Washington Report

Co-Determination

In a article in its April 30 issue, the *New Republic* pointed out that the German labor movement would soon begin testing an interesting new variant of socialism, "co-determination" — an ingenious middle-ground between free enterprise and nationalization.

Essentially, the article continued, adoption of "co-determination" means that Germany is developing a middle position in Europe, between British socialism and the free enterprise of France. This is definitely in line with American objectives, although the National Association of Manufacturers had warned Germans that such a policy would "discourage American investment."

But the Germans are betting on encouraging German democracy.

Preparation for Tomorrow

A pamphlet, "Preparation for Tomorrow: A German Boy's Year in America," issued recently by the US Department of State, tells the story of a 17-year-old German youth's year in America under the Department's exchange program for German boys and girls of secondary school age. This illustrated pamphlet describes Ernst Taucher's family background, how the opportunity to go to the United States came to him, his journey, his introduction to American life in an Indiana farming community, his experiences as a member of a hospitable midwestern family, as a student in the high school, and as sharer in the everyday life of a small town. Finally, it describes the conflicting emotions with which Ernst uproots himself from his new life and returns to Germany.

Ernst's experiences, special and extraordinary as they seemed to him, are common to the 576 German youngsters who have had or are now having a chance to learn what democracy is by living with it for a year under American conditions.*

The exchange program for Germany's teen-age boys and girls, as conducted by the State Department's Office of Educational Exchange with the cooperation of various religious and civic organizations, is designed to give some of Germany's most promising young people practical training in democratic procedures and living. Ernst speaks of his American experience as "the most wonderful year of my life." The Department and the increasing number of Americans who have come to know the young visitors from Germany take the position that the teen-ager exchange program is a sensible and typically American way of helping Germany to develop sound leadership.

This publication is on sale by the Superintendent of Documents, US Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D.C. "Preparation for Tomorrow: A German Boy's Year in America" sells for 25 cents. — *from Department of State Bulletin.*

* **For similar shorter accounts, see recent issues of the Information Bulletin, especially "America is Different" (Sept. 1950), "The Exchangees Say" (Oct. 1950), "Young Farmers Return" (May 1951).**

Revival of Nazism

The *Philadelphia Inquirer,* in an editorial May 8, commented that "the problem of reviving Nazism has become a pressing one that can no longer be dismissed as insubstantial" in commenting on the recent election results in Austria and Lower Saxony. The editorial said in part:

"A bright feature of the two elections was the continued poor showing of the Communists who polled only five percent of the vote in Austria and less than two percent in Lower Saxony.

"But there is little comfort to be gained from a decline of the extreme left if it is accompanied by corresponding upsurges in the extreme right. Many Austrian and German voters no doubt expressed their dissatisfaction with present regimes by going farther right. But the hard core of Nazism remains in both countries and any signs of its expansion are disquieting and bear careful watching."

Radio Free Europe Inaugurated

The inauguration May 1 of the new station of Radio Free Europe near Munich, beaming its powerful voice directly toward the Czechoslovak people, brought editorial praise from American newspapers which pointed out that this station was made possible by the voluntary contributions of the American people.

Saying "The Communist rulers of Czechoslovakia, who have troubles enough already, aren't going to like the new radio program that 16,000,000 Americans are going to give the Czech people as a present," the *Denver Post* concluded:

"Denver and Colorado people contributed generously to this enterprise. They may now take satisfaction from the knowledge that their dimes and dollars are working for freedom, by drowning Communism's big lies with the clear voice of truth."

(Continued on next page)

Officers and enlisted personnel of the Women's Army Corps are shown on arrival at Bremerhaven, ready to debark for assignment to posts in the US Zone. (US Army photo)

The *Dallas (Texas) Morning News* said in part: "The Czechs have been in turn betrayed alike to Hitler and Stalin. But there is no question that the torch of freedom still burns. It must be kept alive to preserve the young generation against the intellectual darkness of Soviet propaganda. The *Voice of Free Europe,* financed by America-wide contributions to the Crusade of Freedom, will serve the purpose, bringing enlightenment and hope to the nation whose heart has never faltered."

Optical Illusion

The *Washington Star,* in an editorial April 25, said:

Nothing seems to be going smoothly in countries on this side of the Iron Curtain. Our newspapers are full of stories about how we are all pretty much up in the air, or bogged down, or at sixes and sevens, or plagued with violent controversy, or in general bewitched and bewildered by stresses and strains of the severest kind.

By way of contrast, we hear very little about trouble on the other side of the Iron Curtain. Relatively speaking — since our headlines are concentrated on the headaches of the United States and the rest of the free world — the Soviet Union and its satellites seem to be blessed with order and serenity. The press and radio of the Cominform countries are not full of stories about how those countries are all pretty much up in the air, or bogged down, or at sixes and sevens, etc., etc. So one gets the impression that everything is going rather smoothly over there.

But one ought to be wary of impressions. Appearances are often deceiving. What looks like order and serenity in the Soviet world may really be an optical illusion. As a matter of fact, we can be 100 percent certain that it is an optical illusion. In this connection, leaving aside such factors as the silencing terror of the police state, a point to be remembered is that the prime function of the Cominform press and radio is to suppress the truth and distort reality into the exact opposite of itself. Hence, since that press and radio have little to say about trouble behind the Iron Curtain, we have good reason to believe that there is plenty of it there.

Actually, of course, even though our own free press and radio are not allowed to look at what is happening in the Soviet world, and even though they may give the impression that only our own world has headaches, enough is leaking out from behind the Iron Curtain to leave no room for doubt that Stalin and his stooges are having anything but smooth sailing. The fact can be virtually documented, for example, that Red China is feeling a lot of internal strain as a result of its criminal aggression in Korea. Further, the evidence is plentiful that the East European satellites are experiencing more than a few troubles in agricultural and industrial production and that the masses of their population are reacting surlily to steadily declining living standards.

As for the Soviet Union itself, there are numerous indications that it has many tribulations of its own, including worry about the loyalty of the oppressed satellite peoples in the event of war. Today's troubles are not confined exclusively to the free world. If the men of the Kremlin lifted the Iron Curtain, the chances are that we would see an immense amount of confusion, mess and turmoil. The facade of order is one thing; the reality another. Let us not be fooled by an optical illusion.

Tempelhof's Municipal Hospital is visited by US Commander Maj. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson on a tour of Berlin borough hospitals. Dr. Gerhard Bierling of hospital staff shows General Mathewson technique of preserving organisms for research. (PRB BE-HICOG photo)

Return to the Elbe

The New York Times, in an editorial April 26, said:

Six years ago (April 25, 1945) two events occurred which most of us believed at the time would change the history of the world. On the day of the opening of the San Francisco conference that produced the Charter of the United Nations, the vanguards of the American and Soviet armies met on the banks of the Elbe River . . . The soldiers who made the first contact swore to do everything in their power to prevent such things from happening again. The meeting by the broken bridge on the battlefield and the great assembly of the nations on the other side of the globe were animated by the same determination to make an end of war forever.

One of the American GI's in the little group at the Elbe, Joseph Polowsky, now a taxi driver in Chicago, has been working for six years to induce the United Nations to celebrate the anniversary by reaffirming the spirit of the oath the soldiers took that day. They have

Judge Claudio Delitala, HICOG magistrate at Starnberg, member and past commander of American Legion Post No. 15 in St. Louis, Mo., and Hugh Hinchcliffe, legal adviser for the International Refugee Organization in US Zone, teamed recently to present toys to displaced-person children at IRO's Children's Village at Bad Aibling, Bavaria. Total of 12,000 pounds of toys was given IRO from American Legion's "Tide of Toys." (IRO photo)

been tragic years, in which the dream of San Francisco has faded into a dimming hope that the great power that threatens war again will realize at some point that its own security depends on cooperation for peace. But Joe Polowsky has never given up the dream. From year to year he keeps prodding congressmen, UN delegates, editors, all who will listen to his story, to remember the purpose for which the war was fought and the international organization established.

So far he has not been able to appeal to the right people. But this year an attempt has been made to carry the message of the Elbe to the Russians. At the invitation of the Friends of Fighters for Russian Freedom, the American Legion and other veterans' organizations joined in broadcasting a reminder of the day to their former comrades-in-arms of the Soviet Army. Through the *Voice of America* they reaffirmed the principles that inspired Americans to fight for the liberation of Europe and declared their solidarity with the people in Russia who yearn for freedom. That the number of these rebels is not inconsiderable, and that they hear the words addressed to them over the air waves, is attested by thousands of refugees who risk their lives to escape from Soviet tyranny.

It is gratifying to know that at last, through the Free Europe committee, Senator McMahon's resolution in the Senate, and other means, a serious effort is being made to encourage resistance behind the Iron Curtain and aid the fugitives who are able to break through. A dispatch from Frankfurt yesterday reported a change in American official policy toward the escapees. High Commissioner McCloy announced that political refugees will not be sent back, and that a new organization will be set up to help them find a place for themselves in the free world.

The practical recognition that the Elbe is not a dividing line, in the sense that we have friends and potential allies in East Europe as well as in the West, is long overdue. The fury of the Soviet campaign is not only proof that it is not easy to work up hate of the United States among the Russian people; it is a clear challenge to a full and more effective use of the weapons of political warfare.

Claims under Berlin General Claims Law

The Department of State wishes to direct the attention of United States residents to the recent promulgation by the Berlin City Assembly of legislation known as the Berlin General Claims Law. The coming into force of this legislation provides a means whereby certain classes of persons, who suffered monetary and other losses in Berlin during the Nazi regime, may receive indemnification for losses falling outside the scope of restitution legislation previously enacted in Berlin. The registry agency is the Entschaedigungsamt, Fehrbelliner Platz 1, Wilmersdorf (borough), Berlin, Germany. Claims based on this legislation must be filed with that registry agency by Jan. 10, 1952.

The Berlin General Claims Law provides that persons who during the period from Jan. 30, 1933, to May 8, 1945, were persecuted because of political conviction or for racial, religious or ideological grounds and thereby suffered damage to life and limb, health, liberty, possessions, property or economic advancement shall be entitled to restitution according to its provisions.

For the city of Berlin to be liable as restitutor, claimants must have had their legitimate domicile or usual residence in Berlin on Jan. 1, 1947, or have been assigned to Berlin as a refugee, or, having had such domicile or residence, have died, emigrated, have been deported or have been expelled prior to that date.

Persons desiring further information concerning the Berlin General Claims Law should address their inquiries, including requests for copies of the law, to the Entschaedigungsamt in Berlin. — *from Department of State Bulletin, May 7.* +END

A recent informal visit to Berlin brought Assistant US High Commissioner for Operations Chauncey Parker (third from left) to Berlin's US Information Center. With Mr. Parker in Children's Reading Room are (l. to r.) US Commander of Berlin Maj. Gen. Lemuel Mathewson, Mrs. Parker and Center director Chris Legge. (PRB BE-HICOG photo)