

THE WORD

MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

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ORGAN OF THE UNITED SOCIALIST MOVEMENT

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BERLIN, MAY 1945



[PHOTO KINDLY LENT BY "THE SOVIET WEEKLY"]

On April 30, 1945, Soviet troops took Berlin. On May Day the Red Flag of the U.S.S.R. was hoisted over the Reichstag Building.

BERLIN—THE FACTS

As I write, the outcome of the Geneva Foreign Ministers' Conference is very much in doubt. Responsibility for the failure to improve relations between East and West rests with the United States and its allies. Concession after concession has been made by the U.S.S.R. These concessions were made in opposition to historical fact in order that the world might develop whatever social changes are to be without the menace of war and the further destruction of humanity. In order that the truth might be appreciated, I am placing before readers a plain statement of the facts concerning Berlin.

The question of peace is one for the common people to settle in opposition to the whims and wiles of irresponsible statesmen and careerist politicians, the tools of financial interests. To accomplish this purpose, the common people must know exactly what happened and how the present situation arises.

I tell this story in simple language.

On April 30, 1945, Soviet troops captured Berlin, the capital of Germany, by storm. The Soviet flag was hoisted over the Reichstag buildings by soldiers of the Red Army, on May Day of that year. I have two photographs of this event. One, lent by the *Democratic German Report*, shows the Soviet flag being raised almost at the base. The other, lent by the *Soviet News*, shows the flag almost fully raised. The pictures show different views of the street. I think both these photographs should be reproduced. Space and cost have compelled me to use only one at present—the *Soviet News* one, which gives greater detail of the street scene.

Hitler's armies were defeated on German territory. When the collapse came, the Soviet armies had occupied Berlin and the whole of what is known now as Eastern Germany. The Western (or as called then, the other) allied armies were racing through Western Germany.

Unconditional surrender left the Allied Powers with the problem of how to deal with a defeated country until a peace treaty could be evolved with a new constituted country. This problem was the basis of the Potsdam Agreement, quoted in these columns for April 1959. Attlee, Truman, and Stalin signed this Agreement on August 2, 1945. The Agreement defined "the political and economic principles to govern the treatment of Germany in the initial control period".

Potsdam did not divide Germany into East and West zones. It apportioned areas of occupation to each of the four countries who had defeated Hitlerism on the field of battle—U.S.A., U.S.S.R., Britain and France. Division into East and West was made by the Americans later, by grouping together the three zones occupied by the Western Powers. This change was effected in two stages, first: *Bizonia* and then *Trizonia*. This became the German Federal Republic with its capital at Bonn and its leader; Adenauer, with his Nazi politicians, diplomats, judges, generals, civil servants, and medicees. This restored Hitlerism is recognised by the American Government and the British Government as *Germany*. East Germany, representing the actual razing to the ground of the Nazi flag, and the raising of a red flag over the Reichstag, is *denied recognition*. The foolish citizens of the West are taught to regard this failure to appreciate historical truth as being democracy in action.

The Western Zoning of Berlin was the beginning of the process of the Western process of unilaterally scrapping the Potsdam Agreement. The U.S.A. Government started the process. The British and French Governments followed obediently. The three Western



Powers carried the process through in 1948. The Soviet Union protested against this violation of the Agreement and pointed out that U.S.A., Britain, and France were "nullifying their right to share in the occupation of Berlin" by "undermining the legal foundation which their right to participate in the administration of Berlin rests".

The Soviet protest was unanswerable. It was ignored. The proletariat of Western nations, instead of protesting, remained dumb.

Such is the farce of parliamentary democracy. It is dictated and controlled by finance. Trade Union careerists, looking for titles as well as jobs, and parliamentary careerists, seeking security and status, usurped the rights of the people. Democracy belongs to the streets, the factories, and thinking individuals, assembled not in mobs, but in serious study and for sober and determined social action.

The creation of the German Federal Republic was the political betrayal of the men who had died or been wounded to destroy Hitlerism. This action outlawed East Germany and was followed by the inclusion of West Germany in the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO). This was a war alliance directed against the U.S.S.R. The alliance explains the rearming of West Germany, the re-establishment of Hitlerism, and the entire sorry subsequent history of Adenauer, Speidel, and their recognition by the British Government and the British Crown. Entering into an alliance with Germany and rearming her were forbidden by the Potsdam Agreement.

The process has gone far beyond this simple and direct breach of the Potsdam Agreement. The NATO Council decided that West Germany should have 40 battalions armed with rockets and atomic weapons and a further 28 battalions similarly armed in the air force. All this, in addition to the massive "conventional" forces with which the former enemy is being equipped, including 1,326 aeroplanes and 21 naval squadrons comprising 192 vessels, plus masses of men, guns, tanks, etc. Missile bases also are being set up in Western Germany.

U.S.A., Britain, and France have torn to shreds the Potsdam Agreement. All that remains is the four power occupation of Berlin. This practical recognition of Western Germany as Germany is being carried through 14 years after the defeat of Hitler. Yet there is still no peace treaty and therefore no legal Germany in existence. The situation is menacing and farcical.

It is also criminal in itself and criminal as a conclusion to the war-time propaganda of Vansittart, who was sent to the House of Lords for his anti-German propaganda. He was considered a great patriot and the press slandered, as did every mean little upstart politician, the 12th Duke of Bedford for his magnificent stand against war. They accused the Duke of being a Nazi and a Fascist whereas he was a Pacifist. They ridiculed him for urging demilitarised zones. They hated him more when he identified himself with the cause of the Chinese People's Republic against the Chiang Kai-shek conspiracy; with Korea against Svyman Rhee and his United States backers; and with the Soviet Peace proposals. The Duke was right and his slanderers were wrong. He wanted peace. And there would never have been any Nazism, nor any Second World War, but for United States' Cartelism. As the Duke said so well, war was the financiers' little game!

I ask relatives of those who died in the Second World War to recall Vansittart's *Black Record: Germans Past and Present*. This work was published in pamphlet form (56 pages) by Hamish Hamilton, London in 1941. Between January and September of that year it was printed in all thirteen times, so great was the demand for it, an artificial one created by the press.

This pamphlet consisted of seven broadcasts from which extensive extracts appeared in *The Sunday Times*.

On page 53, Vansittart styles Hitler "the Apostle of Savagery". What is NATO doing permitting generals of this apostle to play a leading role as officers in command of British troops? What is the Tory Imperialist Government doing? Should this be permitted? Should the Queen receive these people and the Duke of Edinburgh address Guildhall

banquets when they are guests? Is not such political conduct an infamy, an outrage against the dead, and against every wounded ex-service man?

On pages 53-54, Vansittart says:

I end as I began. The regeneration of the Brazen Horde is not impossible. Nothing in history is impossible. The soul of a people can be changed. Other peoples have performed the feat. Why not Germany? Because she has not yet really tried. The effort can be made, but it will have to be a very big effort. You have seen how far the German character has to go. I told you at the outset that the cure will have to be drastic, and largely self-administered. Without a fundamental change of soul, no other cure, no mere administrative or technical tinkering can be permanent.

Can it be said that the Adenauer Government with its Hitler politicians, generals, jurists, and anti-semitic murderous medicos, have undergone a fundamental change of soul?

On page 54, Vansittart continues:

Take no German word for it that they have done so. Above all, never be duped by the type of German who says that he disapproves of atrocities, but was obliged to commit them out of loyalty to the Fatherland. If one's father is a professional murderer, one should help the police, not rush into the same profession.

On the same page, Vansittart states:

There were plenty of ways out for good Germans in the plural, always in the plural: but precious few took them, just because they were precious few. If they are ever to predominate, there must be many, many more. And be duped no more by the Brazen Horde itself. It will come brazenly after defeat, and profess that it has never done anything wrong, and trot out those irrelevant qualities. Never be blinded again by the side-shows of German literature, medicine, music, philosophy.

Again, on the same page, Vansittart indicts:

One thing, and one thing only, matters. The facts of aggression are there, and admit no further argument. The innocents have had their Day. It will be your own fault if they have another. Be duped no more by the friends and touts of the Brazen Horde, by the camp-followers, by those who have not the courage to face the truth, let alone speak it. All these will join unctuously in long litanies of denial.

Vansittart emphasises his indictment:

There is no horror that Germans have not committed; and the hurricane of cruelty must be succeeded by the wave of indignation. Beware therefore lest another sham reformation be staged. Take nothing for granted. Make sure for yourselves and for your children.

Have the upholders of NATO, who once followed Vansittart, made sure that Adenauer and his Nazi Remnant Government are not staging a sham reformation? Does this explain the knavery of the Western diplomats at Geneva and the Western conspiracy against world peace?

When the Soviet forces occupied Berlin in May 1945, the U.S.S.R. honoured its agreement with the Western Allies. The entry of troops and representatives of the three main allies in Europe, U.S.A., Britain, and France was facilitated. Four power control was set up. The arrangement conformed to the general principle adopted at Potsdam. The Western Allies are breaking that principle which the U.S.S.R. has respected. This explains the war peril of Berlin.

In this issue I publish a map of Germany showing the geographical situation of the German Democratic Republic and the German Federal Republic. To get to any part of Adenauer's Germany (the G.F.R.) from Berlin one has to cross G.D.R. territory.

Berlin is the former capital of Germany. Historically and traditionally, most Germans regard it as the true capital of Germany. They would have it returned to its former status, were Germany to become unified. The Western Powers by making Western Germany an armed power and a member of NATO, have made West Berlin the historic advance post of a Third World War, a centre of hate propaganda and political espionage.

To end this cold war situation, the Soviet Government sent a note to the U.S.A. and other occupying countries on November 27, 1958, in which it notified them that it regarded as null and void the agreements covering the occupation zones of Germany and the administration of Berlin.

It proposed that Berlin should become, for the time being — that is, pending a German peace treaty and the reunification of Germany — a Free City, separate and distinct from either of the two German states. It would have its own freely elected administration and conduct its own affairs. It would have the facility for transporting goods to and from the City and to control the movement of people into and out of the City, just as any other government has.

There would be no occupying troops, but the status of Berlin as a Free City could be protected by the United Nations. As to the kind of society Berlin should have that was for the Berliners themselves to decide.

The Soviet Government added that it would take half a year to effect this change. It suggested a deadline of May 27 but insisted on sincerity of purpose and action, and not the time-limit.

This reasonable note was denounced by the Western statesmen, forsooth and spare the mark, and the Western millionaire press, and the tawdry politicians, as an "ultimatum", "a violation of a solemn agreement", an "illegal act". It was none of these things. The Soviet kept to the Potsdam Agreement that the Western Allies had violated.

The U.S.S.R. attitude has created a panic in Washington and Bonn precisely because it weakens the cold war.

WEST GERMAN NAZIS

By JOHN PEET

EDITOR, DEMOCRATIC GERMAN REPORT

Berlin W 8, Germany, May 25, 1959

Dear Comrade Aldred — Thank you for your letter of April 29 and the enclosure from *Reynolds News*.

Here are the facts about the allegations of "former Nazis now serving Ulbricht":

1. The Nazi Party had more than 8 million members, and it is natural that many of the former members today live in the German Democratic Republic. Insofar as they have not been found guilty of specific crimes, all such former Nazi Party members have been rehabilitated, and are able to play their normal part in society.

2. Key positions in the German Democratic Republic (top government posts, judges and prosecutors, army officers, etc.) are exclusively occupied either by people who fought against Nazism from the very beginning (veteran Communists, Socialists, trade unionists), or by people who have shown by their declarations and their deeds that they have completely abandoned their former active or passive acceptance of Nazism.

3. Most of the persons named in the *Reynolds News* article fall into the second category. Dr Kertzsch and Egbert von Frankenstein for instance, both served in the Wehrmacht, and were captured by the Red Army on the eastern front. Convinced by their experiences of the criminal nature of the Nazi war of aggression, they became active members of the Free Germany Movement, and at the risk of their lives participated in the front line activities to end the war. Since then they have consistently worked for the establishment of a decent anti-fascist Germany. The Minister of Agriculture, Ludwig Reichelt, was only eight years old when Hitler came to power, and was 19 when he was captured on the eastern front. It would be hard to claim that he played any very active part in the Nazi system.

I must say that I find these allegations a rather poor West German reply to the full-documented charges that West Germany is honey-combed by really leading Nazis, none of whom, to the best of my knowledge, have ever apologised for their Nazi past or attempted to make recompense.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PEET

ARMED NEUTRALITY

(Translated from *Sennaciulo*, official organ of the World Workers Esperanto Movement, by Comrades Duncan and Dunlop.)

In the border countries between the eastern sphere and the western world — thus for example in Austria — there is much discussion in the press on the question of "armed neutrality". Comrade H.D. Gora draws our attention to the bearing of 84-year-old theological professor John Ude, conscientious objector of the first world war who spent two years in jail under the Nazi regime. He is the author of several books, *Thou Shalt Not Kill*, *Money*, etc. He writes to pacifist papers in the following terms: "As a convinced upholder of the rights of man as well as a sincere Christian I say that Austria, like Germany and indeed all the states of the world, does not need an army. Contrary to all the assertions made, she does not require 'armed neutrality' in order to preserve peace. 'Armed' neutrality is in itself a contradiction. Peace will not come by speeches and meetings only. To make peace the permanent condition, each of us must be willing to make political and economic sacrifices."

We must refuse both the capitalist western bloc and the communist eastern bloc.

CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS TO MILITARY SERVICE

According to article 4 line 3 of the German basic law no civilian can be compelled to undertake military service with weapons. After the reintroduction of military service this article 4 becomes real and very problematic. A considerable number of young German soldiers refused recruitment supporting their views on the above mentioned article of the German basic law. With the utmost cunning the recruiting commissions do their utmost to render that article ineffective. Potential recruits refusing to become soldiers are subjected to a severe cross-examination and only on rare occasions does one accept the arguments of conscientious objectors in some cases, when one puts forward objections on religious grounds. Political or ethical reasons are not accepted. . . .

In Hamburg recently the Supreme Court of Appeal returned a verdict concerning three recruits, who before the Recruiting Commission argued as conscientious objectors. The Commission did not accept their arguments. The recruits appealed to the Supreme Court of Appeal which not only upheld them as conscientious objectors but also reproached the Recruiting Commission for its inquisitorial method against conscientious objectors. The Court especially emphasised that it is irreconcilable with human dignity to cross-examine by such inquisitorial methods into the conscience of future recruits.

A similar case of a recruit refusing military service occurred in Cologne with the same success.

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Speaker: GUY ALDRED

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WEST GERMAN MEASLES

NAZI DIPLOMATS STAFF FOREIGN MINISTRY, EMBASSIES and CONSULATES

If you take a map of the world, and mark in red each city where an old nazi is today working as a West German diplomat, you will find you have given the map a fine case of West German measles.

The vast majority of senior officials of the West German Foreign Ministry and German diplomats abroad are former members of the nazi party who faithfully served Hitler throughout the Second World War.

In its issue for June 5, 1959, the *German Democratic Report* published potted biographies of 40 of these gentlemen, and one lady. It is worth glancing through these short notes, to see what you find:

The West German ambassadors to Paris, Washington, Cairo, Addis Ababa, Rome, Stockholm, New Delhi, and Berne were all members of the nazi party; at least one of the top Foreign Ministry officials is a convicted war criminal, released after serving part of his sentence; other top officials were deeply implicated in mass murder, looting and espionage.

In Geneva American, French and West German spokesmen have claimed "there is no indication of any renazification in West Germany".

What insolent falsehood!

Here are the names and facts:

Becker, Dr Walter. West German Ambassador to Cairo.

Nazi Party member and Colonel of the SS. Served in Hitler's Embassies in Brazil, USA and Spain.

Bargen, Dr Werner von. Head of Trade Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Joined Nazi Party in 1933. As head of West European Section of Hitler's Foreign Ministry he participated in the deportation of 15,000 Jews from Belgium.

In 1952 a West German Parliamentary Commission ruled that his record made him unsuitable for diplomatic service. In 1954 he went back to work in the West German Foreign Ministry.

Bidder, Dr Hans. West German Ambassador to Ethiopia.

Nazi Party member. Served during Hitler period in various diplomatic posts in China.

Blankenhorn, Herbert. West German Ambassador to France (temporarily suspended).

Nazi Party member No. 6,997,147. Served as nazi diplomat in Athens, Washington, Helsinki, Berne. At the end of the war he was deported from Switzerland because of his nazi espionage activities there.

Suspended from office in April 1959 after being found guilty in a slander case by a West German court.

Braeutigam, Dr Otto. West German Consul-General in Hongkong.

Worked during the war as liaison officer between the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories and Hitler's HQ. Directly responsible for murder of hundreds of thousands of Jews in eastern Europe.

Suspended from West German Foreign Ministry in 1956 when his record as war criminal came to light. Reinstated in 1958.

Braun, Freiherr Sigismund von. Protocol chief in the West German Foreign Ministry.

Worked throughout the nazi period in responsible diplomatic posts in Paris, Addis Ababa, and the Vatican.

Dittmann, Dr Herbert. Deputy State Secretary in West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 4,789,472, worked as nazi diplomat in Moscow, Jerusalem, Teheran. In 1941 became head of Personnel Dept. for Senior Officials in Nazi Foreign Ministry.

In 1952 a West German Parliamentary Commission ruled that his record made him

unsuitable for diplomatic service. In 1953 he was sent as Consul General to Hongkong; in 1958 he became Deputy State Secretary in Bonn.

Etzdorf, Hasso von. Head of Western Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 3,286,356, and Lieut. Col. of the Storm Troops. From 1938 to 1944 represented Nazi Foreign Ministry on Army Supreme Command. He played a direct part in the execution of French hostages, and the looting of French art treasures.

Gaerte, Dr Felix. Legation Counsellor in West German Foreign Ministry.

Organised the Hitler Youth in Switzerland in 1933. Later worked as SS Lieutenant in the "SS Racial and Settlement Head Office" where he was responsible for organising the liquidation of Jews.

Gregor, Dr Werner. West German Ambassador to Tunisia.

Nazi consul in Glasgow. Expelled from Britain for implication in espionage.

Grewe, Dr Wilhelm. West German Ambassador in the USA.

Joined Nazi Party in 1933. Professor at the nazi College for Politics in Berlin.

Hellmann, Anton. Official in Trade Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Member of Nazi Party, local party leader in Katowice, Poland.

Herwarth von Bittenfeld, Dr Hans. West German Ambassador in London.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Moscow. During the war served on the staff of the "Vlassov Army" composed of Russian Quisling troops, and trained special nazi sabotage groups.

Holleben, Werner von. West German Consul in Boston, USA.

During the war he served as personal aide to the nazi governor in occupied Czechoslovakia.

Junker, Dr Werner. West German Ambassador to Argentina.

Nazi diplomat in China, press chief of the China Group of the Nazi Party abroad.

Kasler, Dr Rudolf. Official in West German Foreign Ministry.

Member of Nazi Party. "District Group Legal Adviser" of Nazi Party in Denmark.

Keller, Dr Ruprecht von. Legation Counsellor in West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 8,012,248. Member of Marine Storm Troops. From 1938 Aide to Director of the Political Dept. of Hitler's Foreign Ministry.

Klaiber, Dr Manfred. West German Ambassador in Rome.

Nazi party member, served as nazi diplomat in Paris, Pretoria, Batavia, Belgrade and Ankara.

Korth, Dr Georg. West German Ambassador in Costa Rica.

Nazi diplomat in South Africa, Portugal.

Loeper, Hermann. Head of Chancery at West German Embassy in Pretoria.

Nazi party member, leading in Hitler's Foreign Ministry.

Luedde-Neurath, Kurt. West German Minister to Haiti.

Legation Secretary at Nazi Embassy in Tokio throughout Second World War.

Marchtaler, Hans-Ulrich von. West German Ambassador in Sweden. Nazi Party member, worked as diplomat in Budapest, Tokio.

Melchers, Dr Wilhelm. West German Ambassador in India.

Nazi Party member No. 7,077,242. Nazi diplomat in Teheran, Haifa, Berne, later Head of Near East Section of Hitler's Foreign Ministry.

Merfels, Josef. West German Consul in Izmir, Turkey.

Nazi Party member, "group leader" of Nazi Party in Albania.

Mohr, Dr Ernst Guenther. West German Ambassador in Switzerland.

Nazi party member, worked as diplomat in occupied Holland where he played a leading role in murder of Dutch Jews.

Mohrmann, Anton. West German Minister in Columbia.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Bucharest, Vatican, Madrid, Sofia.

Muehlen, Ewald. West German Press Attaché in Belgium.

"Group Leader" of the Nazi Party in Denmark.

Nostiz, Gottfried von. Legation Counsellor in "West" Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member 8,156,544. Served as nazi diplomat in Austria and Switzerland. At the end of the war he was deported from Switzerland because of his espionage activities there.

Nuesslein, Dr. Official of Personnel Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 4,628,997. Nazi Chief Public Prosecutor in German-occupied Prague. Sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment by Czechoslovak court in 1947 as a war criminal, deported to West Germany in 1955.

Richthofen, Freiherr von. West German Minister to Saudi Arabia.

Officer of the nazi storm troops.

Schlitter, Oskar. Embassy Counsellor in West German Foreign Ministry.

Joined Nazi Party in 1933, and worked in Nazi Embassy in London. Re-entered diplomatic service after the war, but was suspended in 1955 after his wife had publicly described Britain as "enemy territory". Reinstated in 1958.

Schwarzmann, Dr Hans. Legation Counsellor in West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 3,151,913, worked as diplomat in German-occupied Denmark and France. Accomplice in deportation of French Jews.

Simonis, Susanne. West German Consul in Glasgow.

Worked in Nazi Embassy in Tokio, gave nazi propaganda talks on Tokio Radio.

Stelzer, Dr Gerhard. Legation Counsellor at West German Embassy in India.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Poland and Rumania.

Strachwitz, Dr Rudolf. West German Ambassador to the Vatican. Worked as nazi diplomat in Washington, Paris, Budapest. During the war was official in the Ministry for Occupied Eastern Territories. At the end of the war he fled to Argentina.

Thomson, Dr Henning. Official in Political Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Worked during World War Two in German Embassy in Dublin as official of Nazi Counter-Espionage (SD).

Truetzschler von Falkenstein, Dr Heinz. Head of Cultural Dept. of West German Foreign Ministry.

Nazi Party member No. 8,183,952. Worked in Hitler's Foreign Ministry as author of nazi "White Books" justifying nazi acts of aggression.

In 1952 a West German Parliamentary Commission ruled that his record made him "unsuitable for diplomatic employment abroad".

Walther, Dr Gebhardt von. West German Ambassador to Brazil.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Moscow, London, Tripolis.

Weiz, Dr Gerhart. West German Ambassador to Argentina.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Berne and Buenos Aires.

Welck, Wolfgang Freiherr von. West German Ambassador to Spain.

Worked as nazi diplomat in Moscow, London and Budapest.

Werz, Dr Luipold. Embassy Counsellor in West German Embassy in Madrid.

During the war served as nazi consul in Portuguese East Africa, directing from here the entire nazi Fifth Column in South Africa.

THOSE JUDGES!

NAZI JURISTS HONEYCOMB WEST GERMAN STATE

At least 800 of West Germany's present judges and public prosecutors under Adenauer, occupied key positions in the Nazi courts during Hitler's reign of terror.

This is the number of Nazi jurists in high positions so far ascertained from old Nazi court files available to the authorities of the German Democratic Republic.

These judges and prosecutors did not work on routine cases, such as traffic violations or divorce proceedings: they were all of them employed in Hitler's "Special Courts", or as judges in military courts.

On this page we publish details of the records of six of these Nazi jurists. Remember that these men are back in office as the main props of Chancellor Adenauer's government.

Judge Martin Claassen (born February 28, 1902).

During the war, Claassen was judge in the Special Court of Ziechenau in Occupied Poland.

On July 2, 1942, Claassen sentenced Jan Lewandowski, 27, to death for stealing six items of clothing and three patching rags from an old clothes collection. The indictment stated that:

Crimes of this kind committed by Poles are particularly odious and should be punished with the most severe sentences. Although the accused had no previous convictions, he has proved to be of a very base disposition and to have a hostile attitude toward the German people. He must therefore be punished by death.

On June 18, 1942, Claassen sentenced Jan Michalski, 37, to death for stealing a fountain pen, a pair of rubber boots and a petrol can.

Several weeks later, he sentenced the bedridden Polish widow Wanda Folger to death because five illegally slaughtered pigs had allegedly been sold in her apartment.

The records also mention death sentences meted out to other Poles, among them 16-year-old Waclaw Krystowiak.

Today, Claassen is a judge in the district court of Wedding, West Berlin.

Judge Dannegger (born in August 1905).

Dr Dannegger was a judge in a war-time Special Court in Prague. Records show that he sentenced at least 46 Czechs to death between December 1941 and March 1945. These included Father Karl Kratina of Prague, 63, a retired professor of religion, for "sabotage by continued malicious utterances", and for having told political jokes (December 6, 1944).

Dannegger also condemned Karl and Anna Fejk to death because they had "given food and shelter to, and aided instead of reporting" people persecuted by the Gestapo.

Josef Hocke allowed Major Hlavin, a resistance fighter, to hide in his storeroom. Hocke was condemned to death by Dannegger, on April 12, 1944.

On April 21, 1944, Dannegger sentenced to death Anna Matyasovsky and Wenzel Tlusty because they were in contact with a group of resistance fighters.

On June 28, 1944, he sentenced Franz Svátek to death for "sabotage" because he had shown two Soviet prisoners of war the way to Prague and spent five minutes talking with them.

This was "helping enemies of the Reich with advice".

The records show that 24 more Czechs were sentenced to death by Dr. Dannegger.

Today Dr. Dannegger is Senior District Judge of Wiedenbrueck in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Judge Hucklenbroich (born in June 1901).

Dr Hucklenbroich was Provincial Court

Judge in both Special and Upper Provincial Courts in Poznan (Occupied Poland). He applied the death penalty in at least 83 known cases.

In sentencing to death the Polish post office worker and first offender Martin Szymczak, 61, for petty larceny Dr. Hucklenbroich stated:

According to the criminal code for Poland the death penalty is to be applied even if the law does not call for it if the crime shows a particularly low attitude of mind or where it is rendered especially serious for other reasons.

Farm labourers Maria Therese Ginter, 22, and Leonhard Kinal, 25, attempted to defend themselves against a beating by two Germans after a dispute with the former's employer. They were sentenced to six years' hard labour and to death, respectively, by Hucklenbroich on July 30, 1942, for "expressing anti-German sentiments and damaging the welfare of the German people" (in Poland).

Another farm labourer, Jan Horyza, 29, was sentenced to death, on February 25, 1943, because he had resisted a beating by his employer.

Hucklenbroich sentenced the Polish stoker Johann Waymann, 42, to death in October 1943, for having twice slapped a "folk German".

On December 14, 1943, he sentenced to death Peter Twardowski because he had "falsely accused another of a crime".

On January 22, 1941, six Poles received the death sentence from Hucklenbroich.

On September 2, 1941, it was sixteen — a carpenter, several policemen, a chauffeur and two farmers among others.

In March 1943 it was six Poles (and three Germans).

In April, four Poles. Others received the same penalty in June, August, September.

On November 16, 1943, Hucklenbroich applied the death sentence to twelve Poles.

The list continues till April 25, 1944, when the last death sentence of which there is a record was delivered by Hucklenbroich. One Ukrainian, ten Germans and 72 Poles were sentenced to death by him.

Dr. Hucklenbroich, who is on the Polish war criminal list, is a judge in Wuppertal today.

Judge Mohs (born September 1, 1905).

The record on Dr Mohs includes only the names, occupations and day of sentencing of the people he condemned to death as a special judge in Poland during the single year of 1942. The alleged crimes are not included.

On June 6, 1942, in Termessen he sentenced three Poles, an appraiser, a welder and another worker.

On June 8, in Wroclaw (Breslau) it was eight Poles, including a tailor, a technician, an assistant mechanic and a bookkeeper.

The next day in Oels there were seven death sentences — this time a housewife, a shoemaker, a notary public and a civil servant among others.

Five days later, on June 12 and 13, 1942, in Lodz, he sentenced two women workers, a weaver, a spinner, a road worker and two others.

Six weeks later, on July 31, in Zwickau, Mohs again sentenced seven Poles to death, including this time a high school pupil, an apprentice druggist, an apprentice mechanic and a painter.

On August 10 and again August 13 and 15 he ordered ten Poles executed — this time the lists include a nurse, a teacher, another high school pupil, a trolley conductor, two shoemakers and a printer.

On August 17 seven others followed.

October 13 there were eight more.

Finally, on October 16 and 17, 1942, four Poles were sent to the scaffold. The records tell only the names and that a painter, a barber's assistant, a chemist, a nurse, a farmer and a night watchman were among the sentenced.

In all, in 1942, Mohs sentenced 82 Poles to death, as Provincial Court Judge of the special court of Inowraclaw, Occupied Poland.

Today Dr. Mohs is Provincial Court Judge in Frankenthal (Rhineland-Palatinate).

Judge Muhs (born in August 1905).

As Provincial Court Judge in the Special Court of Radom, Occupied Poland, Judge Muhs sentenced the bath-house owner Bazyl Antoniak, 50, to death

because he had helped two Jewish children leave the Jewish quarter and had given them shelter.

On April 4, 1944, in a similar case, Muhs condemned the mechanic Wladislaw Tyczynski, 27, to death because he had "provided shelter" for a short time to a 12-year-old boy who had escaped from the ghetto in Glinice which was to be "liquidated".

Muhs is now Senior Provincial Judge in Hamm (North Rhine-Westphalia).

Judge Reimers (born February 4, 1902).

In the two years, 1944 and 1945, Dr Reimers, judge at the Special Court and People's Court in Berlin, sent 76 German and non-German anti-fascists to be executed.

Livestock dealer Karl Grabs, 64, was sentenced to death for allegedly telling an acquaintance that "we must not win the war, for that would be much worse for us than if we lost it".

Building technician Albert Florkowski, 61, was sent to the scaffold by Dr Reimers on October 30, 1944, for stating in the presence of a member of the armed forces:

The soldiers do not want to fight any longer, we are steering toward another 1918.

Dr. Reimers said in his summing-up:

Such statements must seriously shake the faith of followers in the Fuehrer and their faith in bringing the war to a victorious end.

In December 1944, Reimers sentenced Hermann and Emma Kurras and Otto Potschka to death because they had sheltered 13 Jews from the Nazis.

In June 29, 1943, he condemned three Berliners, all Jewish, to death for having formed a Communist resistance group. They were Martin Kochmann, 30, Felix Heymann, 25, and Herbert Budzislowski, 22.

Reimers passed death sentences on ten Germans active in an underground Communist group led by Anton Saefkow.

"They (the accused) were fully aware that they were attacking our German battle troops treacherously from the rear and trying to rob us of our victory," says the court summation in one of the three cases involved.

Judge Reimers condemned the ten, including four mechanics, two toolmakers and an auditor to death on September 18, October 10, and December 18, 1944.

In all, Reimers passed more than one hundred death sentences.

Today he is Provincial Court Judge in Ravensburg (Baden-Wuerttemberg).

GUARANTEE FUND

Received during June:

J. Haggerty, 10s.; Com. Kennedy, £1 16s.; K. McF., £10 10s.; R. Hansen, 15s.; W. Cor-dier, 5s.; T. Watson, 2s.; H. Allen, 4s. 6d.; F. Grierson, £1 15s. (\$5); H. J. N. Horsburgh, 10s.; J. Yui'l, 10s.; A. J. Grant, £1 6s.; T. Hamilton, 1s.; F. Colman, 8s.; C. H. Norman, £1 5s.; Anon. 10s.; A. Stalcup, 14s. (\$2); R. Wilson, £1 7s. 6d.; L. Fisher, 10s.

Previously acknowledged: £787 10s. 4d.

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LETTER BOX is held over till next issue.

Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigues of supporting it. — THOMAS PAINE

Pass On This Copy To A Friend

FACTS FROM U.S.A. By LOUISE HARDING HARR

Brisbane, Calif., U.S.A.
May 14, 1959

WHO IS BEING "OBSTINATE"?

In the opening days of the Geneva foreign ministers' conference, when Russia demanded that Poland and Czechoslovakia be called in as equals, it appears that the Allies, if this were granted, would require the admission of Italy and possibly two small anti-Communist states such as Belgium and Luxemburg. A radio reporter for a U.S. chain explained that this was so the Allies might retain their usual majority of three to one, to which Russia objects. The reporter took the ground that the maintenance of the imbalance was a matter of course. *Why?* Numerically, U.S., with its string of South and Central small countries which are dictatorships, takes the lead; but if numbers of peoples are considered, it is far behind.

The "obstinacy" of Russia in the matter of representation has been blamed for postponement of the opening sessions. This reminds one of the old German woman's complaint, at the time British troops marched into the wrecked city where she lived. Emerging from the ruins, she charged: "Now you see what comes of all that British obstinacy — *you wouldn't give in to the Fuehrer!*"

URGING "PREVENTIVE WAR"

A radio report, May 4, the AFL/CIO program on KGO, disclosed that on April 29, Representatives Alvin M. Bentley (Republican, Michigan) and Cornelius S. Gallagher (Democrat, N.J.), appearing before the House Foreign Relations Committee, urged that U.S. notify Russia that if we consider it necessary, in order to avoid the destruction of our cities, this country will strike first in nuclear war.

This demonstrates that, in spite of such expert opinion as that of von Braun (who used to work for Hitler but has now switched to the cause of "democracy", and who has stated U.S.A. is some five years behind), the chauvinists in the United States still hold that, if they can get in the first attacks, Russia will be too shattered to retaliate. If this were not the belief, there would be no use in those elaborate preparations for escape illustrated in the three enormous jet planes now practically completed for the escape of VIPs from Washington: a recent issue of *Life* magazine shows the interior of one of them — an enormous affair whose aft cabin alone holds 28 seats for presidential aides and sundry Secret Service men; up in front is a compartment for the crew and more Secret Service men. Total cost: \$4.5 millions! If an extensive atomic war were contemplated, such precautions would be futile, since it is known the air would soon become so contaminated as to destroy all life on earth.

Sweden announces that she has prepared rock refuges for her entire population; in "democratic" U.S.A. nothing whatever has been done to protect the people, it having been flatly stated that the country cannot afford that and war expenditures too (such as shooting at the moon).

Dr A. R. J. Grosch, manager of space programs for International Business Machines, broke up a meeting at Caltech toward the end of April, by voicing his conviction that "our missile program is the swan song of a dying civilization"; that "there isn't any point in zooming off into outer space"; and that the money which pays the salaries of space missile-men would be better used for feeding and housing the under-privileged. A press report says all the assembled scientists burst into loud applause.

Dr Grosch must be pretty good, for all his boss said about the incident was that this was merely the individual opinion of the scientist.

The Bentley-Gallagher proposal seems designed to drive Russia to the "brink", and reminds us of what C. D. Jackson — long adviser to Eisenhower on foreign affairs, and working under Henry Luce — said in Los Angeles in April of 1950. Quoting from the *New York National Guardian*, front page, April 19:

Jackson, said the Los Angeles "Daily News", was "frankly doubtful that Russia could be provoked into a war". If Russia won't start it, he felt, then we should. "The consideration should be, can the mission be safely accomplished?"

From San Francisco Chronicle: CHURCHILL'S SON DENOUNCED BY RUSS MAGAZINE

Moscow, March 22, AP — The magazine *Ogonyek* assailed Randolph Churchill today on the ground he told an interviewer that within 43 minutes of the start of a new war every Soviet city with more than 100,000 people would be destroyed by nuclear bombs.

Churchill, *Ogonyek* said, made the statement when he was here as a correspondent with the party of British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan early this month. *Ogonyek* said he declared friends among United States high-ranking military leaders had assured him of this.

And what is Russia supposed to be doing during those opening minutes of the war?

COLD-WARRIOR DOUGLAS

"Washington, May 7, 1959, AP — Secretary of the Air Force James H. Douglas told Senators today that Thor intermediate-range ballistic missiles — able to drop nuclear warheads on *Soviet Russia* — are now on launchers in England available for emergency use if needed".

Who authorized Douglas to suggest we drop missiles on Russia in particular, more than on any other country? Such blowhards would be the first to take seats on those jet planes — speed around ten miles a minute, and having a range of 4,700 miles — and get to the etc. out of here, if war began. Leaving their miserable dupes (worse than) the fate described by an article in *San Francisco Chronicle*, May 9, shortly after some nonsensical "defense Drills" had taken place:

3 WEEKS AFTER BOMB "HIT S.F." By RALPH TYLER

City officials met yesterday to describe what San Francisco would be like 21 days after a 10 megaton bomb hit Hunters Point.

The mock bombing was supposed to have occurred April 17. This would have been the city yesterday.

Curiously quiet, because the trapped and wounded no longer cry.

Part of the city had been allowed to burn for four days — too dangerous for the firemen to enter.

Quite a few survivors were found in the stout basements under the tower apartments of Pacific Heights.

The doctors would already have left the city with the other refugees. Registration of the lost and dead goes on. In the evacuation centers there would be a shortage of medicines, a dangerous shortage considering the overtaxed sanitation facilities and the meager food.

Blood for transfusions was at a premium. None of the San Franciscans can give blood. It's contaminated.

City life was reviving. The streets farthest from the target areas were being cleared and flushed with ocean water. . . These were some of the details presented at a meeting of the S.F. Disaster Council and Corps. (Emphasis added.)

The foregoing is too optimistic by far. It is probable any Bombs exploded would be more than 10 megatons. The terrible one used by U.S. in the Pacific in 1954 is now said to have been 12 megatons. In his *No More War*, Dr Pauling assumes a superbomb of 20 megatons.

As the announced aim — see above — is to put all the large cities out of commission before a counter-attack can be made, it is reasonable to suppose the most frightful weapons possible will be employed.

Dr Pauling writes (page 45):

The initial gamma radiation and the neutron radiation from the detonation of the bomb would kill 50 per cent of all people within two and one-half miles

from the point where the bomb is exploded, even though they were shielded by as much as two feet of concrete. . .

After one hour the (radio) activity would be three million megacuries, and after one day it would have dropped to sixty-five thousand megacuries. A megacurie corresponds to about a ton of radium.

Considerable nonsense has been put out officially, as to the virtue of underground "shelters" made by the citizen in his backyard, covered by three feet of earth.

Next, this eminent scientist considers the fallout from a superbomb with 10 megatons equivalent of fission:

The distribution of the local fallout will depend upon the way in which the winds close to the surface of the earth are blowing . . . In order to get a rough idea of what the local fallout means, let us assume that it is spread uniformly over a circle one hundred miles in diameter.

Quoting Dr Alvin C. Graves, Science Director of the Pacific Proving Ground activities, etc., testifying at the Congressional hearings on fallout in 1957, and the information given at those hearings by Dr Ralph E. Lapp, it is found —

that the total average amount of radiation at a height three feet above the surface of the ground due to the penetrating gamma rays from the fallout radioactivity would be 5500 roentgens, from one hour to one year. Of this total, 3000 roentgens would be received during the first day, and 1100 roentgens from the end of the first day to the end of the first week. (Emphasis added.)

. . . unprotected exposure to 600 roentgens during a period of a few days usually leads to death from acute radiation sickness. A large fraction of the population in this area would receive a 600-roentgen exposure within the first day of the first week after the explosion. Much of the radiation will penetrate a foot of concrete, so that protection against it is not easy.

EXCUSE FOR TALKING WAR ON RUSSIA

It is claimed by U.S. friends of Monopoly that Russia is treacherous; that our example of freedom and prosperity creates a danger so great to her existence that she constantly plots armed warfare against the United States. The grounds which they seek to advance for this propaganda are false.

These *Notes* have already quoted George Seldes, in his *Tell the Truth and Run*. He shows the origin of the cold war, and who fears whom, when he quotes from the Marshal Foch memoirs, thus:

In February 1919, in the early days of Leninism. I declared to the Ambassadors' Conference meeting in Paris that, if the states surrounding Russia were supplied with munitions and the sinews of war, I would undertake to stamp out the Bolshevik menace once and for all.

Such aggressive, and unprovoked, attacks were actually made on Russia shortly after the close of World War I. They constituted seventeen fronts, but were unsuccessful.

Recently the U.S. State Department has made an effort to attribute the beginning of the cold war to Russia. This attempt is most adequately answered by Herbert Aptheker, in *Political Affairs* (published in New York City, April 1959). This scholarly and comprehensive essay should be widely read. There is room here to quote only a few passages:

In August 1947, the State Department issued an official Memorandum entitled: *Occupation of Germany: Policy and Progress*. The Memorandum, then, began with this sentence:

The guiding objectives of the Government with respect to Germany were: 1) the total destruction of the Nazi regime, and 2) insurance against the re-appearance in the future of a regime or ideology calculated to disturb the general peace and security.

The reader is invited to compare this 1947 summary with the 1959 summary quoted earlier.

Viz., as put out January 7, this year:

In wartime agreements the Allied nations stated two fundamental policies: they pledged to defeat the enemy, and they declared they would strike for recovery from the war, continuing wartime cooperation.

Aptheker asks:

On what is the 1947 summary based? The Memorandum itself tells us by quoting from the major policy statement made by the President of the

United States, in his Message to Congress, dated September 17, 1943. On that occasion, President Roosevelt stated:

There is one thing I want to make perfectly clear: When Hitler and the Nazis go out, the Prussian military clique must go with them. The war-breeding gangs of militarists must be rooted out of Germany — and out of Japan — if we are to have any real assurance of future peace. . . . We shall not be able to claim that we have gained total victory in this war if any vestige of Fascism in any of its malignant forms is permitted to survive anywhere in the world.

These words anticipate not only in substance but in detail the solemn wartime agreements entered into by the Allied Coalition; the agreements that gave meaning to the indescribable suffering brought on by that war. . . . If the present Administration believes that it can get away with an effort to wipe out the memory of those agreements and the reality of those commitments by a couple of lines concocted by their Madison-Avenue boys about "defeating the enemy" and "recovering from the war", then it is clear that the ailments of this Administration, while indubitably severe in the physical sphere, are even more critical in the mental.

In a treaty signed at Yalta, February 1945, the Governments of the United States, Great Britain and the Soviet Union unequivocally agreed:

Our inexorable purpose (is) to destroy German militarism and nazism . . . to disarm and disband all German armed forces, break up for all time the German military equipment; eliminate or control all German industry that could be used for military production; bring all war criminals to just and swift punishment and exact reparation in kind for the destruction wrought by the Germans; wipe out the Nazi Party, Nazi laws, organizations and institutions, remove all Nazi and militarist influences from public office and from the cultural and economic life of the German people . . . enable the liberated peoples to destroy the last vestiges of nazism and fascism. . . .

After the surrender of Germany, the Three Great Powers at Potsdam, in August 1945, reiterated, and, if anything, made more explicit, their agreement,

permanently to prevent the revival or reorganization of German militarism and Nazism . . . to prevent all Nazi and military activity or propaganda . . . German education shall be so controlled as completely to eliminate Nazi and militarist doctrines. . . .

. . . The U.S. government falsifies the nature of the World War Two agreements because she has failed to abide by them. Its policy has been to renege, not denazify; to cartelize, not to decartelize; to remilitarize, not to demilitarize. Let the record speak:

On denazification: James Stewart Martin, for a year and a half immediately after the war, chief of the Decartelization Branch of the American Military Government in Germany, wrote that, beginning in 1946: "Top Nazis and Nazi supporters who think democracy ridiculous moved into key positions in the economic and administrative life of Germany, or were never thrown out." (All Honorable Men, Boston, 1950, p. 168.) In March 1946, General Clay, U.S. Military Governor in Germany, turned over to German authorities the task of denazification. Early in 1948, this General issued a directive that the process was to be completed by the summer of that year.

THE "HIGH TREASON" LAW

July 9, 1951, a "lightning law" introduced by the Adenauer government was pushed through in great haste with the support of the government parties and the Social Democrats, banning the collection of signatures for a plebiscite against remilitarization.

Ministers Lehr and Seebohm are said to be the initiators of this new emergency law patterned on fascist laws. These two Ministers, together with Jakob Kaiser were commissioned by representatives of the American High Commission to work out such a law immediately after the Eisenhower talks in Homburg.

—White Book on the Revival of German Imperialism.

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SCHOOL CADET TRAINING

Beeville Community, Taupiri,
March 5, 1959

The Principal,
Hamilton Technical College

Dear Sir — After being away from home for a week I found waiting for me on my return your Second Notice concerning Martin's absence from Technical College. . . .

There are several reasons why Martin is not attending school. From my point of view (and I would say from the point of view of the Beeville Community) the most important of these reasons is the fact that Martin himself is clear in his own mind after a brief attendance at Hamilton Technical College, that this is not the right thing for him. Instead he is now taking a part, a valuable and really important part in the production and other constructive activities of the Beeville Community. This he feels is where the real need lies, and I endorse his decision. When attending Technical College he was forced to travel in an illegally, dangerously and unhappily overcrowded bus, travelling in which also involved much waste of time. At school he was subjected to slighting remarks in reference to conscientious or "religious" objection to cadet training, and other improper and indecent language spoken in class by at least one of his teachers. He came home very troubled about these things.

I am of course aware that the law says that every child must attend school to the age of 15. But here at Beeville we are living and working on a voluntary basis and do not accept coercion, nor doing what is obviously wrong simply because it is laid down by the law. On the other hand, Iris is continuing with school because she feels, or so she says, that this is the right thing for her and it is what she wants to do. . . .

Sir, I am not assuming that it lies in your power to allow exemption from attendance for Martin, though you do have the power to expel children, do you not? . . . It appears that Martin's schoolgoing must be regarded as having been terminated and that this is in accordance with the very nature of the situation and cannot rightly be regarded as default, either his, mine or of the Beeville Community. Yours faithfully,

RAYMOND E. HANSEN

South Auckland Education District,
Education Office, Hamilton,
April 2, 1959

Mr Raymond E. Hansen,
Beeville Community, Taupiri.

Dear Sir — Our records disclose that your child Martin has not been attending school regularly, and I am required to ask you for a statement setting out the reason for such poor attendance.

You will know that the Education Act requires each child between the ages of seven and fifteen years to attend school whenever it is open. While a certain degree of non-attendance is permissible in the event of illness and other unavoidable factors, persistent absence without good reason renders a parent or guardian liable to prosecution.

Would you, therefore, please explain the reason for the recent absences, and take every care to ensure that your child attends school regularly in the future. This Board will be calling for a report concerning your child's attendance from now on.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) K. C. M. COCKERILL
Secretary-Manager

Beeville Community, Taupiri,
April 10, 1959

Mr. K. C. M. Cockerill,
Secretary-Manager,
Education Office, Hamilton.

Dear Sir — I write in reply to your letter of the 2nd April with reference to non-attendance at Hamilton Technical College of

my son Martin who was enrolled at the beginning of this year.

I have noted carefully the contents of your letter and wish to thank you for same. I am happy to reply to the enquiry concerning Martin — Martin Freeman Hansen. I think the main part of what has to be said has already been supplied in writing to the Principal of the Hamilton Technical College. A copy of this letter dated 5th March I herewith enclose. No acknowledgement of it has been received up to now.

Martin's ceasing from schoolgoing short of the age of 15 years need not perhaps necessarily be regarded as contrary to the requirements of the Education Act in view of the facts as stated in the letter I enclose. To begin with, can it rightly be held that the school in question is "open", in the circumstances — bus illegally overcrowded and a certain exclusive and derogatory attitude at school with regard to objections to participating in cadet training. A great deal may be taught about our great Christian culture and traditions, but is not cadet training entirely un-Christian, and compulsory cadet training doubly so? Yet Martin has disclosed to me that when in class they were told by the Principal, Mr Day, that any child not attending school during cadet training week would be expelled. That was enough. He decided right away, with the concurrence of myself, his mother and others here to stop going.

Martin has always been a sensitive child with constitution not too robust. To have gone on with school against his own convictions and inclinations plainly would have been disastrous for him. . . .

Since leaving school Martin's general physical, mental and emotional development has been excellent — also his application to the essential serious pursuits of life. . . .

If the facts as stated are held to still not satisfy the requirements of the Education Act, then I feel that I have no alternative but to challenge the act and, if necessary, let it be a public issue.

The *voluntary* basis of the Beeville Community means that if any of us of any age really make up our minds in a certain direction, such freedom is not to be denied. This feeling about the fundamental human need of freedom is innate, but we also take seriously our reading of such books as J. Krishnamurti's *First and Last Freedom, Education and the Significance of Life, and On Learning*. I submit that these and other such writings might well be studied and taken seriously by the education authorities in New Zealand, as already in universities of U.S.A.

Martin has read your letter. When I asked him if he was still of the same mind about not attending school, his reply was unhesitatingly "Yes". Yours faithfully,

RAYMOND E. HANSEN

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Letters to Prague cost 6d. for the first ounce and 4d. per ounce after.

PRAGUE NEWS LETTER

A *Fortnightly Survey of Czechoslovak News*
Published at Prague 12, Stalinova 3,
Czechoslovakia

It is available without charge on request to the above address.

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THIS CRAZY WORLD

By R. S. MONTAGUE

[Chapter I (last issue) should have been entitled "The Spirit of the Times".]

II. WORLD WAR II

(Concluded from page 75)

If I — the sane man from Mars — was observing the inmates of this lunatic planet in that part of the earth called Great Britain I should see amazing things in the year of our (nationalistic) Lord 1940-1945. As an intelligent and observant Martian I should soon notice as I strolled about the streets of our big cities a group of lunatics I might call the "Bristapo".

Should I enter into conversation with one or more of the inhabitants I should observe that I was being watched by these peculiar people from behind pillars or posts. Or perhaps they would give me a very dirty look as they stroll slowly by me. I might observe one of these crackpots creeping up close so as to listen to my conversation. What I said would be reported to the head crackpot. I should soon be marked as a sane man and consequently dangerous and liable to spread sanity among the people of Great Britain. So if I continued to talk sense or infect the people with any sane ideas such as opposing the world slaughter of the lunatics I should be "picked up" and taken off and perhaps interred with hundreds of others in a prison or sane asylum.

Being one of the sane minority in this country I write with practical experience. What happened in Great Britain during the years 1940-1945 also took place in other parts of this crazy world.

In that part of the earth called Germany these crackpots who live by spying on their fellow beings were called the "Gestapo". Over here they were first called "Cooper's Snoopers". But as Gestapo is the abbreviation for German State Police I named the British variety "Bristapo", British State Police. Although there were thousands of them creeping about the countryside and towns and in the "pubs" of Great Britain very few of the cracked inhabitants were aware of their presence. In fact if I, the sane man from Mars, had drawn anyone's attention to the fact I should have been informed that I was mad and imagining things. "This is England, not Germany", I should have been told.

If our intelligent visitor still had any doubts as to the sanity of this planet's inhabitants he would soon come to definite conclusions when night began to fall. For then he would observe the people creeping away down holes in the ground and hiding in little tin-like coffins or big concrete tombs. The reason for this peculiar behaviour would no doubt puzzle me at first but I would soon find out. For from that part of the earth called Germany would come a large bunch of lunatics in flying machines. They would be dressed in peculiar clothes and carry in their aeroplanes great bombs which each night they would drop on the British lunatics hiding away underground.

What noise and destruction it would be, but such great improvement on the motor car, or at least the people thought so at the time. Now that mass killing has temporarily ceased the lunatics have been compiling statistics and to their disappointment they have found that the motor car as an instrument for destroying life was more successful than the bombs dropped from aeroplanes. But they have some consolation in the damage and destruction wrought by the bombs on private property. The lunatics' homes and bug hutches were destroyed, also beautiful historic buildings.

However, the bombs were the best they could invent at the time. But just as the people of the earth grew tired of that method

of human destruction and misery a section of them in America invented a new bomb which was to be so destructive when it was used that it would bring joy to the heart of every lunatic on the face of the earth. The idea was so revolutionary as an instrument of human and property destruction that the people all over the world are still talking and writing about this bomb and waiting with intense impatience for the next world war of the lunatics to begin.

During the recent world war the British lunatics, dressed in light blue clothes, flew over Germany to drop bombs on the people there. In 1940 and 1941 the bombs used by both sections of the madmen in each country weighed anything up to two tons each. The British of course called their wonderful instruments of destruction "beautiful bombs". In 1942 they were making even bigger and more beautiful bombs.

By now I should have discovered the people's aim in inflicting as much pain and suffering on each other as their crazy minds can conceive. From time to time a big maniac will stand up and say, "Elect me to lead you for I have some wonderful ideas to cause all kinds of suffering and misery". And so he is elected to rule the people. If he dies or goes sane another man takes his place. The first leader of the British people in the recent world war was very popular and started the world slaughter of the lunatics which was hoped to be an improvement on the murdering of people by twos and threes with the motor car method and the slow starvation idea of millions. This new method of wholesale destruction of life and property took on like wildfire. The head man who got the world slaughter going by declaring war on the lunatics in Germany no doubt had his popularity enhanced by the fact that he had two prominent front teeth and carried an umbrella. He looked just like a bunny-rabbit from Alice in Wonderland — how appropriate in the Malice in Blunderland world! The people even wrote a song about him called "The Umbrella Man".

But he hardly got the new mass suicide plan going for the people when he died. It was so unfortunate for he was such a perfect lunatic and also looked the part. He flew in an aeroplane with his umbrella and visited the head crackpot in Germany and they signed their names on pieces of paper. Then he flew back to this island and stepping from his aeroplane he waved one of these pieces of paper in the air and shouted to the people: "Peace in our time", and then informed them that they must at once arm for war.

This slaughter of the madmen was called the war for freedom. The British had started a world war on the Germans once before and they called that mass slaughter the war for King and Country. The third world blood-bath will be a great improvement on the last two as the new tonic bombs and germ sprays will be used. They have not yet invented a name for it, but the war after that one will be fought with bows and arrows.

However, in that part of the world called Czechoslovakia the people were as free as they ever could be in this capitalist world, and they took the umbrella man at his word and at once prepared to fight for freedom. But no, said he, you must first give up your freedom before you can fight for it. "Why should we fight for a far-off country we know nothing about?" he asked. But the Czechs were so determined to fight for freedom that the umbrella man had to send out to Czechoslovakia one of his assistant crackpots named Lord Runciman.

Yes, he was a great nut this umbrella man with his two protruding teeth. He said the British people were not armed enough to fight the German people, so he gave the Germans the vast arms factories of Czechoslovakia and the abundance of their raw materials. The Skoda works was almost the biggest arms factory in Europe. The Czechs were also forced to surrender their famous

defence line. When they had been forced to surrender their country to the Germans and had laid down their arms and given up their freedom the umbrella man said "Now we are ready to fight for freedom".

The Germans were able to march right across Czechoslovakia to the frontiers of Poland. Then the umbrella man said to the world: "We go to war to defend the freedom of Poland" although Poland was even further away than Czechoslovakia. But the head men of Britain probably knew more about Poland because they had a lot of money invested there, particularly the Prudential Insurance Company. But the British people thought that was a marvelous stroke of lunacy because they knew the Polish people had no freedom. Poland was a semi-fascist country ruled by a dictatorship and the mass of the people were poverty-stricken, particularly those who worked in the mines owned by the Prudential Insurance Company.

And with "peace in our time" carefully locked in a drawer the Umbrella Man declared war on the Germans and off went millions of lunatics to the slaughter. Then this head crackpot died.

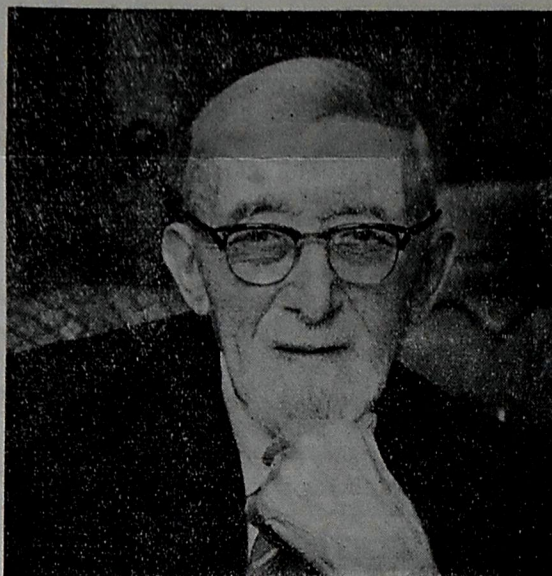
The British people then voted for a new leader or at least they thought they did. The new head man had to live up to the present wave of world insanity and started with a better slogan than "peace in our time". He did not have an umbrella but wore funny hats and smoked big expensive cigars all day instead. His slogan for the British lunatics was: "Blood, Toil, Tears and Sweat". The lunatics thought that was marvelous; just the things they wanted. So he was more popular than the head nut who had just died, although some were heard to call him "a mediocrity on a monument, elected by muddled millions". But this new head man did not appear to be as crazy as the people, for he did not live up to his slogan and continued to smoke his expensive cigars by the hundred all day long. Really I believe he had contempt for the people, for wherever he went among them he greeted them by sticking up two of his fingers in their faces in the form of a V-sign. V for vulgarity. Maybe he thought they were a common vulgar lot anyway. In the British General Strike of 1926, Churchill brought out the guns and tanks and said "A little blood-letting would be a good thing" and "Give me the right and I will drive the swine back to work" but using more diplomatic words. He had a song already written for him called "Baby Face".

Those people who were unable to go out and die for freedom had to think how they could suffer at home. They soon invented many schemes. For instance. To make as much hard work and slavery as possible they printed millions of paper forms of all sizes and colours of the rainbow on which were printed thousands of the silliest questions they could think of. Then they distributed these forms among themselves and thousands of lunatics were employed to see that the forms were filled in according to the plan. This meant hours of extra hard work and the people were as miserable at it as was intended they should be. Everyone filled in a form for everything he did and everywhere he went. He filled in forms for all the food he ate. He rationed his food till there were almost more forms than food. He had forms and tickets for his clothes which he also rationed.

But the lunatics still had a lot of paper left over, so they drove vans all over the place and stuck up large paper posters everywhere on which was printed: "Save Paper". Motor vans were running about sticking up posters with the words "Save Rubber" and "Save Petrol". But there were still not enough motor vans to use up all the rubber and petrol. And although the government continued to issue all kinds of White Papers on everything under the sun and printed thick documents on hundreds of subjects which no one ever read, there was still a lot of paper left over.

Things were becoming a little dull for the

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK



C. E. RATCLIFFE

All readers will congratulate our most active Freethought comrade, C. E. Ratcliffe, on having attained the age of ninety years on June 4 last. I have in hand a number of poems and many essays, in addition to reminiscences, from his pen. These have been held over because of the strenuous times in which we live. The crisis of the A. and H. bombs, the threat of a Third World War, and the conspiracy of Western Imperialism against world peace, have compelled me to hold over various important and interesting essays. In due course, however, I hope to publish all comrade Ratcliffe's writings.

Comrade Ratcliffe celebrated his 90th birthday, in part, by having his photograph specially taken for his many *Word* fans.

DWIGHT MACDONALD

Peace News, for June 19, 1959, states that "Dwight Macdonald was in London recently, talking to the Universities and Left Review Club. In the course of his talk Macdonald confessed that he was no longer seriously interested in politics."

Our contemporary recalls that Macdonald was a Pacifist Anarchist in the middle 1940's, and edited a "most exciting political magazine" called *Politics*. It states that he saw through conventional politics but was unable "to see a way forward". It adds that today, through small groups of Non-Violent Action in the United States and Direct Action Committees in Great Britain, pacifists are beginning to answer the question "What must Pacifist Anarchists do to make their beliefs effective?"

All this comment is pure nonsense. Many members of these committees will fail to last the distance. Dwight Macdonald wrote with great assurance and dogmatism for a short time. He was a last-word dogmatist who had all the answers. But he had no staying power. His words were froth. The result, he gets to London, and addresses a pretentious group. *Peace News* discovers an easy and snobbish explanation for a sheer piece of intellectual pandering and careerism. Why not say that the man is a coward and seeker after status which means cash with honour under capitalism? That is the truth. I suggest that the editor of our pious contemporary, who objects to my Atheism, speak. Why must Theists be liars and hypocrites? Is that what follows from close contact with God? It was not the view of Jesus nor yet of some of the Old Testament prophets.

EX-PROVOST REID

On Tuesday, June 9, 1959, our comrade, ex-Provost James Reid of Saltcoats, denounced the Boy Scouts as a "militarist movement"

at a meeting of Ayrshire Education Committee. Comrade Reid opposed a committee move to give £10 to two Ayrshire Scouts towards their expenses in attending the World Jamboree in the Philippines later this year.

James Reid described what hydrogen bomb warfare meant — a press the button world conflict — and declared that "the Boy Scout movement was to condition young people to accept militarism as necessary."

He quoted a section of *Scouting for Boys* by Lord Baden-Powell, founder of the movement.

This stated that any young scout was useless unless he could "shoot, drill and scout — a fellow who is going to be useful if we are attacked."

It urged Scouts to become "good rifle shots in order that you may be able to protect our women and children."

Police Judge A. M. Clark of Kilmarnock stated that "it is nonsense to call the Scout movement military."

"Then," said the *Scottish Daily Express* next day, "the row broke."

Ex-Provost Reid and Police Judge Clark shouted across the committee room at each other.

Robert Stewart, of Dalmellington, banged his gavel. When the noise had died down, Councillor Robert Hatley of Dalry took up the fight for the £10 grant.

Said Mr Hatley: "I don't allow my antagonism to war let me condemn an organisation such as the Boy Scouts."

The committee agreed to make a £10 grant for each Scout. The two boys are Scout D. Roche, 53rd (Ayrshire), Largs, and Scout T. J. Savory, 37th (Ayrshire), Kilmarnock.

Hately's remarks merely revealed his ineffectiveness as an enemy of militarism. The Boy Scouts movement is a military organisation and Comrade James Reid was right.

ADENAUER

Hamish Fraser, in the *Scottish Catholic Herald and Glasgow Observer*, for April 17, 1959, applauds Adenauer as the "Architect of Europe".

Fraser applauds him for "his inflexible opposition to Soviet intrigues", and for being "cordially detested by the Kremlin" and "by the doctrinaire left".

The truth is that Adenauer is a war-monger, an associate of Nazi war criminals, and a defender of their criminal activity. The only architecture of which he is capable is the construction of an edifice of war. He is a destroyer of his species and an enemy of mankind.

GERMAN DEMANDS

Last month I exposed the London Guildhall dinner, at which the Duke of Edinburgh spoke, and at which Hans Speidel was one of the guests. The William Hickey gossip column in the *Daily Express* for Tuesday, April 12, 1959, had two enlightening items concerning this dinner:

With a crash and a blare and a ta-ra-boom-de-ay the band of the Scots Guards crashed into life at London's Guildhall last night with a fine roar of sound.

Prince Philip was there, so was Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands, so were a medal-chested procession of ambassadors, diplomats, politicians and military nabobs.

The big guns came from 15 separate NATO countries. That controversial German General Hans Speidel was there, for instance.

Pointing out that Herr Strauss also attended the ceremony, as representing West Germany, the *Express* columnist added:

Last night's aperitif march was based on that worrisome NATO hymn. There has been some undiplomatic trouble over the NATO hymn, you may recall. When 5,000 schools were asked to sing it 10 days ago at prayers there were strong protests.

So Lord Bessborough, who as president of the European Atlantic Group was organising the dinner,

lunatics, in spite of the prospect of bigger and more beautiful bombs, when the Germans stirred the country up a bit by sending over bombs which flew by themselves; rocket bombs followed.

My amazement was not yet at its height. In 1945 the atomic bomb was used against Japan. Being sane and imaginative I could see the possibilities of atomic power and dashed off back to Mars to warn the happy and peace-loving people there that even Mars was in danger from the lunatic planet Earth.

In fact I was so convinced of their inventive lunacy that I was heard to say as I climbed into my saucer: "It's sanity and socialism, or social suicide for the whole universe."

III. POST WAR REPORTS

1957 AND CRAZIER THAN EVER

The H-bomb tests, believed by many responsible scientists to have created a world health hazard already, will still go on. So will the East-West race to build an arsenal of bigger, better and cheaper H-bombs.—*News Chronicle*, March 25, 1957.

Special Correspondent
Washington, Thursday

THEY'RE PAID NOT TO GROW CROPS
From BRUCE ROTHWELL

Across the nation the grain silos are full to bursting already; mile-long trains, which will never move again, stand in sidings packed with corn and cotton.

Ghost fleets of World War II ships lie in east and west coast rivers and harbours with their holds full of America's riches — yet barred from sailing with them to feed the hungry.—*News Chronicle*, March 13, 1959.

STOP PRESS: NO CHANGE

NO TRAITOR'S GAIT!

Vol. 2, No. 5, *No Traitor's Gait!*, describes the story of Rose Witcop's challenge to the orthodoxy of her time in relation to marriage and birth control. The account of her stand will be completed in No. 6.

This issue (No. 6) will tell the story also of the organisation of Communist propaganda in London and Glasgow before and after the First World War.

Nos. 1, 2, 3, and 4, Vol. 2 are still on sale Price 8d. each, post free.

Number 1 tells the story of the Anarchist movement in Britain.

Number 3, Volume 2, continues the story of the Anarchist movement.

Number 4 should be circulated widely by everyone interested in the struggle for sex equality.

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When completed *No Traitor's Gait!* will prove to be a very thorough study of the Socialist, Anarchist and Freethought movements in Britain during the last half century. Actually it will treat of aspects of the struggle in U.S.A., Europe and India.

Have *No Traitor's Gait!* posted direct to your address immediately on publication. The subscription rate is 8s. post free, payable in advance, for 12 issues.

In men this blunder still you find,
All think their little set mankind.

—HANNAH MORE

had that hymn tactfully bowdlerised. He asked the man who wrote it, Thomas Preston, to write a wordless march on the same theme.

NOW GERMANY WANTS BASES IN BELGIUM, HOLLAND AND FRANCE

Britain, Belgium, and (of course) Germany are deep in a behind-the-scene squabble about the siting of forward arms dumps.

West German Defence Minister, beefy butcher's son Franz Strauss, is waltzing from capital to capital to "sell" his army build-up.

He insists that his new Wehrmacht must have 90 days' march supplies available instantly—and that to reduce the number of potential targets in Germany, two tons in three must be stored in safety West of the Rhine—that is, outside the Fatherland.

So, besides Belgium, he wants to lease bases in Holland and in France.

"THE HESSEN CASE"

In 1946 the Parliament of the Province of Hesse worked out a draft Constitution which was submitted to the electorate for approval. This draft constitution stated in Article 41:

When this Constitution becomes effective:

(1) Coal, lime and ore mines, iron and steel works, power stations and railway and trolley-bus lines shall become public property.

(2) Big banks and insurance companies together with enterprises named in paragraph one the headquarters of which are situated outside the Province Hesse will be subjected to state administration or control.

The American occupation power which had made it its business to protect the German monopolists and bankers protested against this Article 41 of the Hessian Constitution and forbade its inclusion in the Constitution. The Hessian government, under the pressure of public opinion, remained firm and based its stand on the many declarations made by the Americans about the right of the Germans to have "democracy and self-determination". General Clay then insisted that Article 41 be the subject of a special plebiscite. The plebiscite was held with a result which General Clay had not expected: 70% of the electorate voted in favor of Article 41 of the Constitution. The democratic wishes of the overwhelming majority of the population could not have been expressed more clearly.

The American occupation authorities, however, breaking all democratic principles, continued to prevent this article of the Constitution being put into force. Some years later, the reactionary parties won a majority in the Hessian Parliament.

CATHOLICS AND LABOUR

In various parts of Britain, Catholics have joined the Labour Party and are demanding the expulsion of outstanding comrades because they hold Freethought views. Cases have come to my notice where the late Charles Voysey is being accused *wrongly* of having been an Atheist, whereas he was definitely a Theist. The Catholic Church, in these cases, is showing no regard for truth. At the same time, leading writers for the Catholic press are applauding Adenauer as being "the Architect of a new Europe".

Does Transport House really uphold this campaign of expulsion for theological reasons? Note, the Atheists are showing no intolerance. Only the Catholics who accuse Communists of trying to capture the Labour movement.

If this campaign continues I shall expose this Catholic conspiracy. Let me add that, whilst I would not persecute a man for being a Catholic, I have no doubt on the theological question. The Catholics have challenged opinion. Here it is. The miracles of Catholicism are absurd. The pretences that Jesus was God and that his mother was a virgin are nonsense. The idea of a personal God is a false conception. Atheism is correct. Netheism is correct. Netheism is the basis of all social idealism. A priesthood is an evil negation of the right of private judgment.

If any of these Catholic reactionaries and conspirators, who infest the Labour movement, and are trying to perpetuate reaction,

are willing to debate these questions, I will meet them anywhere in full and open debate.

The struggle for social freedom has had Catholic martyrs. To all such persons I pay my tribute of respect. But I will not stand idly by and subscribe to priestly dictation or to political interference from the Pope.

One must be quite fair. Many Catholics are making a brave stand against war. My censures on the Vatican and my strong Atheism must not be taken to imply opposition to Catholics because of their religious views.

The *Catholic Worker*, New York, for April-May 1959, reports that Dorothy Day, Ammon Hennacy, Deane Mowrer, and Karl Mayer, all of the *Catholic Worker*, with 13 others, were sentenced to 10 days in jail or ordered to pay \$25 for refusing to take shelter during New York State's Civil Defense Air Raid Drill.

A Catholic enemy of war is better than an Atheist who upholds war in my opinion.

EDITOR'S S.O.S.

NEW PREMISES NEEDED

Owing to the fact that our premises have been condemned and are to be demolished, it is urgent that new premises be secured.

There are people in Glasgow who can help the Strickland Press to find such new premises or may be able to secure same for us in the centre of the city. I appeal to them to do so.

Great sacrifices are being made to help by one good comrade in the United States and three in Great Britain. Since no premises can be secured for rent, *they must be bought*. The premises required *must be spacious* as we do our own printing and do *not* employ labour. We are self-employed. The editor and his comrades do not receive wages and live at the poorest possible level. All income is spent on propaganda. Even at that we are in debt.

The help needed must be practical, sufficient, and immediate. *The Word* must *not* go out of existence. Our pamphlet propaganda must continue. Please respond *at once*. Write now and say what you can do. Also do all you can *at once* please.

By C. E. RATCLIFFE IS SPIRITUALISM TRUE?

In this pamphlet C. E. Ratcliffe, the well-known rationalist poet, makes a close and impartial study of Spiritualism.

In the course of his investigations Mr Ratcliffe attended many seances and had discussions with successful mediums. His findings are set forth in this pamphlet.

Price: 1s. Post free 1s. 2d.

Most interesting! Notably, the remarks about people and mediums who hypnotise themselves. How true this is regarding religion itself! Any ordinary sane individual knows that the "power" of the church is rapidly waning, and that it is resorting to everything it can think of to keep on fooling the people, and to fill its collecting plates. — M. D. Silas, London.

I think this pamphlet is most interesting, and was well worth writing. But it is a pity that so few Spiritualists will see it. — H. Cutner, London.

FACT AND FICTION

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GLASGOW, C.1.

You should never wear your best trousers when you go out to fight for freedom and truth—IBSEN

FROM L.H.H.

Brisbane, Calif.,
April 18, 1959

Dear Guy—Yesterday, there was one of those nonsensical "defense" drills (clipping enclosed). They admit that 500,000 persons would be "burned to a crisp". People couldn't possibly get as far away as San Jose (some 40 miles by highway); and even there, the fall-out would be deadly.

I notice that a time has been picked (weather no doubt could be forecasted) when the wind blew (abnormally) from north to south. The only road runs south. Otherwise, San Francisco is surrounded by water. *Why are these people* so suddenly willing to arouse the Rip van Winkles? Perhaps (1) to frighten them into willingness to pay even more exorbitant taxes, for a "defense" that *can't defend* the great cities; or (2) is it to get the public into a frame of mind where they will condone a "preventive" war—just as they condoned the monstrous crimes of Nagasaki and Hiroshima under the utterly false pretense of preventing loss of lives of U.S. soldiers?

As to that story on the reverse of that same clip, of the terrible revelation on deformities in children, obviously caused by radiation, the State functionary, Hillebor, makes an attempt to cast doubt on the connection. A very feeble effort, since just such defects have been noted at Hiroshima, in *great numbers*.

About the *sister of Dulles*, do you remember the story that came out some time ago, about a *deleted passage in Ambassador Dodd's Diary*, concerning her being an admirer of Nazism? Now, it appears, she is a U.S. State Department adviser on Berlin affairs! "Heaven" save us!

West Germany (evidently the Adenauer crowd) "firmly opposes" any plan for German confederation. But—a peace treaty not having been signed, *technically a state of war exists* (something that is remembered, easily enough, when reactionary ends are sought to be achieved.)

Since when have utterly defeated war enemies taken to dictating terms of peace?

On the matter of height of air lanes to and from West Berlin: with the terrible record here in U.S.A. of military planes running into passenger ones, or (from defective equipment) falling, and crashing into homes, destroying children and adults, can we wonder that Russia and East Germany do not care for demonstrations over their territory of the "American way" of conducting flights? My files contain accounts of many, many such instances. They are inexcusable.

May 9, 1959

A writer in the *Express* holds Adenauer responsible for all those Nazis now in power in West Germany.

Also, Eisenhower is bitter on account of Khrushchov's statement that, if war comes, the West will be wiped out. Eisenhower has *conveniently overlooked the provocation for Khrushchov's remark*. On April 29 (as I wrote you), two members of the U.S. Congress went before the House Foreign Relations Committee and urged that Russia be notified that if we think it advisable, U.S. will strike first (and there have been other such remarks, equally provocative)

June 3

In the next issue, I do hope you may find room for at least some comment on the Fred Stoner case. It is important because it shows how Fascism works. First, they hound the Communists, hale them into court, and "convict" them by the "testimony" of self-confessed perjurers. (Mr Stoner would never approve of such a method against *anyone*, no matter how much he might differ politically.)

Then, having succeeded in these terroristic methods—without arousing any protest from the apathetic public—they proceed to

attack a man like Stoner, by dubbing him a Communist, although they know perfectly well that he is nothing of the sort. They do not, really, fear Communism in the United States, because it is very weak here: they do fear a man like Stoner, who attacks the great monopolies which have strangled our liberties, and who fearlessly exposes their criminal wars started under false pretense (see Korea).

It is most unfortunate that so little outcry has been made about this case (which is in line with Niemöller's celebrated remark — first it was the Communists — and they didn't matter! Finally it got down to Niemöller, and there was no one left to protest, outside the concentration camps.) Greeting to all,

LOUISE

ACCORDING TO ANDREW

A REVIEW

By J. T. CALDWELL

According to Andrew. A Life of Jesus—Son of Man by F. R. Hancock.

It is often fascinating to speculate on the "might-have-beens" of history.

How would the great Judaic contribution to Western civilization have been affected if Moses had not been discovered in the bulrushes? Is it not likely that Jehovah would have vanished as a tribal god of an ancient people; and that there would have been no Exodus, no Decalogue, no Chosen People, no Law-and-the-Prophets, no expectation of a Messiah — and no Christianity?

If Judas had not betrayed Jesus the whole scheme of Salvation might have been jeopardised.

If the wily Jewish agents of the Temple Priesthood had not added "We have no king but Caesar" to their cries demanding crucifixion Pilate might have insisted on acquitting the accused, but he dared not offend such seeming loyalty; which is just as well if Atonement had to be made for the sin of Adam.

Atonement, to the orthodox mind, does not mean at-one-ment, a beautiful ideal of justice and sweetness of individual relationship. Despite all pious pretensions, the Christian teaching is not founded on the rock of individual integrity. On this rock an enduring edifice could be built, a temple of well-being and service for all mankind. But the Church prefers to build on the quicksands of treachery. As the Church ceased to be the free gathering of the people and mastered the mysteries of the world of Caesar, it based its progress on the betrayal of the poor. The stable-born peasant agitator is betrayed to the priests by the fawning kiss of the purse-bearer of his cause. He is howled to death by the agents of Caesar. How Satan must laugh at this devil-devised scheme of salvation. To save is to heal. And the purpose of Jesus was to heal, to be the social and moral physician. Salvation has never healed. Its cry and purpose has always been, *damnation*.

Or again, to take another of countless instances, if Saul of Tarsus had not seen Stephen stoned and been tormented by the experience —

In his book *According to Andrew*, Frank Hancock deals with another historical "if". If one of the Apostles, less mystified by the personality of Jesus, had written his life story, not as a miracle-worker, but as a man —

This regrettable gap in our literary heritage Mr Hancock tries to bridge by assuming that an account of Jesus was written by Andrew.

The author, following the Fourth Gospel, tells how Andrew met Jesus, and in this first scene sets the atmosphere in which the story is told. We are not in the rarified air of Holy Things or Divine Persons, the tone is not exalted. Throughout the book it remains at a human level, and the greatness it portrays is

the greatness of humanity, and the baseness it shows is the wickedness of mankind.

When the curtain rises on this drama — for it is a drama, and a tragedy — we see a great crowd gathered on the banks of the Jordan, where John the Baptist, known, respected and feared throughout Galilee and Judea, is baptising and exhorting to repentance. Among those newly baptised is a young fisherman, Andrew. John says a few words to him and indicates a lone figure walking away from the river bank. This is Jesus.

Jesus, the "One greater than I" as John calls him, is not the centre of attention. He is so little known to the crowd that John has, as it were, to introduce him. But Andrew is immediately drawn to this unknown preacher and catching up with him speaks to him.

They walk together till they reach a little cave, the entrance to which is almost covered by a tamarisk bush.

"Come and see where I am living," says Jesus.

That first approach by Andrew led to the meeting with Simon (called Peter) who became the Rock, the Founder of the Church, and the Keeper of the Keys.

No such exalted position is given to Andrew. Historically, he is insignificant. Mr Hancock makes him older than Peter, but his role is that of a younger brother. Certainly he must have been less assertive than Peter, James and John who are centre-stage in the Gospels.

Andrew lived with Peter and his wife Anna in their fisherman's cottage. Jesus often stayed with them. It is not improbable that Andrew, who met Jesus first, understood him best.

With a clear understanding he would see a man of magnetic power attract a huge popular following, and see him lose much of that support when he rejected the Zealot call to arms, and see him outrage public feeling by his friendship with Mary Magdalene — probably the most slandered woman in all history.

Jesus, according to Andrew, is wholly human, perhaps too human in the best sense. He is gentle, compassionate, loving — though there are those who do not find him lovable — and not always sure of the way he must go, but certain he must go the way his inward light reveals to him. It is not always an easy Way. It is a stony path of self-torture and doubt from the baptism in the Jordan, through the wilderness of temptation to the agony in the garden, ending in a cry of disappointment and despair on the cross.

It is here at the climax of the story that the author gives us his best as a writer. It is hard to read without an almost unbearable sense of horror the relentless march of events from the arrest in Gethsemane to that last cry of agony. Mr Hancock writes with restraint, yet what he leaves to the imagination is more impressive than a pageful of words. Consider this passage:

He was a dreadful spectacle hanging there — with but a loincloth on. His body was lacerated with the scourging, and bruised and bleeding, and his face was besmirched with muck and spittle and blood. We prayed that he might not suffer long.

Is it not heartgripping in its realism? No polished crucifix here, dangling on the end of a silver chain. No smooth white body with heaven-turned eyes, and well-woven thorn-crown placed decorously on a saintly head. Just muck and spittle and blood. But remember who drew the blood. The Roman whip had scourged his back, but the blood on his bruised face had been drawn by the Good, the Orthodox, the Law-observing priests of the Temple who had tied a cloth over his eyes and striking him had jeered: "If you are a Prophet, tell who struck you." And when their blows failed to unman him they spat on him. Those he reviled beat him; those he condemned spat on him; and those he loved deserted him.

Mr Hancock is too kind to the Apostles. They were an inept crew. They were of so little account that even Peter's sword-play was not taken seriously by the authorities. They weren't worth bothering about. The only one they seem to have attempted to arrest was the young man mentioned in Mark (and nowhere else) who was caught by the robe but discarding that garment, fled naked into the night, and perpetual obscurity.

Forty days passed and with Jesus no longer an earthly menace, the Apostles became bold. If it had been left to them the body would have been burned together with the cross on a pyre of criminal carcasses. That was the usual method of disposal. It might have been thought that, the Resurrection being such an important article of faith in their doctrine, the Apostles would have been greatly concerned about securing the body. But neither Peter, the Rock and Founder, nor James the Just, brother of Jesus, nor the divinely-favoured virginal Mary, Mother of God, seemed to care.

It was left to Joseph of Arimathea, the rich man who had the obstacle of the needle's eye to negotiate, to go with businesslike forthrightness to Authority itself and make arrangements for the removal and entombment of the dead preacher's body. Joseph of Arimathea does not get his rightful place in the hierarchy of Christian saints.

The further Jesus receded from Earth the bolder his disciples became. When he became a god some of them were martyrs for his sake; when he was a man he was martyred for their sake.

The tragedy of Jesus is that in life his godliness was repudiated; and in death his humanity was denied. The last drop of bitterness was not drained when he cried to his merciful Father: "My God, my God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" It came in the galling anti-climax. They defied him.

This book does not go as far as that. Its story really ends when Jesus says "It is finished."

According to Andrew keeps the Nazarene on firm earth. He works as a farm labourer, as a shepherd; he mends the fishermen's nets; but constantly he dwells in the light of an inward vision which he tries to reveal to the minds of other men. It is that part of him which deserves immortality.

Unfortunately for this human view of Jesus, Andrew became one of the first bishops of the Church. He travelled into Asia, and in his old age lived there in close contact with John, the beloved disciple. He is traditionally the founder of the Russian Church and the patron saint of Scotland. He met his end in martyrdom, being crucified on a wooden structure of unusual shape, which is now known as St. Andrew's Cross.

I think it would have been much better if he had written the book Frank Hancock has attributed to him.

By special arrangement this 300 page book is being sold for 10/6d and can be had for that sum post free from the author:

F. R. Hancock, Gabriels, Charmouth, Dorset

*She thinks that even up in Heaven
Her class lies late and snores
While poor black cherubs rise at seven
To do celestial chores.*
— COUNTESS CULLEN

*A story is told of the South African who
had returned from Heaven and was being
questioned by his friends.
"Are there any black people up there?" he
was asked.
"I don't know," he answered. "I did not
visit the kitchen."*

*Our doubts are traitors,
And make us lose the good we oft might win,
By fearing to attempt.—SHAKESPEARE*

CREECH JONES

In *The Word* for April 1959, I reported fully the able and uncompromising speech of fact and comment made by my comrade, A. Creech Jones, in the House of Commons, on prisons and detention camps in Kenya, on Tuesday, February 24, 1959. Creech Jones was Secretary of State for the Colonies, October 1946-February 1950. Attlee was part and parcel of the disgraceful political conspiracy that removed Creech Jones from office, *the only great Colonial Secretary that the parliamentary system has produced*: Creech Jones is an authority on Colonial administration and a man who stands fearlessly for the rights of the coloured races.

In November 1953, *The Word* exposed the conduct of Oliver Lyttelton, as Colonial Secretary, in connection with British Guiana. This reactionary, with the then Tory Home Secretary, rushed to Balmoral, to obtain the Queen's signature to an emergency repressive order after her return to Balmoral from morning service at Craithie Kirk. The Sunday fight of these two most unworthy characters, but worthy agents of capitalist Imperialism, was made by plane and car.

The following month, I discussed at length Creech Jones and the Colonies and recanted the Colonial debate in the Commons on Wednesday, July 29, 1949, when Creech Jones was Colonial Secretary. A curious recognition of the importance of Creech Jones' purpose and achievement at the Colonial Office was given in this debate by Lennox-Boyd, the present Colonial Secretary. Lennox-Boyd complained that Creech Jones had changed the title, "*The Colonial Empire*" to "*The Colonial Territories*".

This complaint reveals the outlook of the man.

In the Queen's Birthday Honours' List for Saturday, June 13, 1959, Mr J. B. T. Cowan, Senior Superintendent of Prisoners in Kenya, was awarded the M.B.E. for his service to the Empire! This man was responsible for the Cowan plan which was a direct provocation to violence. Under it, eleven Mau Mau detainees were beaten to death at the Hola Camp. I shall deal with this massacre later. It is an outrage that this Cowan should receive even the tawdry M.B.E. honour and that he should be whitewashed in the Commons by an inept Tory Imperialist possessed of transitory authority as a Colonial Secretary. The only way in which men of the Lyttelton and Lennox-Boyd type think is in the terms of massacre. Power, to them, means the right to massacre. A disgraceful and criminal state of affairs.

Just now we are witnessing a spate of royalty and loyalty to false institutions. Speidel received by the Queen in Paris. Adenauer and Heuss received by the Queen at Windsor and at Buckingham Palace: the charlatan evangelist and ignaramus, Billy Graham dined at the Palace! I confess that I hate all this masquerading ignorant pomp and ceremony. Since 1905 I have been an avowed Republican and I have not withdrawn my stern and unbending opposition to royalty. I view monarchy as a parasitism and a social imposture. In the past the Glasgow papers reported speeches of mine against monarchy. Very soon I shall reprint them just as a reminder that I have not "mellowed" with age, and that I have *not* retired from politics. I leave that to the parliamentary place-hunters who have used the ladder of working-class organisation to secure place and pelf. I remain in politics, in the gutter, a member of the political underground movement that will one day overthrow capitalist Imperialism and make an end of exploitation and war.

As an Anti-Parliamentarian, with a definite concept of the struggle, and a capacity for

determined resistance, I yet appreciate the stand made for justice to the Colonial peoples and the liquidation of empire in a genuine commonwealth, by my parliamentary comrade and friend, Creech Jones. He possesses what so few parliamentarians possess, a vision beyond mere parliamentarism. His vision finally finds the law and the constitution in the common people, the struggle at the point of production, of the working man and woman.

Point was given to the work attempted and in part achieved, by Creech Jones as Colonial Secretary, by Mr John Arlott, of the *Evening News*, London, in the "Any Questions?" Broadcast of the B.B.C., on December 4, 1953:

JOHN ARLOTT: *I'm sorry. Just one other point. You must judge a Colonial Secretary not entirely on what they think in England but what they think in the Colonies; and in the Colonies they will have Arthur Creech Jones before anybody else, and although I'm not a Socialist to close this question without giving him the credit for what he did in face of what's already been said, is to my mind monumentally unfair.* (Applause)

STREET OFFENCES BILL By C. H. NORMAN

To the Editor of *The New Statesman*

Sir — It is depressing to think that 50 years ago the House of Commons were debating what was then popularly described as the flogging White Slave Traffic Bill, which eventually became law and achieved nothing.

Shortly before that Bill was introduced, I had submitted certain facts to Mr Reginald McKenna, then Liberal Home Secretary, urging that a Royal Commission should be appointed to inquire into the causes of prostitution. His reply was: "The Secretary of State is fully alive to the importance of the subject, but does not think that any useful purpose would be served by the appointment of a Royal Commission thereon." That has been the attitude of a succession of governments ever since.

It is quite untrue that the London streets are worse today than they were in the days before the first World War. In those days, Euston Road, Waterloo Road, the Haymarket, Regent Street, Charing Cross Road, Bond Street, Leicester Square, Oxford Street, Great Portland Street, and Hyde Park were in a far worse state than they are today.

The opportunities given by the first World War to enable women to enter many occupations reduced the number of prostitutes, though the almost complete disappearance of domestic service has partly cancelled the effect of that in the case of women of the poorer classes.

One curious omission in the history of the Women Suffrage movement has been the total ignoring of the prostitution question as one of the roots of that movement. The moral law of Britain is based on the curious conception that the sexual act is something wrong in itself, though it is through the sexual act that the population is kept going.

The Wolfenden Commission was not authorised to inquire into the causes of prostitution, nor into the causes of the increase in homosexuality and Lesbianism, and how far these evils arise from the artificial conditions of Army and Navy life, University life, public school life of both sexes, and the study of the Greek and Latin classics. Some little while ago, Lord Justice Hodson observed that England was the only European country in which well-to-do parents followed "the barbarous practice of sending their children to boarding schools". Whether the Lord Justice was quite right in limiting this practice to England may be doubted, as there are a few boarding schools in France, Belgium and Switzerland (mostly for the benefit of for-

eigners), but there can be no doubt about the barbarity of this practice, which is mostly done to relieve parents of their responsibilities, as indeed is that absurdity called compulsory education.

The new Bill before Parliament is a most dangerous measure in the powers given to those administering and enforcing it. Nor does it show any improved moral outlook by the Government or by Parliament. The book entitled: *The Queen's Daughters in India* described in detail the methods adopted by the British Government in India in "recruiting" Indian women (and sometimes white women) for the military brothels. It was this method of enforcing the prostitution of women for use as prostitutes by the British Government which, no doubt, contributed to the eventual undermining of British rule in India. All the distinguished men who were Viceroys of India remained completely silent on this shameful business.

One has never been able to ascertain from the British Chancellor of the Exchequer whether prostitutes are taxed on the profits of their trade. Several efforts on my part to get questions put in the "democratic" House of Commons on this matter failed, as the members concerned (Keir Hardie, James Maxton, the late Lord Strathcarron, and John Dillon) informed me that the Speaker has disallowed the question, though on what ground I could never ascertain, as it seemed to me a matter of great public importance that the citizens should know what attitude the Revenue authorities adopted towards this section of the population.

A great uproar was created in the period prior to 1914 by what was known as the Queenie Gerald case. She was charged with keeping a brothel and elected to go for trial by jury. It was alleged that she had a book containing the names of the male clients which had been seized by the police. Marshall Hall, Q.C., was briefed to defend her, and his main object was to prevent the contents of the address book being disclosed, in which he was successful. Keir Hardie wrote a pamphlet on the case called "*The Queenie Gerald Scandal*". It had been stated that names of many prominent politicians appeared in her book, though I was sceptical about this, as one would have thought they would have been too wary to give their true names. Marshall Hall was also successful in defeating any attempts to find who was backing this woman in her extremely expensive premises in the West End of London.

Then there is the landlord question which is not faced by the new Bill. There was in London at one time a large block of flats partly occupied by ordinary tenants and partly by the higher-ranked women of the streets. Flats with identical accommodation fetched three times the rent when occupied by the latter class of tenant as compared with the former. Today, the disproportion in rentals would be considerably higher.

I notice that in a letter to *The Nation* written just on fifty years ago, I wrote: "The triumph of this Bill will postpone the investigation of the economic and social causes of prostitution for a decade." I was wrong: it has done so for fifty years, and the new Bill will postpone it for another fifty years, which, probably, is its real purpose: I cannot conceive of any other.

Yours faithfully,

C. H. NORMAN

P.S. This letter was not published by *The New Statesman*, the successor of *The Nation*, which had published a similar letter to the above nearly fifty years ago. So we advance!

Between the great things that we cannot do and the small things we will not do, the danger is that we shall do nothing.

—ADOLPH MONOD—