

Big Four Put Out 'Feelers' For German Reparations Deal

Seek to Know Terms On Which Powers Could Compromise

Parley Deadlocked in Move to Slash
Russia's \$20 Billion 20-Year War Bill

By LUDWELL DENNY
Sports-Howard Star Writer

MOSCOW, March 31.—Possibilities of a reparations compromise are being explored at a lower level today as the Big Four foreign ministers maintain their formal deadlock.

So far, these feelers do not reflect a spirit of positive conciliation on either side.

Rather, they are an attempt to speed up the bargaining stage usually delayed by Foreign Minister V. M. Molotov until the last days of a conference. Whether a major agreement on German reparations will be reached here is still doubtful.

The present deadlock results from the following:

Russia proposes \$20 billion over a 20-year period, with half going to herself (which she will share

the necessary increase in German industrial capacity, provided,

ONE: Priority would be given to exports in exchange for imports of food and raw materials to make Germany self-supporting on a moderate living standard. This probably would take two or three years.

TWO: Surplus, when it began to accrue, would be applied to repay subsidies which the British and Americans pour into western Germany in the form of food and raw materials. This probably would take another two or three years.

THREE: When Germany was in a position to pay reparations from her own surplus production, Russia and the others could take a moderate amount for a fair period. It is estimated that Germany economy under such conditions might produce an annual exportable surplus of \$1 billion for as long as five years.

If so, Russia might get a total of \$2½ billion.

The Americans and British oppose the amount as too large and the period as too long. Also they object to payments from current production. The Americans further oppose the use of labor on the reparations account, except in the case of criminal sentences.

Numerous Factors Involved

The position of the U. S. and Britain is dictated by political and military considerations as well as economic factors.

There simply is not that much milk to be had out of the German cow. The Soviet zone teat has been stripped almost dry, and the British and Americans are getting nothing from theirs.

The Soviet proposal to take capital equipment and at the same time expect Germany to produce for Russia is like killing the cow for beef and then expecting to go on milking her. The more realistic British and Americans now are feeding the cow in the hope of getting a little milk later. Whereupon the Russians decide that's a swell idea provided they get the most of the milk without doing any feeding themselves.

But "selfish western capitalists" point out this isn't fair and it would not work anyway.

Fear War Potential

Moreover, it would be impossible to revive Germany to the point of producing \$20 billion in reparations without thereby making her the biggest industrial war-power potential in the world outside of the United States.

The fact that Russia is willing to take such a gamble is variously explained by her present need for help in rehabilitating her own war-shattered country and also by her possible use of any future German arsenal.

The western allies will make no reparations agreement contributing to such a future danger. Nevertheless, Russia is in a position now to make some compromise worth their while, because Mr. Molotov will not permit the economic unification of Germany unless the British and Americans make concessions. Economic unity is highly desirable to the Americans and British as the best—perhaps only—basis for an orderly self-supporting democratic and peaceful Germany.

Compromise Possible

Such a compromise could take the following form:

The western powers might agree to a reasonable amount of reparations from current production and

Dr. Barrett Named To Health Post

State Health Commissioner Dr.

L. E. Burney has named Dr. Daniel G. Barrett, director of the local health division of the state board of health.

Dr. Barrett succeeds Dr. George M. Broder, director of the state bureau of preventable diseases, who has been acting head of the local health division.

Dr. Barrett will have supervision of branch offices at Columbus, Valparaiso, Washington, Terre Haute and Ft. Wayne.

A graduate of Indiana university medical school, he has had more than 12 years' experience in public health work. He received his master's degree in public health from Johns Hopkins university and worked with the United States public health service.

Indianapolis Shrine 6 To Install Officers

Indianapolis Shrine 6, Order of the White Shrine of Jerusalem, will hold a public installation of officers at 8 p. m. Thursday in the Antlers hotel.

Officers to be installed include Mrs. Ruth E. Hancock, worthy high priestess; Marx H. Wiles, watchman of shepherds; Mrs. Emma Leppert, noble prophetess; Archie Everett, associate watchman of shepherds; Mrs. Lucille Sweet, worthy treasurer; Miss Edna G. Hollowell, worthy chaplain; Mrs. Pansy M. Wiles, worthy shepherdess, and Mrs. Minnie Crum, worthy guide.

Kiwanis Club Speaker

The Rev. William A. Shullenberger will speak on "Life's Level Where Easter Is Found" at the Kiwanis club luncheon meeting Wednesday noon in Hotel Antlers.

The Indiana Society of Architects and the Producers council also will feature special activities the same day.

Housing Chief To Speak at Show

Frank R. Creedon, national housing expediter, will speak on the second day of the Indianapolis Home Show opening April 18 and continuing 10 days.

The show will be held in the manufacturers bldg. at the Indiana fairgrounds.

Veterans housing committees and Hoosier mayors have been invited to attend a luncheon-meeting to honor Mr. Creedon.

His visit here will be under the sponsorship of the Construction League of Indianapolis.

The Indiana Society of Architects and the Producers council also will feature special activities the same day.

Scientist Digs Up A Radar Puzzler

By Science Service
WASHINGTON, March 31.—Do radar waves upset birds' sense of direction? Dr. R. B. Roberts, physicist with the Carnegie Institute of Washington, is wondering.

During the war, he was at a point on the Virginia coast, conducting experiments that involved the use of radar. A number of times, when he and his companions saw a flock of ducks, they gave them a "squirt" of radar rays. The duck formation would break up and the birds would fly in all directions.

Dr. Roberts isn't certain that the radar did it, because there were other possible disturbing factors at work in the same area, such as small-caliber gunfire making a lot of noise. So he would like to hear from anyone else who had a similar experience with radar and flying birds.

O'Neil to Lead Good Friday Rite

William V. O'Neil has been named general chairman for the 10th annual Way of the Cross observance to be held Good Friday afternoon in the Indiana World War Memorial plaza.

His selection was made by Grand Knight Joseph Wicker of the Knights of Columbus council here.

Also named to the general committee were Carl Kiefer, Earl Owens, John Daly, William Drew, Maurice Fitzgerald, Joseph Niehaus Sr., William Greener, Joseph Deslein, Cecil McConahay, John Blackwell, Robert Carrico, Al Rucker, Leo Sheas and Edward Krieger.

The observance will be a public reading depicting the trial and crucifixion of the Christ.



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