

Like the Council of States, the Bizonal Economic Council derives its powers from the US/UK Military Governments rather than by a constitutional grant from the people. Ordinances passed by the Economic Council must therefore have the prior approval of the joint Military Governments before they can become legally effective. Ordinances so approved are promulgated by the Council in its own gazette and are legally binding upon the population of the two zones.

The total number of ordinances adopted by the Council to date has been small—22 in all. While this figure is disappointing, it must be remembered that the Economic Council did not become a "going concern" until July or August, 1947.

ONE OF the Economic Council's first pieces of basic legislation provided for the transfer of functions and powers formerly held by the old executive joint committees, under the previous bizonal organization, to the new Bizonal Executive Committee and the executive directors established by the new bizonal organization.

Most of the subsequent ordinances which have been adopted have concerned themselves with the solution of particularly pressing economic problems, as, for example, the ordinances to help effect the control of farm deliveries through the public posting of delivery quotas, to insure the meat and potato supply for the current economic year, to take emergency measures in the field of electric power and long-distance gas supply.

Ordinances enacted by the Economic Council are transmitted to the Bipartite Control Office which prepares comments for use by the Bipartite Board when it takes the ordinances under consideration. Implementing regulations issued by an agency of the Economic Council are acted upon by the Bipartite Control Office without reference to the Bipartite Board.

#### Import of Foodstuffs

Bizonal Area imports of foodstuffs for January totaled 308,741 metric tons.

## Political Terrorism in Berlin

Charging that certain political minorities were employing political terrorism, Col. Frank L. Howley, director of the Office of Military Government, US Sector of Berlin, said Military Government was ready at any time to take steps to assure the democratic rights of the Berlin people.

He said a small political group was again attempting to lead the German people to destruction, using the same police state measures the Germans recognized during the Hitler period.

Advising Berliners to differentiate between right and wrong, he said the political situation was extremely serious. For several weeks, measures of force have been used against the free and democratic parties in the Soviet Sector, including such extremes as economic reprisals against individuals, he declared.

Terroristic political discrimination, obvious distortion of facts and intimidation used by this group, he continued, are a confession of its failure.

The Colonel said he was convinced that the major part of the Berlin population saw through the unscrupulous intentions and aims of this group and would judge and act accordingly.

Differentiating between political terrorism in the Soviet Sector and the searches of several US Sector offices of the Socialist Unity party, Howley said the latter were legally justified and did not violate the freedom of political parties granted by the Allied Kommandantur.

Because Control Council Directive No. 40 had been violated by publication of the Communist booklet, "Gangsters at Work," he said, the US investigators wanted to photograph the booklet and certain other documents for further investigation.

The investigations had already proved a definite campaign by the SED and its associated organizations against US Military Government, and the United States population, he said.

(ICD news of Germany)

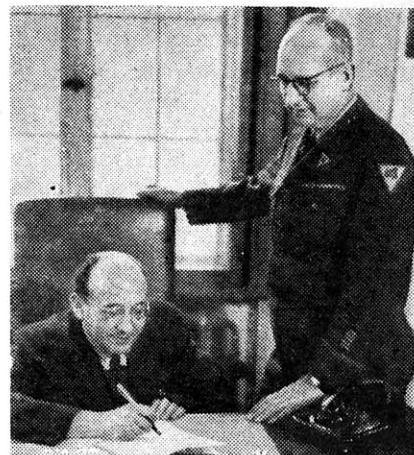
## US Buyer Places Order in His Former Firm

An American businessman returned recently to the camera firm he founded 27 years ago in Wiesbaden, and placed an export order with it for \$185,000 worth of candid-type cameras.

Henry Wirgin, of New York City, founded what is now called the Adox Camera Company in 1921 under the firm name of Wirgin Brothers. In 1938 he was forced by the Nazis to leave Germany, and in 1941, after spending three years in Poland, Switzerland, and Cuba, went to New York city where he started a camera specialty company. During World War II he manufactured optics for US Army bomb sights.

Upon his return to Hesse, Mr. Wirgin contacted the Hesse Branch of the Joint Export/Import Agency for the purpose of purchasing candid-type cameras for sale in the United States. By a coincidence his old firm, operating under a Hesse custodian appointed by the OMGH Property Control Division, was able to fulfill his needs.

Mr. Wirgin said he has already filed a claim with the Internal Restitutions Branch of Property Control for the recovery of the plant.



Henry Wirgin (left) signs an order for \$185,000 with the Wiesbaden camera firm which he founded in 1921. Looking on is Julian A. Hillman, Hesse branch chief of JEIA.

(photo credit)

## Curriculum Centers

teachers throughout Wuerttemberg-Baden.

German readers—teachers, school administrators, students, parents, interested laymen—are encouraged to study, to compare, to choose the best ideas, to become familiar with modern education trends and developments, and to apply all of this to their own schoolroom practice. Thus the ordinary classroom teacher can play a part in the reorientation of German schools. The German teacher can learn to plan for himself without waiting for instructions from above, helping in the creation of a new and flexible curriculum, and perhaps assisting in the writing of a new textbook.

Special efforts have been made to win the interest and cooperation of the personnel of the Ministry of Culture in Wuerttemberg-Baden, especially those concerned with the making of new curricula, or with the preparation of new textbooks. At the invitation of the Ministry, the director of the Stuttgart Curriculum Center will participate in the in-service training courses held regularly for German teachers at the Comburg, a castle near Schwaebisch Hall. He will acquaint the teachers with the services of the Curriculum Centers.

Bi-weekly discussions of professional topics are held regularly at the Stuttgart Curriculum Center for teachers and laymen.

The Stuttgart Center recently moved in with the American Information Library, where there will eventually be more room and more opportunity for service, but the Center will retain its close connection with the Education and Religious Affairs Division, OMGWB.

An expanded program will be in operation shortly. A feature of this program will be an overt publication to be sent out to teachers and interested laymen. The journal will include Military Government announcements, reprints from American magazines, educational news notes, contributions from progressive German teachers, and reviews of books and magazines articles.



**A group of editors is greeted by Brig. Gen. William Hesketh upon arrival at Tempelhof Airport, Berlin, on one leg of their tour of Germany. The group (left to right): Mr. Dowdal Davis, of the Kansas City Call; Gen. Hesketh; Mr. Thomas W. Young, of the Norfolk (Va.) Journal and Guide; Mr. Carter Wesley, of the Houston Defender, and Mr. Frank L. Stanley, of the Louisville Defender.**

(OMGUS PIO)

## School Reform in Hesse Outlined

The day when advanced education was considered the special privilege of the socially and economically elite is past in Hesse, an MG spokesman said in a German-language program broadcast to the people of Hesse over Radio Frankfurt.

"Education is the right of everyone to have, as far as his natural endowments will permit, and it is the right of everyone to help with the final choice of the kind of education that shall be provided," he declared.

Speaking on behalf of the OMGH Education Division on an MG informational series, the commentator outlined the progress of school reform thus far in Hesse. He cited the decision to keep both pre-professional and other students together for six instead of four school years as "an additional opportunity to end unfortunate class lines in German society."

A German speaker, described as a Hessian school teacher who had been a prisoner of war in America, dis-

closed that 300 Germans are working on school reform in Hesse. They have been selected from among leaders in schools and universities, churches, labor organizations, political parties, and other groups interested in improving school conditions in the state.

Military Government assistance, it was disclosed during the broadcast, has been given in securing technical information on school problems, bringing experts over from the United States for consultation, and arranging for the exchange of students and educators with the United States, Britain, Sweden, and Switzerland. Libraries and money for the purchase of books have also been provided, while RM 2,000,000, specifically earmarked for school reform use, have been given to the Hessian Ministry of Education.

The MG spokesman further disclosed that no tuition has been charged in any Hessian public school since April, 1947, by decree of the Education Ministry.

## Democratizing Germany

of Germans from all classes in the community to organize themselves as citizens' committees whose chief responsibility will be to protect citizens' rights. The need for such committees is not merely to allow representatives of various elements of the community to meet and complain against the tribulations that plague them; the most important function of such a committee is to arouse the community to a specific course of action.

To develop in these communities a strong and healthy pressure group will be a very important contribution in the growth of community democracy, and as such will stimulate the roots of democratic government throughout Germany.

**A**NOTHER EXPRESSION of the democratic spirit in the community is the public forum. The town meeting, so basic in American democracy, is no less important today than it was in the era of our Pilgrim fathers, as an integral part of political democracy. Not only will such town meetings be a living and healthy expression of the liberties of the ordinary citizen, but they go far towards democratizing the public servants who must be obliged to defend themselves and to answer to those whom they serve.

It is quite clear that much must yet be done to plant the democratic spirit in postwar Germany. US Military Government has succeeded in demilitarizing and decentralizing western

Germany. The effective democratization in the US Zone, if not in Germany as a whole, has, on the other hand, only begun. To date, we have failed to exterminate the Nazi spirit or replace it with democracy in thought and practice. However perfect the structure of government may appear to be, and however the political parties may be organized and directed, a democratic system will not emerge unless the people concerned understand and cherish the democratic spirit, realize their democratic rights, and assume their responsibilities in the community.

The Education and Cultural Affairs Division of OMGUS is particularly interested in democratizing education. The Information Control Division is chiefly concerned with fostering the democratic expression through the press, the radio and the theater. The specific responsibility of the Civil Administration Division lies in democratizing both the spirit and structure of government from the lowest level of the community to state administration. To reeducate the German citizenry in terms of our democratic concepts of government, the Civil Administration Division is now engaged in various programs which are being developed in the state of the US Zone.

Various US experts are being recruited to consult with and aid German officials and the leaders of various elements of the population in order to foster the rehabilitation of German political life.

## JEIA Division Set Up in Bavaria

The Joint Export-Import Agency, Foreign Trade Division, Bavaria, has been established to take over the import export functions of Trade and Commerce Branch (JEIA US/UK) Office of Military Government for Bavaria.

The newly-organized division will be responsible as an integral part of JEIA, Hoechst, for the foreign trade of Bavaria.

Paul S. Nevin, formerly chief of the Trade and Commerce Branch, OMGB, has been appointed director of Foreign Trade Division, Bavaria. Other key position assignments are Peter H.

Smith, deputy director for Foreign Trade; Robert T. Meister, deputy director of Operations and Control; William E. Rothfelder, chief of Licensing and Markets Branch; John H. Backer, chief of Trade Promotion Branch, and C. M. Hulen, chief of Accounting and Auditing Branch.

The Foreign Trade Division, which has been set up in an attempt to further streamline the export-import industry, will continue administratively to be affiliated with OMGB and will operate in close liaison with the divisions of OMGB.

By means of lectures, radio talks, public forums and conferences, as well as by the day-to-day contact with various groups, these experts and the Military Government officials working with them will attempt to emphasize to the Germans the fact that democratic government and civil liberties are indispensable and worth fighting for; that they are not luxuries to be enjoyed only in eras of calm and prosperity, but that civil liberties are real and vital only if they are purchased dearly.

This is a basic political truth that Germans in all walks of life must learn. If this lesson is lost, democracy cannot survive. It is our task to make certain that the German people understand and exercise their rights as free men in a free society.

## German Economy Aided

The Joint Export-Import Agency here estimates that 100 Germans, mostly engineers and technicians, have gone abroad under export service arrangements, and their dollar earnings, after the deduction of necessary living expenses, have been made available for the whole German economy.

In a statement clarifying the foreign exchange earned from the export of services, JEIA said these arrangements are similar to those in force in other countries which maintain exchange control.

Germans in the Bizonal Area are permitted to make export contracts for the sale of their specialized services to foreign buyers. These services may be rendered while they remain within the Bizonal Area, but in some cases travel abroad is involved.

All such contracts for services require approval of the appropriate state economic ministry and JEIA.

The individual who goes abroad is allowed to receive in foreign exchange sufficient money to cover his traveling and similar expenses while abroad, and the remainder is paid by the foreign buyer to JEIA, which reimburses the German in reichsmark at the rate one mark for 30 US cents. — *ICD News of Germany*