless, as you write that post off as on the credit side. We've been spared a fight against disease. But what about the infections stressed by Price and many on one who knows anything about Europe today: the economic confusion and the French deadlock which prevents it? How much knowledge or interest in America displaying on that subject? From what Generals Clay said to me I feel he believes a solution of his major problems is impossible unless Germany is united in a single economic unit. There are no present prospects.

The French are stubborn and their unrelenting attention in refusing to permit German industry of the Ruhr and Ruhr railways to lift to pay the nation's own way is bear-like as it was from 1919 until 1924, when it was justified. And from 1919 that fear has grown. Unless the rest of the world can allay it, it will be hard to expect anything short of hysteria behind all French policy in international relations. And certainly in America can never change the French attitude until France is assured that we do intend to "finish the job."

Another problem mentioned in the Price report, one which is being widely discussed at the moment in Germany, is denazification. We received a bright on the subject that was probably colored, although it may have been true that some of the fairly dangerous Hitlerites were being given jobs which they should not have had. Then we went to the other extreme, instead of confiscating camels we saw strain of Yankee fair dealing manifest occurred. A member of the military government set out to a multimillion manner to get a list of the best experienced men for a certain set of jobs. With the occupation of a properly "screened" German he turned them up all right but when he submitted the names of the men and their qualifications all were put in jail—under the letter of the law the position they had held under the Nazi regime made them subject to "automatic arrest." This law is really only a directive which sets a certain penalty (the legal equivalent to that of a section in our federal government) as the dividing line. Anyone above that rank is considered per se a Nazi and suspect.

Russians and British have no such drastic standards and I was told of what happened to a German who lived right on the border of the American and Russian zones. He came to the American Military government and applied for an administrative job and presented his credentials. After reading them the American to whom he applied said: "I certainly won't have you. If I did you would be immediately arrested. As it is, since you have applied honestly you will be arrested in 24 hours anyhow. My advice to you is: move across the street into the Russian zone and apply for a job there." He did and was promptly hired by the Russians.

Confusion Marks U. S. Operations

There are two conflicting theories now in operation in the American zone. One is the theory enunciated by General Clay, namely, that the Germans must help themselves. The other theory is that we must help them help themselves or we'll have to do all the helping. In other words, as one sovereign typical gentleman expressed it: "If we don't get the Germans where they can make enough goods to exchange for food we'll end up by paying the other countries for reparations."

The Russians know well how to exploit German resources. If they see a factory which can produce goods they want and it is not practical to move it to Russia, they see to it that German management is permitted to operate as efficiently as possible and that German workmen get food or pay enough to make them efficient. The British are likewise far more interested than we. They have no more intention than the Russians of building up a potential enemy but they do intend to build up industrial customers.

The Americans, while they are no harder and no softer toward the Germans, as far as personal relations go, have hamstrung rehabilitation by putting restrictions upon German industry. Frequently they employ a negative attitude which allows the natives to misdirect their energy.

I talked with an American business man who represents a large American firm which manufactures chocolate still here. He discovered some of his factories were intact and ready to get back into action. But he found that the people who formerly sold him milk refused to do so because they were able to convert it to butter and butter, on the black market, is gold in Germany. Germans would use the chocolate and baby food, especially the latter, but the policy of letting the Germans obtain know does not permit. Hershey, Pa., results in a ton to American business and cuts off a vital food which has to be supplied by the Americans.

BARBS . . . by Baukhage

Agriculture and aviation, if they join hands, according to Chairman Wilson of the Aircraft Industries association, can revolutionize food and produce marketing.

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The Council of American Business says for every day lost because of unsupervised circus 365 are lost from non-industrial sickness. Stay on the job if you want to keep well.

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The first 40 million free road maps to be distributed will be 1945 reprints so don't be surprised if you run into a couple of new towns en route.

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The best stunt in the world, says Mme Hess, were sorry to the armed forces in World War II. But nobody seems to want to be in those shoes now.



UNO DELEGATES HOLD HUDDLE IN LONDON . . . Left to right: British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, U. S. Secretary of State James F. Byrnes, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and British Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin, as they go into an informal huddle after the first meeting of the United Nations organization general assembly in Central hall, London. The first meeting got underway with little opposition on major issues.



CHURCHILL VISITING IN THE UNITED STATES . . . Accompanied by Mrs. Churchill, left, the former prime minister of Great Britain, Winston Churchill, center, is shown with his friend, Bernard Baruch, as they arrived in Miami, Fla., last week. Col. Frank Clark, the host, looks on. The former war prime minister expects to spend several weeks in the South, resting, painting, fishing, with some writing thrown in. It has been reported that Churchill will retire from active politics.



BLANCHARD, FORD WIN SULLIVAN AWARD . . . For the first time in the 36-year history of the Sullivan award, a college football player, Felix ("Doc") Blanchard, army star fullback, was voted the memorial trophy by the AAU. For the second straight year, Alan Ford, Yale's speed swimming ace, was runner-up in the balloting. The winner last year was swimming star Ann Curtis, California young star. Blanchard is a native of Bishopville, S. C.



SAVED BY MEAT PACKERS STRIKE . . . Meat on the hoof, and it will stay that way if the strike of two meat industry unions continues. Scene is the Chicago stock yards, where activity was virtually nil when the packing house workers and amalgamated meat cutters walked out.



SPRING ON WAY . . . Spring must be on the way when Lawson Robertson, veteran head track coach of the University of Pennsylvania, takes his team outdoors for a workout. Pete Mangor, sprinter, is being clocked by Robertson. He is a son of the Penn head football coach and his twin son of Pennsylvania's outstanding athletes.



EX-JUDGE DEMANDS OLD JOB . . . Former Federal Circuit Court of Appeals Judge William Clark, Princeton, N. J., who has invoked the U.S. "Bill of Rights" to regain for him lifetime post which he left to join the army.



STAY AWAY FROM MY DOOR . . . Things have really come to the point where Los Angeles citizens would appreciate pleasure-travelers staying away from their doors for at least another six months. Do you believe in signs?



HEAR TAW CHARGES . . . Gerald D. Reilly of the National Labor Relations board, who was appointed to hear charges that General Motors had failed to bargain in good faith. The charges were made by UAW officials.



THREE OF A KIND WIN . . . Triplet sailors, all females, born on the Baker farm, Averill Park, N. Y., have their first pictures taken while frolicking in their crib. The young ones were reported "doing very nicely."

CLASSIFIED DEPARTMENT

MISCELLANEOUS

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DR. CALDWELL'S SENNA LAXATIVE COMPOUNDED WITH SYRUP PEPSIN

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SCOTT'S EMULSION YEAR-ROUND TONIC

Olivia de HAVILLAND

CALOX TOOTH POWDER

One of the best home ways to BUILD UP RED BLOOD

666 COLD PREPARATIONS

That Nagging Backache

DOAN'S PILLS