

# LAENDER ADVISED TO ADOPT DECREES

## Stronger German Action for Collecting Foodstuffs Also Urged at Council Meeting; Stricter Controls on Use of Production Declared Imperative

*In addressing the 20th meeting of the Laenderrat at Stuttgart 6 May, Gen. Lucius D. Clay, the Military Governor, stressed the importance of deliveries of foodstuffs, utilization of production, and future of education. The text of his speech follows.*

At this particular time I would like to congratulate you on the functioning of your Parliamentary Advisory Council. It has, as I understand it, already had three meetings and has given helpful advice on nine laws under consideration. It has opened its meetings to the press, which I am sure will prove beneficial.

There is a problem which I would like to bring to the attention of the Laenderrat and that is the promulgation in the several Laender of laws which have been passed by the Laenderrat. During the past year you have adopted 24 laws or decrees. However, 37 percent of those have not yet been promulgated by all of the Laender. One of these, the Law for the Misuse of Foreign Relief Supplies, was passed by the Laenderrat last fall and has not been promulgated in any of the Laender. I am sure that the Laenderrat will agree with me that it will have to place into effect a follow-up system to see that these laws are carried out promptly and promulgated in the Laender. I would like to say on behalf of Bavaria, which is sometimes accused of being non-cooperative, that its record is by far the best of all the Laender.

### Necessity for Cooperation

There are two things that I think extremely important. I do not want you to interpret what I am saying as criticism of the past. I do want you to interpret it as a pointing out of the necessity for greater cooperation than we have yet had.

The first problem, of course, is related to Germany's first major problem—food. I am not convinced nor do I believe you gentlemen of the Laenderrat are convinced that

the utmost has yet been done in collecting foodstuffs from the farm. Take the question of livestock—there is no question that there is a resistance on the part of the farmer to deplete his livestock, which means more to him than money during a period of inflation. Yet it is difficult to understand why there is fat, healthy livestock in such large numbers on the farm when you go into the cities and see the faces of hunger there. You know as well as I know that food which should be going to human beings who need that food is going to feed livestock.

### Goods for Farmer

I think we both recognize that the availability of consumer goods for the farmer would go far to help this problem. Perhaps in each of the Laender you might give consideration to a program which might help to this end. Very obviously we do not want a police state. Nevertheless, a state cannot be stronger than its ability to see that its own laws are executed. It seems to me that the strengthening of your administrative machinery for the collection and distribution of food is one of the most important problems before you. I think, also, that it is extremely important that you make a last-minute drive to get the maximum spring planting and the maximum amount of home gardening started during the next month.

In connection with this problem, I want to reiterate that food is still a world problem today and with all of the goodwill in the world we are still having great difficulty in buying the food that is necessary to meet our commitments here. We are having to compete in our bidding for such food against other countries who were our Allies during the war and who now have an even lower ration scale than in Germany. In spite of that, I am confident that we shall meet our commitments in grain. We are also trying very hard to buy fat in the world market, although I must admit that we have not yet succeeded.

There is another related problem which I would like to bring to your attention and that is the problem involved in the misuse of production. I realize again that in periods of rigid price control it is very difficult to get the manufacturer into the free market. Nevertheless, we know and you know that a very large number of manufacturers is utilizing a portion of their production to keep their labor or to obtain greater prices through illegal distribution than is possible under the controlled prices which govern the normal distribution. This results in inequitable distribution and uneven utilization of resources to help a privileged few and breaks down the entire structure.

I urge you to establish administrative controls which will enable the closing of such plants and to make sure that the production which does come out of such plants is distributed for the benefit of all the German people. Above all, I urge you to work together and not to say that this is the fault of each other, of the bizonal agencies, of the non-cooperation of the several Laender, or of the requirements of Military Government. There is a way out of your present economic conditions and the more you cooperate the quicker you will find that way.

### Liberalization of Education

I want to repeat that I have not said this is criticism. I know that the problems involved are complicated and difficult of solution. It is the desire of Military Government to help and cooperate with you in this field in every way it possibly can.

Finally, my last subject is one that is as much a Land as a Laenderrat subject. Having had a reason earlier to express my satisfaction and pride in Bavaria, this time I am afraid I am going to be a little bit the other way in respect to Bavaria. We had asked and received from each of the Laender their proposals for the liber-

*(Continued on Page 16)*