

Washington Digest

German Radio Takes New Tone Under U. S.

News, Education and Swing Replace Old Nazi Line; English Grammar Lessons Prove Popular Among Listeners.

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WASHINGTON. — Gradually the net is closing in about the "other traitors," American citizens who broadcast in English from Berlin and elsewhere for the Nazis before and during the war. Recently the (in)famous "Axis Sally" was taken into custody. She devoted her air time to making G.I.s feel homesick overseas by dwelling on the joys and comforts back in the good old U. S. A. Another traitor is "Kaltenbach," an ex-Iowa boy who tried to awake nostalgia with corny realism about life down on the farm.

Then there is Constance Drexel, who pretended to be a cultured member of the old Philadelphia family whose name she used as a pseudonym when she worked on American newspapers. She was really born in Germany and brought here by her father who became naturalized. She was known here as pro-Hitler before the war. She made one broadcast for an American network when I was in Berlin but I helped to make it her last.

It is hard to prove treason. You have to have witnesses who actually saw the person in the act of broadcasting. When the Americans took over German radio out methods were far different. We used a proved weapon—the truth.

U. S. Controls Air Forces

When active military operations changed over to occupation, the Information Control division laid down a three-point program. The plan was negative at first—the wiping out of all Nazi media, including radio, to make way for American media.

Next came actual broadcasting. The early broadcasts were very stark and stern. Decrees, regulations, warnings to the people. No concerts, no plays, no music. Now we are in phase two and the Germans are finding more variety along the radio dial. Entertainment, as well as news and education, is being provided by the ICD.

The third phase will begin when German radio stations are turned over to the Germans themselves, much as the newspapers have been allowed to operate under German direction under license. A military government official examines and criticizes the newspaper after it appears. Presumably, radio programs will be supervised in roughly the same manner.

The first station to be taken over by the Americans was Radio Luxembourg. It was in pretty good shape, for the Germans had left in too much of a hurry to do any big-scale demolition.

Next station to go to work for the army was Frankfurt; then Stuttgart; then Munich. When I was in Germany, because of trouble with land lines, the Munich-Stuttgart-Frankfurt network was not running regularly. Perhaps it is now.

Radio is supported in Germany as it was before the war, by a tax on each set. Why, I asked, couldn't a radio owner conceal his set and thus get out of paying the tax? I was told there was no danger of that. If anyone concealed the fact he had a radio, his jealous neighbors would tell on him. The Nazi squealing habit is still strong in Germany.

All programs at present are in the German language, except for a few in Polish for displaced persons in camps. There is a large proportion of factual world news broadcast and an increasing number of German musical programs.

On the educational side, there are talks by German officials, and American military government men. Some jazz and swing, and lately, plays. The program periods have been running as long as 45 minutes which seems a long time for American radio-fans—and now they are being extended to one hour.

Popl Reaction Of Audience.
At first it wasn't clear whether Germans liked what they were getting on the ICD schedule of broadcasts. Fan letters, the barometers of approval and disapproval

in America, were banned up until December of last year. However, reactions are coming in now, as the ICD conducts many secret radio polls—employing the methods of polltakers in this country. The surveys which I saw indicated that, on the whole, the programs are popular with the Germans—with certain reservations.

Take factual world news, for example. Germans are anxious to hear this, but they don't always understand it. For 12 years they have been taught to be suspicious of all news. And yet, in spite of this skepticism, they are so saturated with the propaganda idea that in some cases they don't like facts.

This came out in a conference with teenagers who said they preferred the Russian broadcasts to ours. Asked why, they said there was too much propaganda in ours.

I went over this answer with one of the psychological experts. He explained it this way: straight news without comment forces the listener to think for himself. This disturbs the German teenager, and he blames the program, calling it "propaganda."

English grammar lessons far outrun American music as radio favorites in Germany. All Germans want to learn English. This desire seems to stem from the long-range hope that some day America's gates will be open, and from the opportunistic feeling that the conquered can get along better with the conqueror if they're both talking the same language.

Zionists Wary Of Russians

For years, contending European nations have battled for the friendship and support of the Arabs. This struggle was intensified when, long before World War I, the Germans started their "drang nach Osten" and the British heightened their efforts to placate the Arabs in order to protect their empire's life-lines and to prevent a spread of a disaffection to the Moslems of India.

Now Russia steps into the picture. Reports from Baghdad tell us of the spread of communistic sympathies throughout the Middle East. And the Jews of Palestine find their troubles increasing.

The announcement of Britain's granting of independence to Trans-Jordania heightened Zionist resentment, for Trans-Jordania is a part of Greater Palestine and was supposed to be included in the territory allotted to the National Jewish home.

The Zionists claim the British action is part of a scheme to prevent the United Nations from creating a trusteeship of Greater Palestine which would include Trans-Jordania, as the old League of Nations mandate did. They also make the charge that the purpose is "to thwart Jewish rights by bolstering pro-Axis forces."

The Zionists feel too that Russia is playing a similar game. They point out the inconsistency of making friends with the Arabs, whose party leader in Palestine, Jamal Hussein, is calling for the reinstatement of the Grand Mufti, a Hitler collaborator.

In his testimony before the British-American inquiry committee Hussein said: "Germany was not our enemy and therefore we had no interest in the war," adding: "I've read somewhere that it was a Jewish war."

The Zionists believe they have discovered an additional reason for Russian animosity toward their efforts in Palestine. Like most of the causes of racial and other ructions, it is fear. They say that the Soviets are afraid that if the Palestine colony becomes a success it will prove an entering wedge for western capitalism in the Near East. There is really nothing in common between the feudalist, unprogressive Arab world and the economic and social principles represented by the Soviet system. The Arabs can't do the Soviets any harm but they could be used, the Zionists say, to hamstring what might become a live and up-and-coming Jewish nation imbued with capitalistic ideas, operating too close for communistic comfort.



WAR NOT EXPECTED

WASHINGTON. — That the Truman cabinet is not looking for war in the near future, despite warlike talk, was indicated at a secret session of the senate military affairs committee recently.

When Secretary of State Byrnes and Secretary of War Patterson testified in favor of an extension of the selective service act, the figures they presented on planned strength of the army and navy were exactly the same as those presented early in January. In other words, they proposed an army of barely over a million men by July of 1947.

The senators had expected that because of the complicated international situation a larger army would be asked for, but the war and state departments made no such request. When one senator asked how it happened that there was no "emergency" planning, Secretary Byrnes refused to answer. He passed the question to Secretary Patterson, who also did not reply.

WALLACE SPEECH CENSORED.

It wasn't supposed to be known outside the cabinet, but Henry Wallace's speech at the Jackson Day dinner was censored — by President Truman himself. Wallace had one line in his speech which he thought would answer Republican critics. It read:

"Abraham Lincoln was not a member of our party. But he was certainly a fellow traveler."

Truman thought such a reference to the martyred Lincoln might be misunderstood and cut it out. Wallace was glad to concur.

MEN'S SUITS

It still looks like a long wait before veterans can get the clothing they need. The office of war mobilization and reconversion will soon bring out a report on men's clothing showing a need for 40 million suits this year but production plans for only about 28 million.

The report will also show that first quarter production has been only about 5 million, and officials of the civilian production administration are worried sick that even the goal of 28 million suits for 1946 will not be met.

There is no sign yet that the increase in prices granted this month by OPA will mean more men's suits. There are indications, however, that large stocks of suits are being held off the market in the hope that price control will not be extended beyond June.

JOHN L. LEWIS

For years John L. Lewis has been one of labor's top negotiators. Usually he has his facts cold. Recently, however, while arguing safety precautions with Harry Moses, an important Pittsburgh mine operator, he said:

"Why, Harry, your father is a good illustration of why we need these safeguards. Everybody knows him as a veteran coal man, and we've all seen him limping around for 50 years because of a mine accident. So how can you sit there and deny us the safeguards to prevent the same sort of thing from happening to other miners?"

"John," replied Moses, "I don't know where you got your information about my father—but it wasn't so good. I'll tell you how he hurt his leg. It wasn't in a coal mine, it was playing baseball. He broke his leg sliding into second."

NOTE — Bureau of mine officials heartily endorse Lewis' demands for better safety precautions in the mines.

DIPLOMATIC VICTORY

During the heyday of the Roosevelt administration, Vice Pres. Jack Garner gave a dinner for the late Will Rogers at which the cowboy humorist, commenting on a forthcoming international conference, said:

"This country has won every war, but lost every conference."

Recently, however, one international conference closed at Savannah, Ga., at which the United States won every single round. It was the first world monetary conference, and the man responsible for the American victory was hard-hitting Fred Vinson, secretary of the treasury.

His chief battle was over the location of the international bank and the stabilization fund to be established under the Bretton Woods plan. The British wanted the bank and fund located in New York, but Secretary Vinson wanted them in Washington. When the vote was taken, there was only one vote against Washington — Lord Keynes' vote.

CAPITAL CHAFF

Two movie companies are bidding for "Saints and Strangers," the new best seller written by George Willson. . . . Former Democratic Sen. Clarence Dill of Washington is being urged for one of the vacant assistant secretaryships of the interior department. . . . Jim Landis may be headed for a new important administration job soon. . . . New Mexico's Gov. Jack Dempsey decided after two talks with President Truman that he would not oppose Sen. Dennis Chavez, N. M. . . .



Swank and the Ball Parks

"Get me a table up front at the ball game!" . . . "How's about a reservation for six at the double-header. And will you put on four quarts of champagne! . . . Never mind who's pitching; what I wanna know is who's in the floor show!"

These may be routine cracks in American big league ball parks this season. Two private club rooms with bars and 400 boxes to which members only will be permitted will be a feature of the games at Yankee Stadium.

The boxes and club rooms will be open to members paying from \$600 to \$900 a season, and most of the memberships have already been grabbed by bankers, brokers, business men, theatrical men, etc.

Thus, will exclusiveness, social distinctions introduced to that stronghold of democracy, the American national game of baseball. Down through baseball history the millionaire has rubbed elbows with the street cleaner at the ball parks. "Take your coat off, let your hair down, relax and be one of the gang!" has been the traditional cry.

All men may not have been positive they were equal but at the ball game they felt closer to it than anywhere else.

And now—of all places—the baseball park is to find class consciousness, the upper and lower levels of society, financial distinction and a touch of the night club and country club flavor. One club room will be modernistic with chromium fixtures and red leather chairs; the other will carry the mood of an old English inn of the Heathcliff-on-Finchely-Finchely type. The bar and restaurant will be a deluxer.

Bleacher fans arise!

We demand that the bottle of beer, the pop bottle, the frankfurter and the cause of democracy remain intact at American baseball parks, never to give way to the breast of chicken under glass, the magnum of vintage wine, cafe society, the gossip columns and special privileges for the bourgeois!

The beer shortage may be so serious this summer that we will be applying for a priority to get a small glass of suds. But we can stand anything up to the point where, in order to get a schooner of beer, we are compelled, through a tie-in sale, to buy a crate of sweet cider.

A rich New York landlord and real estate speculator who worked the old game of charging a war veteran several thousand dollars for a few bits of cheap furniture in order to get a small apartment, got ten days in jail and a fine of \$100 the other day. Our idea, if that is the maximum penalty, would be to make the landlord come across with at least \$5,000 for the chair in his cell.

A. A. Milne says that years of war have hardened the British so that they "are now immune from the scourge of victory."

It seems more and more apparent that what UNO needs more than anything else are bumpers front and rear and a bullet-proof windshield.

VANISHING AMERICANISMS

"Bock Beer, Five Cents."

"Here's a quarter. Go get a quart of ice cream."

"I don't make a lot of money but I can get all I need and have some fun."

"Let's buy him two new suits for Easter."

HERE AND THERE

They say General Marshall, back from China, took one look at the American scene and exclaimed, "And I thought it hard to understand Chinese!" . . . Are-We-Gonna-Get-Inflation Again: The \$3.50 filet mignon without vegetables. . . . Bakery inquiry, now that the size of the loaf of bread has been cut, "Do you want the small loaf or the invisible one?" . . .

Winston Churchill, getting still another degree, must wish he could repeat his famous line, "This may not be the beginning of the end, but it is the end of the beginning."

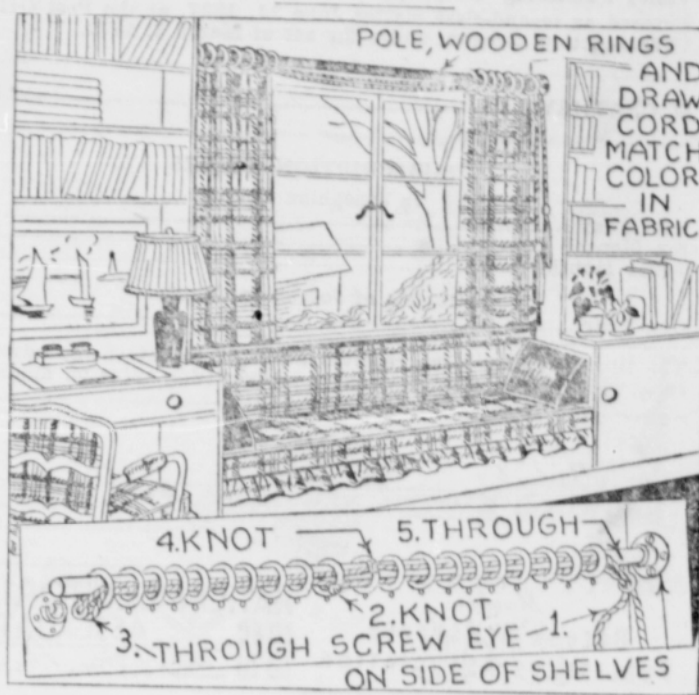
Shopper's Lament

The shop windows bulge with the loveliest things: A feast for the greediest eyes! It seems to hurt more with rare objects galore To find that they don't have your size.

REMEMBER—

When a woman's complaint "He spends his weeks salary on liquor" implied that he got more than two drinks? Back when it wasn't necessary to begin each day by checking to see how far away the nearest car was?

Easy to Make Your Draw Curtains With These Step-by-Step Directions



By Ruth Wyeth Spears

JUST pull on a cord and these curtains swish open or closed. By following the simple step-by-step instructions for making and hanging them, which are given in the booklet "Make Your Own Curtains," these draw curtains will be a reality in your home in short order.

This 32-page booklet also illustrates how to make all types of curtains from formal

draperies to simple curtains for every room. Readers of this newspaper may get a copy of this booklet by sending 15 cents (in coins, please) with name and address direct to:

MRS. RUTH WYETH SPEARS
Bedford Hills, N. Y. Drawer 10
Enclose 15 cents for booklet, "Make Your Own Curtains."
Name _____
Address _____

ASK ME ? ANOTHER ?

A quiz with answers offering information on various subjects

The Questions

1. Is it possible for an airplane to fly lower than a submarine can dive?
2. What is the fiercest blow that can be struck by an animal?
3. If a ship is rated at 40,000 tons, how much water does it displace?
4. Which is larger, Texas or Alaska?
5. Why are refrigerated ships painted white?
6. What is the life of a one-dollar bill?
7. How often are twins born in the United States?
8. Did any signer of the United States Constitution become U. S. President?
9. If you cut off one of the points of a star fish, will it grow another?
10. How does the number of deaths that occurred from home accidents during the time from Pearl Harbor to V-J day compare to the number of deaths on the battlefield during that time?

The Answers

1. Yes, in certain parts of the world the land is far below sea level.
2. The stroke of a whale's tail, which can smash even a large boat.
3. It displaces 40,000 tons.
4. Alaska is more than twice the size of Texas.
5. To assist in reflecting the radiant heat of the sun away from the holds.
6. The life of a one-dollar bill is 9 months.

7. Once in 87 births.
8. Yes, two—George Washington and James Madison.
9. Yes.
10. Many more — 355,000 deaths from home accidents to 261,600 deaths on the battlefield in that time.



Another Kind?

"Do you like croquettes, Dick?"
"Naw, Dan, I believe the kind of a girl that flirts with me will flirt with anybody."

Everything comes to him who orders hash.

Last Hope

"This is my car," protested the irate motorist to the garage man, "and what I say goes—see?"
"Say, 'Engine,' then, mister," suggested the disgruntled repair man.

Both Grinned

"When the judge ruled that you had to pay alimony, how did you feel about it?"
"Chagrined."
"How did your wife feel about it?"
"She grinned."

In Tune

"How do you get domestic harmony in your home?" a meek little man was asked.
"By playing second fiddle," he sadly replied.



Date-Bran Muffins, good as cake!

(Take no sugar, no shortening!)

These delicious, new ALL-BRAN muffins made with chopped dates will have a big appeal for the "sweet toothers" in your family! They're so moist. And they're so tender—so good. That's because KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN is milled extra-fine for golden softness.

2 cups Kellogg's ALL-BRAN 1 cup sifted flour
1/2 cup molasses 1/2 teaspoon soda
1 1/2 cups milk 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 egg 1/2 cup chopped dates

Add KELLOGG'S ALL-BRAN to molasses and milk and allow to soak for 15 minutes. Beat egg and add to first mixture. Add sifted dry ingredients and fruit. Fill greased muffin pans

Good Nutrition, too!

ALL-BRAN is made from the VITAL OUTER LAYERS of finest wheat—contains a concentration of the protective food elements found in the whole grain. One-half cup provides over 1/2 your daily minimum need for iron. Serve Kellogg's ALL-BRAN daily!



BARBS . . . by Baukhage

A new triangular desk designed for executives is described by Business Week. Reducing the difficulty of viewing all sides of a problem by one-third. Efficiency.

Those fierce tribesmen, the Kurds, don't rhyme with Miss Muffet's curds. The "U" is long in the Kurds, just as they are long in bel-lu-erency.

If the people don't want prohibition of black marketeering any more than they wanted prohibition on the sale of liquor, inflation can't be stopped.

I don't like the derogative use of this word "puppet"—puppet parliament, puppet rulers—it sounds so much like "puppy." I feel I have to apologize to my dog.