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Glee Light and the People Will Find Their Own Way

Toward a German Settlement

THE tentative agreement on Germany by the six Western democracies is the first effective reply to Stalin's latest aggression. It must be followed by enactment and efficient operation of the Marshall Plan, and by a Western European Economic and Security Union. But agreement regarding Germany is the necessary basis for the European Recovery Program and for the democratic union now being discussed in Brussels.

Germany remains today as always the heart of the European problem, in peace and in war. Her size, her geographic position, her natural resources and industries, her organizational and technological skills are preponderant, either for good or ill. The problem is to prevent their misuse for conquest by another Kaiser or Hitler, while harnessing them for the peaceful and productive use of the European community.

The weakness and chaos of Europe, nearly three years after V-E Day, are caused chiefly by allied failure to agree on a German solution. Russia has sabotaged the Potsdam Pact to that end, and disagreements between the American-British governments on one side and Paris on the other have compounded the evil.

When Stalin wrecked the recent London Big Power Conference for unification of all Germany, the democracies decided on temporary consolidation of Western Germany. Soviet absorption of Czechoslovakia provided the final prod for America, Britain and France to compromise their differences and to include the Benelux countries—Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg—in a German settlement.

At this six-nation conference in London "in 10 days more progress has been made than in the preceding three years," our Ambassador Douglas says. It has now recessed until next month.

Then present agreement concerns general principles, but final decisions regarding detailed application should not be too difficult. On the all-important Ruhr question the Americans and British have met the French and Benelux demands for international control, which is not to be confused with international ownership. The Germans will have a participating voice later, but not the Russians—unless and until they change.

Germany is to be the loose federation desired by the French and Americans, rather than the more highly centralized state originally favored by the British. French zone economy is to be co-ordinated immediately with that of the British-American united zone, preparatory to a later three-way merger.

Though territorial, reparations and military questions are still under study, the general agreements regarding the Ruhr, interzonal co-ordination, and federalism go a long way in advancing a democratic settlement. They should permit development of Western Germany as an integrated part of the Marshall Plan Recovery and Security Area, with safeguards to prevent eventual domination by a revived Germany.

If the six democracies are wise they will rush their German settlement to completion before next month's Marshall Plan Conference and the Communists' power grab in the crucial April elections in Italy.

A Pocketbook Issue

HEARINGS began yesterday in Washington, before the House Agriculture Committee, on bills to repeal the unfair federal taxes and license fees which discriminate against margarine.

The purpose of these taxes and fees is simply to protect the butter business by making margarine needlessly costly and troublesome to use.

Many millions of citizens would like to attend the hearings and tell the Congressmen that they want one of the repeal bills enacted. Among them are wage earners who, unable to afford butter at its present sky-high price, find margarine a palatable, nutritious and less expensive substitute. And farmers, producers of the wholesome vegetable oils of which margarine is made. And housewives who have to spend many hours each year working coloring matter into white margarine because federal law effectively prevents sale of yellow margarine.

Some of these citizens will be heard by the committee, in person or through spokesmen. Many of them have sent letters or petitions. But comparatively few of them can be present at the hearings, for the same reason that they don't buy butter. Their budgets can't finance a trip to Washington.

But we hope the committee members will remember that repeal of the anti-margarine taxes and license fees is a pocketbook and dinner-table issue. Those millions of keenly interested citizens won't be satisfied with perfunctory hearings, followed by a quiet burial of the pending bills in a committee pigeonhole.

They expect—and they have every right to expect—that the committee will submit the issue to the membership of the House for debate and a vote.

No Southern Comfort

THE Democratic South's revolt against Mr. Truman seems to be gaining strength, but is isn't losing its own built-in troubles in the process.

Even if its leaders could stop Mr. Truman's nomination, they could hardly hope to sell the convention on a man who openly opposed the Truman civil rights requests that started all the trouble. Northern big city leadership wouldn't stand for it. Nor could a Democratic nominee dodge the issue.

If the electors of 11 Southern states could choose their own candidate they might possibly throw the election into the House of Representatives. But there the vote would be by state, and they would face the task of picking up 14 northern states to get the man they wanted. Even the most optimistic Southern politician must find it almost impossible to imagine such an outcome.

In Tune With the Times

TO MOM

I know that I'm truly blessed
To have a mom like you,
Because you're sweet and gracious
And so understanding too.

You've helped me with your wisdom
And the loving things you've done
To make my life the brighter,
As I spend it with your son.

And when he's cross and things go wrong,
I know just what to do,
Because I've found that patience pays,
A fact I've learned from you.

But I wonder if it's psychic
This way you've always had,
Or is it just because, dear mom,
You're married to his dad?

—BETTY ABBETT.

Cucumbers originally came from Holland,
and are likely to get your tummy in Dutch
if you eat too many.

BECAUSE

Because my friend, in doing things
Folk find it very true
That in the most important things
You never think . . . of you.

And ofttime 'tis the smaller things
Which mount so high and tall,
The little acts of kindness
May be greatest after all.

Because you think of some one else
No thought in selfish trend,
That's why . . . my dear . . . you justly hold
The titled role of friend.

—ANNA E. YOUNG.

THE CROSSROAD GRAPEVINE

A salesman was down from the city trying
to get Snifter Myers to switch, but Snifter
stayed loyal to his corn-queenin's.

Gramma Miller sold her marbletop dresser
to a antique feller for \$35. Ain't no one gonna
git ahead up Gramma.

The Southern air Northern Democrats air
feudin' agin, an' it's still about a line . . .
President Truman's.

Frannie Gallimore won the Ladies Quiltin'
Contest with her purty ocean-wave quilt.
Katie Bechtel came in second with snappy
Nine-patch, while Effie Mason give 'em both
a run for their money with a darlin' Catch-
me-if-you-can number.

—CATFISH PETE.

MADE FOR KISSES

Blue eyes! Violet eyes—
Eyes like Venetian skies
Ever haunting—ever taunting me,
As I look they seem to dare;
Should I kiss them or beware?

Gay eyes! Laughing eyes—
Twinkling like star-lit skies
Fascinating and bewitching me,
When I look they seem to smile
Invitingly—then at my wavering smile.

Blue eyes! Violet eyes—
Eyes with personalities—
Made for kisses! Ah, for kisses dear,
But tell me—if I kissed them—So!
Would they then with love light glow?

—DR. H. LATELLE GREGORY.

A Chicago chef says carving is a lost art.
He should read the police news.

MY GRANDMA

My Grandma's a little lady.
She sits in her old chair and knits
And sometimes she gets very tired,
Then she dozes and sits and sits.

My Grandma is awful tiny
But she has a smile so sweet;
She calls me her dearie, dearie
And fixes me a fancy treat.

My Grandma is my best playmate,
She shares a lot of games with me,
She hugs me tight and often says
I love you, love you, don't you see?

—HENRIETTA KEM.

WORLD AFFAIRS . . . By William Philip Simms

East-West Crisis Near Showdown in Europe

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—The fast-moving East-West crisis in Europe is hurtling toward a showdown.

Either Russia must soon agree to a democratic settlement, or Germany automatically will be partitioned perhaps permanently.

The odds currently favor partition, with the Soviet Zone becoming another Polish-type police state directed by Moscow, and the other part a federalized regime within the framework of a Western European Union.

Short of a complete and unexpected right-about-face on the part of the Soviet Union, the West has all but lost hope for Russian co-operation.

Western Europe Must Take Stand

HISTORY SEEMS to be repeating. After Hitler invaded Czechoslovakia in 1939, Britain and France stopped retreating before the march of the Brown Shirts. Now Czechoslovakia's seizure by Stalin has forced Western Europe and the United States to make a stand against the advance of Red fascism.

This week and next, historic decisions will be made in London, Brussels, Paris and perhaps Washington.

Important beginnings were made over the week-end. In London, the United States, Britain and France agreed to recommend the merger of their respective zones in Germany, place the Ruhr under international control and to include Germany in the European Recovery program. In Brussels, Britain, France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Luxembourg laid the foundation for a Western European economic and military union.

'Bizonia' to Become 'Trizonia'

THUS the British-American "Bizonia" in Germany is about to become the British-French-American "Trizonia" with an "adequate central authority." In this the Germans will take full part but under such control as to prevent her from ever again becoming an aggressive war machine.

The London meetings recessed to give the 16 Western European nations time to conclude their conference at Paris beginning next Monday. The Brussels party is expected to have a Western European pact draft ready by Thursday.

Russia, it is reported, is furious. She has insisted on having her cake and eating it, too. She wants to hold on to her zone and everything it contains without her Western allies having a word to say about it, and, at the same time, share and share alike in Trizonia.

Her policy is described as: "What's mine is mine but what's yours is ours."

Others Barred From Soviet Zone

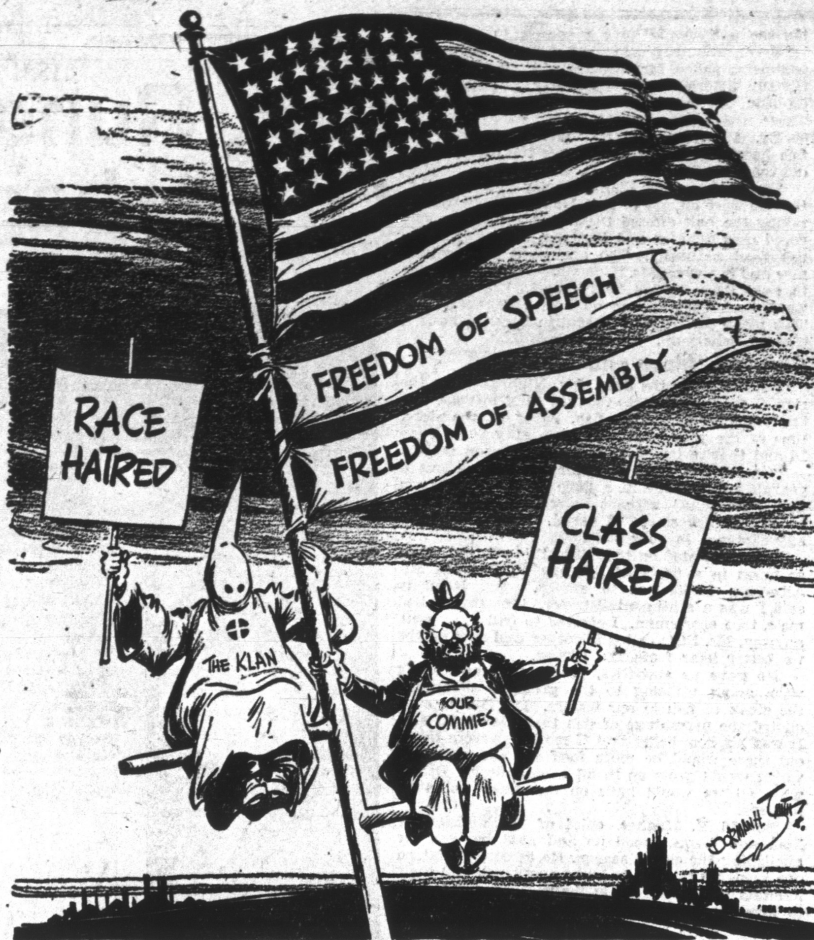
RUSSIA not only has Sovietized Eastern Germany, but forbidden the British, French or Americans even to enter and see what is going on.

While insisting that Nazi leaders in the British-French-American areas be tried as war criminals and hanged, Russia has coddled her own Nazi military leaders, scientists and other brains and put them to work for her. She has organized her able-bodied prisoners of war into a German Army, indoctrinated them with hate for the Americans, British and French and prepared them as a spearhead in a possible attack against Western Europe.

Ever since Yalta, the Western Allies have jumped through the hoop when Moscow cracked the whip. Now the West has dared to say, "No!"

Two alternatives lie ahead: One is for a decent European peace under the Big Four. The other is European partition with a free Europe on one side of the iron curtain and a slave state under the hammer and sickle on the other—with all that that may mean.

Parasites



NATIONAL AFFAIRS . . . By Marquis Childs

Is the Democratic Party Cracking?

WASHINGTON, Mar. 9.—We may well be watching, without thus far having caught its true meaning, the liquidation of one of the two major political parties. What is happening in Democratic ranks is more than a temporary break between the two poles of the party in the North and in the South.

It is more than the accident of a presidential candidate with whom various groups are dissatisfied. Mr. Truman is not the cause of the revolution that is taking place.

What is happening in the South is obvious. It is clear, but it is just as significant of the revolution that is taking place.

Last week I spent two days in Detroit and I talked with a good many people who are directly or indirectly in politics. Even a glimpse of the pattern of change in that great city industrial center seemed to me to reveal the kind of splitting-off that can mean the end of the Democratic Party as we have known it in recent decades.

It is not that Michigan will almost certainly go Republican this fall. After all, Wendell Willkie carried that state by a narrow margin in 1940 and Franklin Roosevelt took it in '44 by a margin almost as small. It is traditionally a Republican state.

The new and striking factor is the direction in which the labor vote in the industrial centers is moving. These voters are going down a road that leads away from the Democratic Party.

Reuther Set Against Wallace

FOR A variety of reasons, Henry Wallace's Third Party seems likely to poll a substantial vote in November in Detroit and in the other automobile cities. One reason is the large number of Negroes, particularly in Detroit, with an acute new consciousness of injustice and discrimination and a militant new political awareness.

Walter Reuther, who is now solidifying his remarkable victory over the Communist faction in the United Auto Workers, is dead set against Henry Wallace. The UAW executive board last week denounced Mr. Wallace's candidacy as a "Communist Party maneuver to advance the foreign policy interest of Soviet Russia."

But the same resolution called for the formation of a new "progressive" party after the 1948 elections. An invitation was extended to CIO, AFL, the Railroad Brotherhoods, farm and white-collar groups to join in creating a new party.

Mr. Reuther has several times recently pronounced a plague on both the old parties, plainly hinting his desire to see a third party started that would be free of the Communist taint.

It takes no great political genius to see where this leads if it continues. The Wallace Party, if only because it is a convenient front for the Communists, is certain to remain in being after '48. That is one splinter party.

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Hoosier Forum

"I do not agree with a word that you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it."

Write what you think on any subject or public issue plainly and clearly. Effective letters are brief. We do not return letters and all contributions are subject to editing. Write what you will—here the people speak.

Who's to Blame for Prices?

By Mrs. George Baker, 19 N. Oriental St., City.

Why not let the farmer take over answering the letter that came out in The Times, Jan. 20th by I. D. I agree that it is time that we have something done about high prices. I and my husband both are getting up in years. He is working every day not making enough to pay the price of meat, eggs, milk and butter which we both need.

The unions have done lot of damage to our country but not as much damage as the farmers have. There will be a lot of us go hungry if it isn't stopped now. Prices are coming down some. I heard over the radio the first of the week two men talking about what they thought the prices coming down would lead to and one of them said it was up to the farmers (now what do you think of that). It also has been said in papers and radio the last few days that the stock market has been shorter of cattle and hogs since 1946. They won't turn their stock in if prices come down, so it looks as if the farmer knows how he stands.

The way I look at it they will be ruling the country before this is over. I was raised on a farm and back in those days the farmers really worked and didn't complain. They walked behind two horses all day long where now two-thirds of the farmers have tractors which helps them out and about hard work at this late date. They just saw their chance and took it.

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Please Give Us Operas

By Katherine M. Rinehart, 635 E. 49th St. (and 27 others).

This is written to ask you to exert your influence to restore the broadcast of the Metropolitan Opera Saturday afternoon during this basketball season.

This broadcast usually comes over WISH. Last Saturday WISH, WIRE and WIBC had basketball games on the air. WFBM and WLW had other programs, but not opera. It was impossible to get it. Some one at WISH said to try a Chicago station service to your community and state if you convince our radio stations that there are many who want to hear the Saturday operas from the Metropolitan Theater in New York. We urge WISH or one of its neighbor stations to continue to fulfill its cultural responsibilities to our city and state and not be easily swayed by what they think the "popular public" wants.

Next Saturday, Mar. 6 (today), Helen Traubel, Maxine Steinman, Lauritz Melchior, Herber Janssen and other artists are giving the opera Tannhauser. Can you help us to have this opera and the succeeding operas broadcast over one of our stations?

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TUESDAY
ORGANIZATIONAL
Song
Set
Alumni
Lunch
On Sat
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To Me
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