



Food Situation Emphasized By US Zone Licensed Press

Food stories comprised the major German news during the week of 11—18 August, according to the weekly analysis of the German press by the Office of the Director of Information Control, OMGUS. The increase in the bread ration, the arrival of CARE packages, the record harvest in the United States, follow-up stories on the World Food Conference and UNRRA were widely displayed.

Editorial expressions concerning food were of a more critical tone. The **Fuldaer Volkszeitung** said, "There can be no doubt that the cause of the present disinclination to work and of the present apathy regarding questions of economic and political reconstruction can be found in the lack of sufficient food." **Der Morgen** (Mannheim) likewise remarked that the still declining working morale cannot be raised without finding a possibility "of granting participation in the use of production to those who really work."

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While the Paris Peace Conference continued prominently in the news columns, there was little editorial comment. The **Fraenkische Landeszeitung** (Ansbach), in deploring by implication the fact that Germany has no representation at the conference, stressed, "A completely disarmed but economically strong and united Germany is a more significant factor in world politics than the Germany would have been which might have concluded the war with the checkmate-peace hoped for by Goering and his consorts. Conquests do not make a people strong."

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In connection with special attention given by all newspapers in the US Zone to atomic energy and the Baruch report to UN, the

Wetzlarer Neue Zeitung printed an editorial saying "The truly demoniac self-destructive forces of nature can be controlled for the salvation of man only if they receive their impulses from moral considerations Involuntarily the word of Rabindranath Tagore occur to us when he was proudly shown all the technical attainments during his European visit and asked his opinion about them. That was in 1920. He answered with the apparently confusing sentence: 'The machines will destroy you.' Would you laugh proudly and disbelievingly to-day?"

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"War turns today against its instigators," declared a **Fraenkische Landeszeitung** editorial commenting on the Nuremberg trials. "Hitherto a few have started the wars and many fought them. Many died and a few lived and harvested not seldom fame, wealth and honor. If war criminals come before the bar of justice not only in the case of Germany, if these methods are applied in the future to war criminals of other nations, this circumstance might pen up the warlike spirit of all responsible statesmen . . . and for this reason there must be above the nations a permanent Center of Law which will maintain the peace under all circumstances."

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The anniversary of the Weimar Constitution was noted in a feature article in the **Stuttgarter Zeitung** which pointed out that the constitution was given to a people unused to democracy and it was unjust to blame democracy for the eventual fate of the constitution. The article added: "We hope the experiences of the 14 years under the Weimar Constitution and the 12 years without it will be utilized in the creation of the new constitutions."

In addition to the Peace Conference, the German press published accounts of leading

world news such as the intensified struggle in Palestine, the Soviet note to Turkey concerning the Dardanelles and the possibility of civil war in China. The death of H. G. Wells was widely reported and some notice was given to the anniversary of V-J Day.

SPD Program

The recent Social Democrat Party convention received wide play in Berlin newspapers, especially the SPD organs. The "Socialdemocrat" listed the party's program in an appeal to Berliners for support.

The paper said the party first notes that there are two main tasks which must be realized: The securing of the material existence of the Berliners and the securing of the rights of man for everyone. To gain these the party then lists the following demands:

"The Berlin population stand steadfast against any attempt to surpress its newly gained political freedom . . .

"A proper holding of elections not influenced from any side . . .

"The exclusion of all open and hidden enemies of democracy from political activity . . .

"A Magistrat based on the will of the majority of the population . . . A clear separation between the powers of the forthcoming town council and the new Magistrat.

"The setting up of a uniform economic plan for Berlin which guarantees full employment . . .

"Immediate measures to prevent all threats of existence, composed of inadequate housing conditions, insufficient food, poor clothing . . .

"An equalization of the sharing of the hardships of the war . . . and a just punishment of those responsible for it . . .

"A free development of youth organizations . . .

"Social security for all people unable to work and aged persons . . . A stronger participation of women in public . . ."

Noting that the fulfillment of these demands is dependent to a high degree on the Allies, the party then requests the immediate

cancellation of the sector boundaries, a uniform supply plan, a more free and unobstructed traffic with the other zones, security measures for personal liberty and assurance that everyone arrested for political reasons be brought before an Allied court in the shortest time possible, protection in the forthcoming voting campaign of free expression of opinion, objective criticism, and safeguarding of the attitude of political parties.

Critical of Constitution

Discussing the proposed draft constitution for Bavaria, the *Tagesspiegel* noted that paragraph 18 provides that the government of the state can request the public be excluded from negotiations of the Land Parliament. "This paragraph," declared the paper, "indicates fear of the public. It shouldn't be too easy for the government to exclude the public, for one day the government could misuse this paragraph. The fact that democracy means open criticism must be again and again stressed in Germany."

The paper observed that paragraph 49 provides that if the people demand a plebiscite on some subject the Land Parliament can take almost a year determining the details.

"Is it wise," asked the paper, "to preserve a plebiscite in the frigidaire of parliamentary consideration for one year? . . . A plebiscite has no value if the parties and others can cripple it by delaying tactics."

Regarding paragraph 92, the paper declared that one is truly astounded to read "a declaration on birth rate acceleration." The paper referred to sentences which state that' . . . children are the most valuable assets of a people" . . . "all girls will be trained at the expense of the state in their duties as mothers, above all taking care of infants, educating children and doing housework."

"Why must German girls be drilled in their mother duties by the state?" asked the paper, pointing out that one gets the impression that the German Bavarian girl has to fulfill a special mission in life.