

JENKINS REVIEWS EUROPEAN VISIT IN KIWANIS ADDRESS

'Shocking Mess' Abroad Should Serve As Warning Klamath Editor Says

"The shocking mess that is Europe today," should serve as a warning to all Americans, Frank Jenkins, Klamath Falls editor and publisher, told the Kiwanis club here yesterday in reviewing his recent three-month tour of European war theaters. "Fantastic inflation and economic collapse have followed war's devastating tread, leaving the people of most of the countries starving, cold and completely hopeless," he said, adding that he wished every American might visit the scene, "especially non-cooperative employers, union leaders who foster discord, and those congressmen who bow to pressure groups rather than acting only for the general good."

"There has been no such mass ruin and misery since downfall of the Roman empire. A large portion of France, practically all of Belgium and Holland have been smashed. Germany is a shambles and with the exception of the Hollanders, the people are so defeated and apathetic they lack the spiritual strength to bestir themselves in an effort at self-preservation. Unless much help is given by the United States this winter thousands will starve," the speaker declared.

French Broken

"Paris, though but lightly touched physically, has been deeply scarred spiritually," Jenkins continued. "The people are beaten, their spirit gone. Berlin is so completely smashed that it would be cheaper to leave the ruins as a monument to man's folly and rebuild the city in some other site. Thousands are buried and smoldering in the rubble of the once proud German capital. Berlin's utter devastation," the speaker said he believed, was due to the "desperate final, senseless stand of the Nazi overlords who preferred to destroy all, rather than let anything fall into the hands of their enemies."

"And don't let anyone confuse you as to the ultimate aims of the Nazi leaders or their possible development of a beneficent form of government. They never intended to do anything for the common people except to exploit them. They had gained control of all large and profitable business in the country and the war was their next logical step in adding to their personal plunder. They had in fact evolved the greatest racket ever known on earth."

Inflation Dangerous

"Some in this country feel that a little inflation may be a good thing," and that it might help business," the publisher asserted, "but if these who thus hold could see the people a broad, hungry with their pockets full of money, they would change their minds about inflation."

"The Russians are stripping the portion of Germany they have occupied, sending machinery and material back to Russia," the speaker said. "The individual Red soldiers are spending every cent of their invasion money for German watches and other small articles which they are able to take home with them, as they cannot take the currency back."

Gen. Eisenhower "has his feet on the ground and is doing a good job of administration within the American military occupation area. However, both American and British army occupational forces lack definite objectives, the overall policy not yet having been clearly defined by those governments," Jenkins said. "The Russians suffer under no such inhibition and their occupational forces know exactly what they are doing."

Relief efforts have been inefficient and slow and no one has

a good word for UNRRA, the speaker said, pointing out that in fairness to the relief leaders it should be remembered that wrecked transportation, and other uncontrollable factors were partly responsible.

Gen. Eisenhower and other leaders of occupational and relief forces agree that civilian organizations should take over the rehabilitation work in Germany as soon as possible to secure maximum results, Jenkins said he learned while abroad.

Communism Coming

Most of Europe will go communistic this winter, Jenkins said he believed, but Great Britain will stand firm. "Whatever one may think of the British," he declared, "they and the Americans constitute the last island of hope in the world for the rights of man and for free enterprise."

"America must remain strong, at any cost; must never sink to such weak point that she can be beaten," Jenkins concluded, saying, "personally, I feel that all wealth, life itself, should be dedicated always to that principle. For, after seeing the broken, hopeless peoples of Europe, death would be preferable to their lot."

Mr. Jenkins was introduced by the Kiwanis program chairman, Don Newbury, and his talk featured the Kiwanis observance of National Newspaper Week.

Preceding the main address, Ray Harrison spoke briefly in behalf of the war chest drive opening next week.

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