School of Journalism

-- On-the-Job Training Experiment

AN EXPERIMENT seeking to improve German journalism was inaugurated at the Abendzeitung (Evening Newspaper) School of Journalism in Munich June 15. Twenty young Germans selected from 1700 applicants from western Germany began a two-year on-the-job training course in the editorial office of the Munich daily newspaper.

The students will be paid DM 300 ($90) a month during their training, and the top five of the group will be given an opportunity to continue their journalistic studies at an American university. The next five on the list will be able to attend a German university.

To appreciate the importance of this project, it is necessary to know that one of the main obstacles to the development of a democratic press in Germany has been the lack of professionally trained and qualified young newspaper men. Those who desire to enter newspaper work are given few opportunities. German schools have nothing similar to our American school paper, whereby boys and girls can develop a writing ability at an early age.

There is no such thing as the campus daily at German universities, nor do the latter publish magazines and periodicals by and for the students, featuring student contributions. This lack of opportunity to contribute to a local school paper is a serious handicap to German youth and to German journalism in general.

WHAT THE National Socialist regime did to German journalism is well known. The perversions and innovations introduced by the Goebbels's propaganda ministry had to be discarded when the post-war German press came into being. More than 2,000 German journalists were interviewed to select the present 49 licensees of Bavaria's 27 newspapers, none of whom had been able to practice his profession under the Nazi regime. Many had spent years in concentration camps, labor camps and in exile.

Because of the exacting MG requirements, most of the licensees selected were about 50 years of age or more. A number were in poor health and physically unable to carry on, while their talents had grown rusty during 12 years of inactivity. In addition, most practicing journalists in Germany had been trained in the outmoded traditions of German journalism—long and obtuse editorials, highbrow feuilletons and mixing of news and opinions.

Under these circumstances, it became increasingly obvious that the best features of American and German newspapers, presented world as well as local news and enhanced its pages with photographs, boxes and special columns. Its sprightly way of setting forth the news in short articles and its freedom from lengthy editorials and lead articles made it perhaps the most readable newspaper in Germany.

The immediate success of the Tageszeitung, notwithstanding its competition with two other well-established newspapers, led Military Government to provide for the paper's continuation by licensing it as a regular daily newspaper. Because the two other Munich newspapers were morning

Mr. Langendorf (second from right), author of this article, observes interviewing of candidates.

(Foch photo)

German press needed new blood, which could only be supplied by German youth trained in the modern and up-to-date methods of gathering and presenting news.

THE MUNICH Press Exhibition*, providentially opening in May 1948, seemed to offer a partial solution of the problem. As a special feature of the exhibition, a six-page daily newspaper, the Tageszeitung (Daily Newspaper) was edited, made up and printed in full view of visitors.

The Tageszeitung represented, in a small way, a revolution in German journalism. It endeavored to combine papers, the new paper was published in the afternoon and renamed the Abendzeitung (Evening Newspaper).

Werner Friedmann, co-licensor of the Suddeutsche Zeitung (South German Newspaper), offered to assume the responsibilities of publisher and to manage the paper on a non-profit basis so that all profits could be devoted to the training of journalists—the Abendzeitung itself serving as a laboratory for students of journalism.

AFTER CURRENCY reform the amount of advertising and revenue of the newspaper increased. By the beginning of 1949 sufficient funds had been accumulated to an-


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nnounce a plan for the establishment of 20 fellowships in journalism. The announcement, published throughout western Germany, invited Germans between the ages of 20 and 32 to send in a short life history and a 50-line typewritten account, "in newspaper style," of either "Ten Minutes at a Police Station" or "A Meeting of a Government Body—Municipal, County, City or State."

When the contest closed, 1700 applications had been received, of which 220 were from women. Thirty percent of the applicants were from outside Bavaria and a majority of the remaining 70 percent were from expellees and former residents of the Soviet Zone of Germany—the total giving a representative cross section of German youth.

Applications were examined thoroughly by several committees, including one made up of members of the MG press officers. The results were disappointing. The life history of applicants revealed the tragic legacy which German youth inherited from the Nazi regime. Almost without exception, their education was seriously disrupted first by compulsory labor service (Reichsarbeitsdienst) and then by the war itself.

Most applicants had resumed their education after the end of the war but then were faced with bombed-out schools, inadequate textbooks, lack of teachers and the daily grind of getting enough to eat. The lack of sound education, the effects of Nazi indoctrination, the experience suffered on the many war fronts and in prisoner-of-war camps, the disillusionment following the collapse of the Hitler regime—all left an indelible mark on these German youth which was reflected in the autobiographies submitted with their applications. From a purely journalistic point of view, the reports were poor, showing a lack of initiative, resourcefulness and imagination and evidence of being generally theoretical and introspective.

However, by process of elimination 91 applicants were invited to Munich for further written and oral tests. The tests consisted of the following:

First, candidates were required to identify the pictures of 30 outstanding world figures, living and dead, in the field of politics, science, history and literature. Next, they were given 30 questions to test their general knowledge. Following the quiz, candidates were given ten minutes in which to write an interview with a Munich police official. They were then divided into groups of five and interviewed by members of the examining commission in order to evaluate their personalities, aptitude for newspaper work and the reasons why they chose journalism as their profession. The final and most difficult test consisted of individual news assignments, drawn by lot and designed to test the ingenuity, resourcefulness and reporting ability of the applicant.

When these tests were completed and studied the results again were disappointing. Even among this select group of 91 there existed an appalling lack of information and signs of intellectual immaturity. Only 17 made the minimum points set by the commission for the different tests. Few candidates, for example, recognized the pictures of General Eisenhower or Albert Einstein, or even of Goethe or Richard Wagner. Only a small number knew that during the war Eisenhower was commander-in-chief of the Allied armed forces in western Europe. Many believed that a peace treaty with Germany had been signed at Compiègne in May, 1945, and that Germany still had a foreign office. Many could not identify either "Gallup" or "Bikini."

On German affairs they were little better informed. Few knew how many states there were in western Germany, could name a president of the Weimar Republic or tell to which party outstanding German political leaders belong. In spite of the widespread public opinion given to Goethe in recent months, half of the candidates thought this was the bicentennial of his death rather than his birth. The results of the interviews and news assignments were not outstanding but offered more hopeful signs.

After a careful review of the merits of each candidate based on a point system, a list of 20 names, including four women, was agreed upon. The chosen candidates average 26 years of age and all have at least the equivalent of a junior college education.

These 20 carefully selected students began their training at the Abendzeitung in mid-June. Students work closely with the professional staff of the Abendzeitung and study and observe all the details of newspaper publications. They produce their own dummy copy each morning; study the methods of receiving and compiling news in the city desk room, by telephone, teletype, news agency dispatches and official handouts; how the paper is made up, use of headlines, type-setting, proofreading, checking stories, and other essential details.

Lessons in shorthand, typing and English occupy four ours a week. In addition, there are lectures on foreign and domestic affairs, current events, history, geography, economics,

![Weiner Friedmann, director of the Abendzeitung School of Journalism, had been an outstanding student.](Fosh photo)
art, theater and music by experts in each field. Regular seminars are held at which outstanding political leaders discuss problems of the day with the students. Students accompany seasoned reporters on assignments and are able to observe first hand how interviews are conducted and how news is gathered.

The Abendzeitung School of Journalism has been legally recognized by the Bavarian government as a non-profit institution and, as such, is exempt from taxation.

Only time can determine whether the selected students will justify this expenditure of time and money and whether the training provided by the Abendzeitung is tailored to the needs of the participants. It is hoped that through trial and error the school will eventually achieve its goal—that of providing the German press with well-trained, competent men and women.

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**Bank Decentralization**

A revised edition of MG Law No. 57, "Custodians for Certain Bank Organizations," now titled "Decentralization of Banks," with counterpart legislation in the UK and French Zones, extends the decentralization policy of the Military Governments to all banks other than those whose operations are confined to the granting of medium- or long-term credits.

The latter may, with the approval of the Bank Deutscher Laender, establish and maintain branches outside of the states in which their head offices are situated. The maintenance of branches of this description is forbidden to other banks, but they are permitted to maintain correspondent relations and to engage in transactions outside of their home states. Activities of banks in the US Zone are to be completely independent of all direct or indirect control by other banking institutions, apart from that which may be exercised by the Bank Deutscher Laender.

Custodians appointed to manage the affairs of the Deutsche, Dresdner, and Commerz Banks under the original version of MG Law No. 57, dated May 6, 1946, are to continue in office. They are to remain free of all control by the present shareholders or directors.

*JULY 12, 1949*
Revival of Trade Unions Progress

Western German trade unions have made great progress in the reestablishment of their organizations suppressed in 1933 by the Nazi regime. Since their reconstitution in 1945, the western German trade unions have succeeded in recruiting more members than were enrolled in that area before 1933, according to a statistical survey of trade union membership in the three Western Zones of Germany completed by the Manpower Division, OMGUS.

The survey shows that the western German trade unions have a membership of approximately 5,000,000, constituting 40 percent of the organized working population in western Germany. "This record compares most favorably with the trade union movements in major industrial countries in the world where union membership is on a voluntary basis," said Mr. Leo R. Werts, director of the OMGUS Manpower Division.

Due to certain dissimilarities among the trade unions in the three Western Zones—organized leather workers, for example, belonging at the time of the survey to the chemicals union in Bavaria, and to the textile and clothing union in Bremen—the data on union membership has been arranged according to economic groups rather than unions in order to permit comparison with employment figures.

The highest percentage of union organization is found in the mining industry, where 91 percent of the 565,000 workers belong to a trade union. Railway workers are in second place with 451,000 union members out of 604,000 wage and salary earners. The degree of union organization is also high in the metal, postal, public services, and chemicals fields, varying between 54 and 71 percent. As is the case in many other countries, agriculture and forestry workers are the least organized, with only 11 percent of the 1,350,000 wage and salary earners in this field belonging to unions.

The survey also shows that the Berlin UGO, which split in June 1948 with the Communist-controlled Free Trade Union Federation, has been making good progress under extremely adverse conditions. By April 1949, the Berlin UGO had succeeded in recruiting 170,000 members in spite of the adverse economic conditions resulting from the Soviet-imposed blockade. It may be expected that the UGO's membership will increase steadily as economic conditions improve, the report concludes.

Imports Aided by JFPO
Total $250,000,000

Approximately $250,000,000 worth of foodstuffs, seeds and fertilizers from American and worldwide sources have flowed into the ports of Bizone Area during the fiscal year 1948/49 as a result of contracts negotiated through the Joint Food Procurement Office. Mr. William A. Close, chief of the office, said this entire dollar amount was financed by proceeds of Germany's exports. A large portion of this figure, however, included imports negotiated through trade agreements.

The Joint Food Procurement Office, which Mr. Close headed since its inception in May 1948, closed its doors officially June 1 at which time in line with established Military Government policies the buying for the Bizone needs was turned over to the Germans.

During the past year, Mr. Close said, the largest imports into Germany were in the form of fats and oils, amounting to over $56,000,000 while seeds and fertilizers, totaling $49,000,000 ranked second. Fruits and vegetables, procured mainly from Italy, Spain, Holland and Belgium amounted to $29,000,000, Norwegian, Danish and British fish imports totaled $23,000,000 and more than $13,500,000 was spent for the import of South American, Belgian, American, French, and Swiss meat products.

An additional $29,000,000 worth of high caloric food was procured especially as an incentive for the German miners, Mr. Close said, besides Bonus B foodstuffs, amounting to approximately $5,000,000 and $5,000,000 worth of coffee.

Neutralization Activity

One of the Western Zone political groups to respond wholeheartedly to Soviet Zone "rapprochement" moves was the recently founded Nauheim circle, which advocates the "neutralization of Germany." Prof. Ulrich Noack, the founder of the group, had been much lauded by the Soviet-licensed press and was invited by the University of Halle in the Soviet Zone to speak about his group and its aim in what was presumed to be the first of a series of such "exchanges of ideas" between East and West. Professor Noack accepted this invitation.