

# Council of Europe Searches for Unity

STRASBOURG is an ancient French city, two miles west of the Rhine, that was captured first by the Romans. Since then it has been fought over many times. Metropolis of the Alsace-Lorraine district, it has changed hands four times since 1870.

A fortnight ago, this historic embattled city became the scene of a new effort to bring unity and peace to Europe. Twelve nations linked in the Council of Europe held their first meeting there. The city and its 11th Century cathedral were decked with flags of the member nations and with the green and white banner of the European movement.

The idea of continental unity is not new. It goes back in one form or another to the time of Charlemagne. This latest attempt stems from a unification conference at London last May arising from a European movement launched by Winston Churchill two years earlier. The London conference created the Council of Europe and picked Strasbourg as its capital.

**Seek Political Unity**  
The Council of Europe is an attempt to unite the continent politically. Since World War II, the European Recovery Program, backed by American food and dollars, has attempted to unite western Europe economically. The Western Union and the North Atlantic Pact are means to unite those nations on a military basis.

The Council is composed of a Committee of Ministers and a consultative Assembly. The Committee of Ministers is composed of one delegate, the foreign minister, from each member government.

The members are Britain, France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Italy, Ireland, Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Greece and Turkey. Iceland also has been admitted.

Paul-Henri Spaak, former Belgian premier and former president of the United Nations General Assembly, was elected president of the Assembly.

**Federation, Pro and Con**  
The Council is not a government. Its powers are sharply limited. Delegates have the power to discuss common problems, except defense, but have no authority to act for their nations. They can only recommend action.

Some would like to see the Council develop into a United States of Europe. Others, however, do not think Europeans are ready yet to sacrifice sovereignty for unity.

Some see the Council evolving into a European parliament which would produce a real continental government with decisive powers.

The goal is for some framework to guarantee liberty, peace and security for millions of Europeans.

Churchill said: "It is not against any race or nation that we range ourselves... it is against tyranny."

Western Germany, which last Sunday elected its first government under the Bonn constitution, was proposed for admission at the next meeting of the Council assembly in 1950.

## Education

### New Teaching Aid

At Pennsylvania State College is a new electronic teaching aid, boon to the overworked teacher with a stack of examination papers to correct. It was perfected after two years by the Special Devices Center, Office of Naval Research.

A class of 40 faces a large movie screen. On each student's desk is a small signaling device with five keys. Students never speak. A screen voice states the problems and asks the questions portrayed on the screen. Students answer by pressing one of the keys.

At the end of the class, a student may step up and look at his grade on the examination. Each individual answer was electronically recorded, the score was added and the average computed.

For the teacher, it is like marking 40 examination papers of 50 to 100 questions in one second. The robot also is said to eliminate another teacher worry: cheating. The small black answer box on each desk has an opening large enough to insert one hand, palm down, fingers slightly spread. Under each finger is a key.

## Cache

### Engel Short Now

Ever since Sigmund Engel, 73, of Chicago, was arrested June 25 on charges of swindling widows whose love he courted, jailers wondered about his apparently bottomless source of ready cash.

Cook County, Ill., jailers found \$35 in Engel's possession last week. Since jail rules prohibit prisoners' keeping more than \$8 the rest was placed to his credit. Two days later jailers found \$134.70 in his possession.

Authorities decided on an all-out probe to discover, if possible, Engel's source of supply. The prisoner was stripped and all his clothes were closely examined.

Investigators found the seams of Engel's underwear a bit bulky. They carefully ripped them open. Out came 74 \$100 bills, tightly rolled into a long thin flexible pencil. The prison physician had to prescribe a sedative for Engel and order him removed to the jail hospital.

At the time of his arrest, Engel was quoted by police as saying women have given him millions of dollars over a 50-year period, but he stoutly insisted that he had done nothing illegal.

# The WORLD This WEEK

# Reds Lose Germany

A TOTAL of 24,490,752 western Germans went to the polls last Sunday in their first free elections since the Hitler coup in 1933.

The Herrenvolk handed Communism its fourth major defeat in western Europe since the end of the war. Communism had taken a beating previously in French, Italian and west Berlin elections.

Western Germany's rebuff pushes Communism back of the Elbe River where it is propped up by the Red Army.

German voters gave the right-wing parties a mandate to direct the new federal republic for the next four years.

### Conservative Coalition

The conservative Christian Democrats (Catholic) and the Free Democrats between them won 191 seats of the 402 total in the Bundestag (Parliament). The left wing Social Democrats won 131 seats.

The Free Democrats, who favor the enterprise system without reservation, plan a coalition with the Christian Democrats for a controlling bloc in Parliament and formation of a conservative Cabinet.

The Social Democrats, who want to "nationalize big industries, closely resemble Britain's ruling Labor Party.

German Communists trailed the major parties, rolling up only six per cent of the vote and winning only 15 Parliament seats.

The first political deal of the new west German state is expected to see Dr. Theodor Heuss, Free Democratic leader, become first president of the republic when Parliament meets at Bonn, the provisional capital, on September 7. Dr. Konrad Adenauer, Christian Democratic leader, is expected to become the state's first chancellor.

### Dr. Mann Reports

Author Thomas Mann, back in the U.S. after his first visit to Germany since Hitler exiled him 16 years ago, expressed concern over German complaints that they were better off under the Fuehrer than they are today.

The Nobel prize-winning novelist gave this first-hand report:

"I did not speak to one decent and honest German who was not deeply concerned about the increasing nationalism in his country.

"Widely responsible for this state of mind is the strange fact that Germans do not realize and do not want to realize the causes of their actual conditions."

Dr. Mann said he saw no solution to bitter suffering of the German people until there is a final understanding between east and west.

## B-36: Are U.S. Strategic Eggs in One Basket?

THE Congressional investigation of the B-36, America's biggest bomber, is at midpoint. At issue is this country's basic security and aerial strategy in the next war, if there should be one.

On one side of the controversy is the Air Corps, committed to strategic bombing by long range, land-based planes. On the other is the Navy, demanding super aircraft carriers designed to service strategic bombers too.

Another facet of the dispute, quite apart from service rivalry, is how the B-36 came to be classed as this country's sole reliance in the strategic bombing field. There have been charges of irregularity in procurement of B-36 contracts. There were rumors that Secretary of Defense Louis Johnson and Air Secretary Stuart Symington were involved with Consolidated Vultee, manufacturers of the giant B-36.

### Planned Before Pearl Harbor

The first order for one experimental B-36 was given to Consolidated Vultee Corp. in 1941, shortly before Pearl Harbor.

In 1943, the order was increased to 100, but later that same year emphasis was shifted to the B-29 after the North African invasion provided bases from which the smaller B-29s could operate. The B-29 Superfortress went on to become the backbone of American air attacks on Japan, culminated by the atomic strikes on Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

The first B-36 was not flown until after the war. In 1946 and 1947 a dispute raged within Air Force councils over failure of the giant craft to perform up to its rated capacities.

### Top-Level Decision

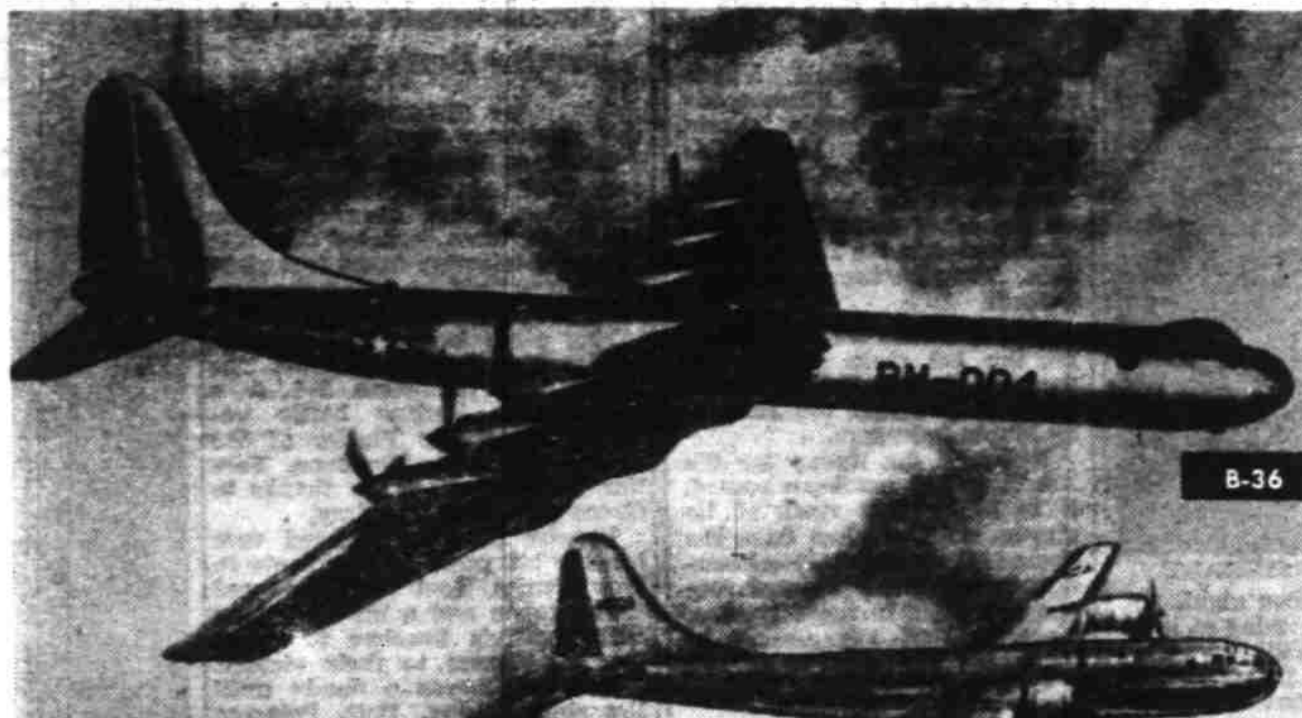
In 1948, a board of senior Air Force officers made a top-level decision to keep on with the B-36 because its bugs were being ironed out and there was hope of the big bomber's eventually carrying out its designer's claims.

The B-36 is twice as large as the B-29. It has a wingspan of 230 feet and weighs 278,000 pounds. It was designed to fly 350 mph at 40,000 feet, carry 10,000 pounds of bombs to targets 5,000 miles away and return.

In January of this year, the Air Force cancelled millions of dollars in contracts for other types of planes to order more B-36s.

### Stopped Work on Carriers

In April, the first act of Johnson, newly appointed Secretary of De-



### AIR POWER GROWTH

	B-36	B-29	B-17	SPAD (WWI)
Ceiling	40,000 ft.	35,000 ft.	32,000 ft.	17,500 ft.
Range	10,000 mi.	4,100 mi.	1,100 mi.	287 mi.
Horsepower	18,000 hp.	8,800 hp.	4,800 hp.	205 hp.
Bomb Load	10,000 lbs.	3,000 lbs.	2,000 lbs.	Hand Bombs
Engines	6	4	4	1
Wingspan	230 ft.	141 ft.	103 ft.	35 ft.
Length	143 ft.	99 ft.	74 ft.	20 ft.
Crew	14	10	6	1
	B-36	B-29	B-17	SPAD

fense, was to halt construction of the Navy's super carrier. That cancellation sank the Navy's last hope of maintaining a strategic air arm and left the Air Corps and the B-36 alone in the field.

In May, Rep James Van Zandt (R-Pa.), a Naval Reserve officer, called for an investigation. He pointed out that Johnson had been a director of Consolidated Vultee before he entered government service. Van Zandt recounted rumors that Floyd Odium, board chairman of Consolidated Vultee, had contributed heavily to the Democratic presidential campaign in 1948.

### Inquiry Ordered

Chairman Carl Vinson (D-Ga.) of the House Armed Forces Committee

decided a full inquiry of the B-36 was in order. Public hearings opened August 9 in Washington.

Air Force spokesmen stoutly defended the B-36 and its performance. Symington on the stand took personal responsibility for the entire B-36 program and denied that politics or any consideration "other than national security" had any bearing on its development.

These were some of the endorsements by Air Force leaders.

Lt. Gen. Curtis E. LeMay: "The B-36 can fly any mission I can conceive of it during its lifetime. (If war came) I would ride the first one myself."

Gen. George C. Kenney: "The airplane sold itself to me after its early weaknesses had been corrected. I

would use it on night missions, sending out 100 bombers and expecting to get back 100 bombers."

### Recess of One Week

The Air Corps wound up its case last weekend. Hearings were recessed to permit a subcommittee to go to California to question Gen. Henry A. (Hap) Arnold, retired Air Force chief, as well as some plane manufacturers.

Rep. Van Zandt, whose remarks touched off the probe, said he had asked for an explanation but hadn't yet been accorded an answer. He said Chairman Vinson "evidently is engaged in a whitewash job."

On Monday, when the Washington hearings are to be resumed, the Navy will take the stand and tell its side of the story.

## Age

### New Research Project

Must elderly people be put on the shelf, their usefulness gone?

It's an increasingly important problem as science and health push American longevity tables higher and higher.

The Loyal Order of Moose will set up a new laboratory this fall to find out. It will be called the Moosheaven Research Laboratory for Gerontology and Geriatrics at Orange Park, Fla. Gerontology is the scientific study of old age. Geriatrics is the branch of medicine dealing with diseases attending old age.

Dr. Robert W. Kleemeier, assistant professor of psychology at Northwestern University, will head the laboratory staff. The project is expected eventually to suggest answers to the problems of how to utilize fully the capabilities of elderly persons.

The Moose already are probing at the other end of the age scale. The organization operates a laboratory for child research at Mooseheart, Ill.

## ARMED FORCES: Three in One

### Real Unification

Two years ago Congress folded the Army, Navy and Air Force into the National Military Establishment. It was the much-heralded unification act

but difficulties experienced by James V. Forrestal, first Secretary of Defense, showed that service rivalries still persisted.

This summer Congress passed an amendment to the National Security Act, revamping and strengthening (at least on paper) the two-year-old unification law.

Last week President Truman set about implementing the new law.

Under it, Louis A. Johnson, Secretary of Defense, is given more power over the three service branches by subordinating authority of the Secretaries of Army, Navy and Air Force, who no longer are members of the National Security Council.

The new law creates a chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and defines the departments of Army, Navy and Air Force as "military" departments within an "executive" department—the Department of Defense.

**Bradley Heads Joint Chiefs**  
The President named Gen. Omar N. Bradley as the new chairman of the



GEN. BRADLEY

Joint Chiefs and the Senate speedily confirmed the appointment. Gen. Joseph L. (Lightning Joe) Collins was appointed to fill Bradley's old post as Army chief of staff.

Much depends upon the ability of Bradley to get top brass in all three services to forget their rivalries and work together. Under the law, Bradley does not have a vote. His power derives principally from his access to the White House (authorized by law in case of deadlocks) and from his own personal prestige.

Gen. Bradley seems an excellent choice for such a crucial post. He was field leader of the American forces in the invasion of France and strategists have ranked him as a master tactician.

### Current Strength

The nation's armed forces currently have a strength of 1,600,000. The Army is the largest with 658,000 officers and enlisted men. Of these, about 250,000 are based outside the continental United States, principally in Germany and Japan.

The Navy and Marines have 534,000 while the Air Force is listed at 420,000 men.

The Army, as presently constituted, has about ten and one-half active divisions. The Air Force has 59 skeletonized air groups, which shortly will be reduced to 48. The Navy has about 800 ships in active service.

## Martial

### Better Halves

Fat men make the best husbands, and school teachers the best wives.

That's the advice of Dr. James F. Bender, director of the National Institute for Human Relations. Addressing the final summer convocation of Buffalo State Teachers College, Dr. Bender said:

"The fat man is the least likely to want a divorce. He is a tender and faithful lover and he is more easily persuaded to wash dishes and get up at night to look after the baby."

"School teachers love children and they make good mothers. . . . Teachers are well adjusted personalities as a rule and are less inclined to be neurotic than the average American woman."

Furthermore, Dr. Bender said, after a woman has been lecturing in class all day, she returns home at night too tired to talk. This, he said, is "sheer heaven" to most married males.

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## Dates

- Monday, August 22**  
President Truman addresses Veterans of Foreign Wars, Miami, Fla.
- Tuesday, August 23**  
Birthday (66th), Gen. Jonathan M. Wainwright.
- Wednesday, August 24**  
National Student Congress opens, University of Illinois.
- Friday, August 26**  
Anniversary (29th), Woman suffrage.  
Davis Cup Challenge Round (tennis) opens at Forest Hills, N. Y.
- Sunday, August 28**  
Final National Encampment of the Grand Army of the Republic, opens in Indianapolis.

## In Short . . .

**Reported:** Belatedly by Chinese authorities, that 15,000 persons within a 60-mile radius of Shanghai lost their lives in a typhoon July 25.

**Killed:** 6,000, by the Ecuador earthquakes a fortnight ago, which did \$68,000,000 in damage, almost triple the annual budget of the country.

**Crashed:** A commercial transport plane in the Atlantic Ocean off Ireland, killing nine with 49 rescued.

## Medicine

### Polio Prevention

One way to double early polio care facilities was recommended last week by a score of medical and public health authorities. It is to cut the isolation period for early polio cases to one week—longer only if fever persists.

Polio patients are isolated at first sign of the disease to prevent its spread. But medical studies indicate the disease is communicable only during the first three or four days before symptoms appear, and for two or three days afterward.

Authorities conclude isolation is necessary only for a week or as long as there is fever. Fever rarely lasts more than a week.

Some states have been isolating acute polio patients for two weeks, some for three or four. The average has been two weeks.

The one-week isolation was decided upon by the National Conference on Recommended Practices for the Control of Poliomyelitis, sponsored by the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis.

The conference also came up against quarantine in a new polio code being sent to health officials in all states and territories. Quarantine, the group says, is of unproven value and its effects may be bad rather than good.

Theaters, circuses, fairs, swimming pools or beaches should not be closed if they are properly operated, the code advises, but attendance of children at such places should be discouraged.

## Sidelights

● Big Ben, famed London clock atop Parliament, ran late last week. Repairmen found it was running four minutes slow, attributed it to "swarms of starlings sitting on the hands holding them back."

● In Detroit, an engineer devised a new type brassiere—two cups with adhesive around the edges—ideal for suntan dresses. One national advertisement swamped him with over 160,000 orders. Postal inspectors came around to investigate complaints from women who sent in money and heard nothing. They learned he had contracted with two firms to make the gadgets and had hired 45 girls to fill mail orders. The engineer and his staff were working night and day and still were nearly 50,000 orders behind with more pouring in every day. Estimating a demand for 500,000 weekly, the engineer is now looking for some reputable concern to take "this headache" off his hands.

## Quote

King Abdullah of Trans-Jordan accepting an invitation to visit Generalissimo Franco in Spain: "The Soviets show the same enmity toward Franco and me. Both of us are good for our countries."



TIGHE WOODS

## Housing

### Controversial Man

The United States has more home owners now than at any time in history. They represent 53 per cent of the population while 47 per cent rent their living quarters.

About one in every seven new dwellings authorized in the last three years has been a rental unit. Building of single family dwellings has been on the decline so far this year with rental-type units showing an increase.

Almost half a million new homes were started in the first half of 1949, according to estimates of the National Association of Home Builders. This is about 30,000 less than during the first six months last year.

As federal housing expediter, Tighe E. Woods has been very much in the news recently. As rent control director, he has been a target for both landlords and tenants.

To show the private building industry what could be done for the man with a small income, Woods used his own funds to build a small house for \$6,750 at Fort Belvoir, Va., to serve as a model for military housing.

A fortnight ago he told a Senate subcommittee that James V. Hunt, central figure in a probe of Washington five percenters, "sort of inferred he had a hand" in Woods' appointment as housing expediter in December, 1947. Woods was said to have issued a previously denied construction permit for the Tanforan, Calif., race track four days after a conference with Maj. Gen. Harry H. Vaughan, White House military aide.

### A New Attack

Last week Woods came under a new attack in the Senate. Sen. Harry P. Cain (R-Wash.) charged Woods had violated the law by urging direct government loans for his private low-cost housing venture. Cain demanded that Woods resign, saying:

"In my opinion you have, by accident or design, used the influence of your high office in an effort to make money as a private citizen."

The senator said Woods has violated a federal law against government officials or employees lobbying or trying to influence Congress unless called upon to do so.

Sen. Cain cited a letter Woods sent to Rep. Brent Spence (D-Ky.), chairman of the House Banking Committee, reporting that the Federal Housing Administration would not insure a mortgage on the low-cost home without requiring changes in it that would boost the price above \$6,750, including the lot.

That is why he urged direct government loans, Woods letter explained, to force other lenders into \$5,000-to-\$6,000 houses at reasonable rates of interest.



GREAT OAKS FROM LITTLE ACORNS GROW

