

Patriarch of Ettlingen

By Henry S. Matteo, Assistant Editor, Information Bulletin

AMERICA and the Americans are far from being strangers to Heinrich Kauffmann, a member of the Bizonal Economic Council, who until recently was the self-styled first Protestant mayor of predominantly Catholic Ettlingen since the Reformation.

Kauffmann, now 59 years old, had his first association with the Americans when he was a boy. Clergymen from the United States used to visit his father, a Methodist Episcopal pastor, at the family home in Frankfurt-am-Main. Between 1910 and 1911, he attended Drew Theological Seminary of Madison, N.J. and Union Theological Seminary of Columbia University, until illness forced his return to Germany.

Today, white-haired and bearded, Kauffmann speaks English with little accent. His command of the language is good, and he said this has been helpful to him during frequent meetings with American occupation officials.

Kauffmann has been with the Bizonal Economics Council since its inception. He is a member of the managing committee of the Christian Democratic Union faction in the Council, as well as vice-president of the traffic committee, president of a committee studying the rebuilding of ruined German cities, and a member of the Council's main committee.

In addition to these duties he handled, until a few weeks ago when his mayoral term expired, the numerous problems associated with heading the city government of Ettlingen, a Wuerttemberg-Baden town of 16,000, several miles southeast of Karlsruhe.

Elected mayor in 1946 on the Christian Democratic Union ticket, Kauffmann was defeated for reelection last January by Hugo Rimmelspacher, a machine factory worker who represented a fusion of Socialists, Liberal Democrats and Communists under the name of the United Parties for Freedom and Progress.

"I lost by only 700 votes," he said, and displayed evident pride in adding that his election as mayor in 1946 marked the first time in several hun-

dred years that Ettlingen, 75 percent of whose population is Catholic, had chosen a non-Catholic for the post.

Recalling his early life, Kauffmann said he had intended to become a minister but changed his mind because "I was more interested in practical social work." He emphasized, however, that his church background always has been a guiding influence in his life.



Heinrich Kauffmann

KAUFFMANN, who said he "never had time" to be married, is paunchy and of medium height, with a mild manner and a soft voice. He wears a large, wide-brimmed black hat which, with horn-rimmed glasses and his white hair and beard, give him a patriarchal appearance. Cigars are his favorite smoke.

He lives in the once well-to-do residence of his father in Ettlingen. The long desk in his study is cluttered with books and official papers. Bookcases line the walls, and several statues are scattered about. An easy chair which he sent to his mother from the United States in 1910 helps give the room a comfortable appearance.

Long active as an editor, public official, labor leader, and political chieftain until the Nazis came into power in 1933, Kauffmann said he has been "an old enemy" of communism.

"We are afraid we won't get enough help (from the United States and her Allies) to overcome the eastern influence," he said. "The question is whether we can keep these people (in western Germany) quiet so they won't become radicals again. You can keep them quiet with food and such things."

The Christian Democratic Union, he said, is willing to cooperate to a limited extent with the Social Democrats, "but not with the Communists."

"We don't want to go the way of the Socialists in regard to economics," he added. "We want individual trade and individual industry to lead. We can have some socialization in public hands, such as traffic, coal, and mail, but not in other industries. However, in cultural and social affairs, we can work with the Social Democrats."

Between 1919 and 1933, Kauffmann held numerous union, political, editorial and social posts in Bremen and Hamburg. He was head of the Free Democratic Union for all north Germany, with offices in Hamburg, when the Nazis came into power in 1933. They told him he was "out."

HE WENT to Mannheim and worked there for a time, but a nervous breakdown forced him to quit. His father, meantime, was living in Ettlingen, and in 1935 he went there. Forbidden by the Nazis to take outside work, Kauffmann kept himself occupied with the garden and chickens.

After the war ended in 1945, Kauffmann drifted back into public life. He founded the Ettlingen Christian Democratic Union the same year, and in 1946 was elected to the City Council. He served only a few months when he was elected mayor. Also in 1946, he helped draw up the Wuerttemberg-Baden Constitution.

Although he has been defeated for reelection as mayor, he said he has enough work "to keep me busy." In addition to his tasks with the Bizonal Economic Council, he is a member of a German commission which has been making a survey of economic, social, industrial, and other phases of life in Baden.

His usual working day, he said, is between 18 and 19 hours. He sleeps four or five hours.

"But I'm satisfied with work and cigars," he added.