

### Rodent-Infested Germany in Dire Need of Pied Piper

By RICHARD KASISCKE  
BERLIN.—(AP)—A crying need in the cities of postwar Germany is a Pied Piper of Hamelin—even in the cities of the legendary piper's home province of Hanover.

Some mayors would give their city halls if they could get rid of the "armies of rats" marching in the bomb ruins of their battered cities.

In a country pitifully short of rats and other rodent destroyers, rat-killing campaigns have become a necessity. Most municipalities have undertaken such campaigns, including Berlin, which is estimated to have a rat population at least equal to its three and a quarter million humans.

One rat extermination drive was conducted in the city of Hanover, a scant 25 miles from Hamelin, the piper's town.

Hanover's newspaper, the "Abend Post", reported the campaign was overdue because "armies of rats live in the city's debris." Lacking a modern piper, the paper said, seven exterminator firms were given contracts to lead the campaign and enlist the cooperation of home owners.

Some of the latter, however, refused to join the drive. The

### Marshall Plan Appears Worth Huge Cost to U. S.

By DeWitt MacKenzie  
Secretary of State Marshall, in testifying before the House Foreign Affairs committee in Washington regarding his proposed European aid program, declared that "if we do not move out to meet the problem in Europe today it will certainly come to us here in the United States under conditions far more unfavorable to us."

The general didn't place a precise interpretation on that grim sounding statement. However, at another point he gave this amplification:

"European recovery, we feel sure, is essential to preservation of freedom in the most critical area of the world today. European economic recovery is essential to a return of normal trade and commerce throughout the world—we want peace. We want security—a great crisis has to be met. Do we meet the situation with action or do we step aside and allow other forces to settle the pattern of future European civilization?"

**Spells Burden on People**  
Those statements give us a picture, I believe, of an America (and other countries) suffering all the dire disabilities which accrue from a lack of world peace. Marshall and Secretary of Commerce Harriman told the committee that the aid program would put burdens on the American people. Harriman named high prices as one burden and said that the project would add to our difficulties in trying to control inflation.

Both secretaries, however, asserted that the gains would be worth the cost.

It would be highly interesting if we could read the mind of General Marshall, who played such a great part in the late war, and discover what more he thinks it might mean if Western Europe weren't rehabilitated economically. However, the situation isn't so complicated that we can't figure the things out for ourselves.

**Two Courses Open**  
In the first place Russia has made it clear that she is deter-

### Minced on Communizing Western Europe and adding it to the area under her domination.

There are two ways of stopping this aggression. One is to create a military barrier through Central Europe—a task which only the United States could undertake, and she won't do it. The other is to put the countries of western Europe on their feet economically so that they can defend themselves—and of course that involves the Marshall plan.

Now if the Marshall plan is put into effect, Moscow plans to fight it tooth and nail. That's official. If the Soviet union can defeat the plan, then the road will be open for her to sweep through to the English Channel. And if there is no Marshall plan at all, the conquest of western Europe will be so much the easier for Bolshevism.

What then? Answer: Russia would have all Europe as a base for operations against the rest of the world. We don't need any diagram to show what that would signify. Most certainly it would mean another World War, with the United States holding the defenses of democracy against that swollen Bolshevist empire.

That's what we face if there is no Marshall plan, or if there is one and it fails. However, the general says the program can succeed, and the indications are that the countries of Western Europe are eager to cooperate. Why shouldn't they be, when they are sitting right under the big guns of an aggressive Communism which all of them fear?

### Vice-President Nomination Seen As Private Affair

By JAMES THRASHER  
A news story the other day predicted that President Truman would let the Republicans choose their presidential candidate before picking his running mate on the Democratic ticket. The story might have added that Mr. Truman would also wait until the chosen Republican selected his running mate, with the help of political advisors.

There is nothing new or startling in this piece of news. It is concerned with a traditional rite of American politics that is performed every four years. The participants change, but the ritual remains unaltered.

The naming of a candidate for vice president climaxes this rite, but it gets scant attention at the time. It is hurried through as an anti-climax to the usually exciting business of selecting the top man on the ticket. Not only do the people have nothing to say about this choice; even the convention delegates are virtually voiceless in the matter.

**Not Democratic Method**  
This does not mean that capable men have not been chosen by this method. It does not mean that they are incapable of being elected in their own right. Theodore Roosevelt managed to be, and so did Calvin Coolidge. Mr. Truman may make it three. But however able an elected President's successor may be, the manner of selecting him is a contradiction of democratic government.

Of the 26 men who have been chosen President by popular election, seven have died in office. One would think that this is a high enough percentage to persuade politicians that their candidate is mortal. Yet the possible occupant of the White House is chosen privately by a small group, or sometimes by an individual. And, as a rule, the reasons for the choice have little to do with presidential qualifications.

The choice for vice president must not come from the same general neighborhood as the opposition's candidate, that is supposed to be so much the better. Voters Share Blame  
All this reasoning may be sound, but it seems to be directed at state political organizations rather than at the voters. For the voter must take the politician's choice for vice president. And we feel confident in saying that the number of votes influenced one way or the other by this second-place choice is considerably smaller than the number of votes the Prohibition Party's candidate for President will poll.

Such indifference makes it seem that the voters are as much to blame as the politicians in this matter. But under the circumstances, the lack of interest can be understood. They are offered a candidate for a high-sounding job whose routine duties could be filled by any intelligent government clerk with a knowledge of parliamentary procedure. The fact that this candidate might some day be president is soft-pedaled by both parties.

It has been suggested that there should be preferential primaries in all states once in four years which presidential hopefuls would have to enter. The idea is worth considering. And it would be even better if the second-place aspirants were required to do the same. The results might not be too different, but at least the ideal of popular government would be more of a reality.

### Weyerhaeusers Announce Slash in Lumber Prices

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 16.—(AP)—Fred K. Weyerhaeuser, president of the Weyerhaeuser Sales Co., said in a statement that effective immediately the company was reducing prices on several kinds of lumber used in home building.

Weyerhaeuser said the reductions were made with a view to

### Three Newspapers Buy Hawley Paper Co., Report

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 16.—(AP)—John H. Smith, Portland, president of Hawley Pulp & Paper Company, said yesterday he had no comment on a report current in Oregon City that negotiations were under way for sale of the

### Company to The Oregonian, Oregon Journal and Los Angeles Times.

Advised that the Oregon City Enterprise had published the report, Smith said it was "without my authorization and, I'm sure, without that of any official of the company."

Officials of the Times likewise had no comment.

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**13 Eugene Boys Nabbed For "Bombsight" Thefts**  
EUGENE, Ore., Jan. 16.—(AP)—Police are fighting to protect the Butcks.  
Thirteen boys have been arrested here for stealing bombsight ornaments from Buick radiator caps to make bracelets for their girl friends. One was fined \$50 and ordered to buy the car owner a new ornament.  
Police said arrests would be made until the bracelet fad stops.

**Douglas Livestock Assn. Dates Annual Meeting**  
The Douglas County Livestock Association will hold its annual meeting at the Knights of Pythias hall in Roseburg next Tuesday, January 20, states J. Roland Parker, secretary. The program includes a wide variety of subjects and will start promptly at 10:00 A. M. P. M. Brandt, head of the animal industries division at Oregon State College, will speak on disease problems concerning the livestock industry in Oregon.  
Range improvement, development of permanent pastures, predatory animal control and government programs affecting the livestock industry will be discussed. All livestock owners of the county are invited to attend the meeting as all phases of the day's program are open to the public.

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All you do is to get the largest number of towns shown in this map composed entirely of the following letters:  
**N-O-I-A-V-T-M-U-Y-S-E-R**  
For example Blockton cannot be used because there is no B or L or C in the list.  
Vestry can be used because it contains the letters V-E-S-T-R-Y all of which are in the list. Letters may be used more than once in a single name. There may be only a few towns that count, but if you find one more than anyone else, you win the first prize of \$250.00 plus \$50.00 extra if you are prompt.

**So YOU think you can find all the names on the map that contain only the letters N-O-I-A-V-T-M-U-Y-S-E-R**

Looks as if anyone can do it, but just try. Starts out nice and easy, but I bet before you are thru, you'll be seeing letters where there aren't any. Then you will have to start all over again and that will be just dandy, but if you do try, you may win \$250.00 and I'll bet you could use this money couldn't you? Then go ahead and solve this puzzle.

**YOU COULD USE \$250.00 CASH RIGHT NOW — COULDN'T YOU?**

So if you would like to have fun and make an easy \$250.00 cash besides, then send your answer quick. WIN first prize and you will get \$250.00—Second Prize \$100.00—Third Prize \$50.00—Fourth Prize \$25.00—Fifth Prize \$10.00, so whether you win \$250.00 or \$10.00 you will be paid real cash money. You may send your answer any time—up to the close of the contest midnight Feb. 15th, 1948, but hurry, send it right now because I will give \$50.00 extra to 1st Prize Winner for promptness if you send your answer within five days from the time you read this announcement.

and if you find only one more eligible town than anyone else, YOU WIN. If there are ties, winners will be determined by the best answers to tie breaker puzzles. So send your answer right away today to the Puritans, Reg. 270-A La Grange, Illinois.

**SEND NO MONEY—RUSH YOUR ANSWER**

Hurry—send your answer right away. Both the \$250.00 and the \$50.00 may be yours—win them both. Send no money—there is nothing to buy or nothing to sell. Just send your answer within five days from the time you read this announcement

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