

Grotewohl Is Seen As Red Captive

By RICHARD K. O'MALLEY
(AP Newfeatures)

Berlin, Feb. 21 (AP)—Otto Grotewohl, owl-eyed prime minister of Communist East Germany, is a man no longer understood by his old friends.

They can't reconcile the kindly, straightforward social democrat they knew with the Grotewohl who suddenly became a deep ally of the Russians and the Communists at the expense of his own party.

For his history was one of Socialism, not Communism. The two are violently opposed, yet Grotewohl was highly instrumental in the forced Socialist-Communist merger in 1946.

Actually it was not a merger, but a swallowing up of the Socialists by the Communists.



Otto Grotewohl

Grotewohl's personal background shows nothing outwardly which would have led him to forsake the party he suffered for under the Nazis.

He was the son of middle class parents, and was born March 11, 1894, in Braunschweig in what is now the British zone. He studied at Leibniz academy and at a Berlin political college. Later he was a student guest at Berlin university.

He became a printer by trade, but apparently never followed it closely.

After World War I, he got a job as an insurance company clerk. His interest in politics waxed and he successfully sought a place on the Braunschweig city council. Later he became a member of the state parliament, and finally was sent to the German Reichstag as a Social Democrat member.

He became Braunschweig minister of interior and education in the Weimar republic, later minister of justice.

In 1933 the lanky, serious Grotewohl was elected chairman of the Braunschweig Social Democrats.

Then the Nazis came into power, jailed him for seven months, but a people's court acquitted him of a charge of illegal political activity.

Grotewohl seems to have kept his political connections, for after the abortive Hitler bomb

plot at Munich in 1939, Gestapo men grabbed him. Once again he went free, but after the second bomb plot, in 1944, Grotewohl went into hiding to avoid arrest again.

After World War II Grotewohl took up his political career again.

He helped revive the Social Democrat party and was made chairman of its central committee in June, 1945.

Then, without any warning to his friends, he suddenly collaborated with veteran Communist Wilhelm Pieck, now east German president, for the merger of the east zone Socialists with the Communists.

The Communists showed they trusted him and named him to the powerful politburo of the Socialist Unity Communist party.

Then came the political payoff and Grotewohl was named prime minister in a show-of-hands election in east Berlin when the Communists took over.

Last November it was reported that Grotewohl had been taken to a hospital for treatment of influenza, which later developed into pneumonia. West Berlin newspapers insisted it was the beginning of the end for Grotewohl, and that his illness was purely political.

The east government denied this, and after treatment, Grotewohl was shown in a news photo as taking part in a public ceremony.

President Pieck then announced Grotewohl would take a rest cure in a Soviet Union health resort. Ubricht, chief deputy, took his job.

The west put its finger to the side of its nose and nodded.

"Exit Otto," they said. "Once he gets to Russia he'll get the Dimitrov treatment." (George Dimitrov, Communist premier of Bulgaria, went to Russia for medical care and died there.)

A former secretary of Grotewohl recalls one conversation with him.

"He told me once he would never go to Russia, no matter how many times they asked him. And now look."

The latest word from him in the east press was that Berlin Communists had sent a good health message to him at Moscow.

One west Berlin Social Democrat commented: "I don't ever remember Moscow as being designated as a Soviet health resort."



Hungry Child—Five-year-old Virginia Enagst wistfully tastes the first bread she has eaten in three days. She didn't eat for one day and the day before that, beans. Her mother has food for her now, thanks to neighbors at Gambrills, Md. who read in a newspaper that her father has been out of work for weeks and the family was desperate for food. (AP Wirephoto)

Objection by NLRB Dropped

The NLRB has dropped its objection to the Salem Labor Council's placing of the Valley Concrete company of Independence on its unfair list.

Robert J. Wiener, national labor relations board officer in Portland, said yesterday a February 28 hearing on the NLRB's complaint against the AFL council had been cancelled.

Withdrawal of the complaint followed two previous victories for the labor unions involved in the case.

The company's demand for a bargaining election to determine if AFL teamsters should represent the employees was rejected by the NLRB for lack of jurisdiction. The NLRB ruled the company was not engaged in interstate commerce. A lack of jurisdiction was also cited in the NLRB's request for dismissal of a court action which sought an injunction against the labor council.

League of Cities Regional Meeting Here February 28

City budgeting, local improvement planning and financing, proposed state legislation, and many other items of current interest to city officials and civic leaders of this area will be on the agenda of a regional League of Oregon Cities dinner meeting which has been scheduled for February 28, 6:30 p.m., at the Marine room of the Marion hotel in Salem.

Mayor Elfstrom has issued invitations to the mayors, councilmen, and other city officials of the area, and delegations are expected from Aumsville, Aurora, Donald, Falls City, Gervais, Hubbard, Independence, Monmouth, Mt. Angel, Scotts Mills, Silverton, Stayton, Sublimity, Turner, Woodburn, Dallas, Jefferson, St. Paul, Mill City and Idanha. The Salem meeting is the third of a series of 22 such regional meetings being conducted throughout the state this spring which are expected to draw a total attendance of over 1,000 town and city officials.

In announcing the Salem dinner meeting, League President Hollis S. Smith, mayor of Dallas, stated that the 1950 meetings have been timed to coincide with the preliminary planning of city

budgets for the new fiscal year and that he felt that a great deal of value could be derived by the city officials through an opportunity of exchanging ideas, experiences, and comments on the many mutual financing problems presently faced by these officials. He stressed the fact that the meeting will be devoted largely to informal round-table discussions with full opportunity for the several city delegations to present their particular problems.

Accompanying President Smith to Salem will be Herman Kehrl, league executive secretary; Dean Seeger, league consultant, and Arnold M. Westling, planning and public works consultant for the bureau of municipal research and service, together with representatives of the executive committee of the league.

Reveal Guided Atomic Missile With Range of 500 Miles

Washington, Feb. 21 (AP)—A guided atomic missile that can be launched 500 miles from the target by a big bomber may be just around the corner.

Defense officials revealed in week-end interviews that "several" self-propelled, surface-to-surface guided missiles with ranges of more than 500 miles had been developed.

Informed sources said these missiles, with modifications, probably could be converted to be dropped on enemy targets by a bombing plane.

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ADVANCED RESERVATIONS URGED

Defense officials, reporting "satisfactory" progress in all phases of guided missile work, also disclosed development of a 12,000-pound free-falling bomb that can be guided all the way to its target. They said this could be an atomic bomb.

Air force officers said the possibility that atomic bombs might be "guided" in the forthcoming tests at Eniwetok atoll in the Pacific.

The 500-mile guided missiles still are labeled as experimental because a range is not yet available for full testing of them. First firings at the full distance of 500 miles must wait until the new Banana River, Fla., long-range proving ground is ready about a year hence.

Brig. Gen. William L. Richardson, who will command the Banana River testing ground, said the air force is "vigorously" pursuing both as to propulsion and guidance.

Multi-guidance could include one device for controlling at launching and for a short time thereafter, a second to take over for the major part of the flight, and a built-in homing device to guide the missile to the "bull-

Dodd Suggests Low-Cost Farm Aid for Backward Nations

We can help the undernourished half of the world's people without wrecking our own economy, declares Norris E. Dodd, Oregon farmer, former Undersecretary of Agriculture and now Director General of UN's Food and Agriculture Organization, writing in the March Reader's Digest.

Dodd's theories of agricultural aid to backward nations, "with just a little money and a little brains," are told by Edwin Muller in an article condensed from the Minneapolis Tribune.

Recently returned from a trip to nearly every underdeveloped area on the globe, Dodd is convinced that extravagant schemes to provide tractors, dams and power facilities to these regions are impractical.

"There just aren't enough factories in the U.S. to mechanize backward lands, or enough dollars in taxpayers' pockets to pay the bill." In Shanghai he saw 3000 UNRRA tractors rusting in a field because the Chinese farmers didn't know how to use them.

But Dodd reports yields of crops substantially increased by such a simple expedient as leveling fields before planting.

He introduced into India a simple rice-threshing device which extracts the grain four times as fast as the hand flail customarily used on many Indian farms. In India also, he showed farmers the advantages of the land-handled hoe and the wheel cultivator over the ancient orthoe, and the superiority of the scythe over the sickle.

Shovels and cheap pumps, brought to farmers in the Nile delta, irrigated fields 20 times more efficiently than old bucket methods.

American techniques of fertilizing, rotating crops, seed selection and vaccinating poultry can be adopted at little expense, Dodd holds.

In Italy, for instance, corn yields have already been doubled on some experimental plots by the use of American hybrid seed.

Family Gets Shelter At Relatives' Home

Brooks, Feb. 21 — The Glenn Wadley family, Brooks Rt. 1, are temporarily with relatives following the loss of their home and nearly all their possessions by a fire.

Though the blaze broke out early in the evening, the family was able to save but little. The Brooks fire department answered the call but by the time it reached the dwelling, about three miles east of here, could do little.

The family consists of the parents and two children.

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