

Hitler's Touch Fading, Says Lochner; Speeches Show Faulty Psychology

(Editor's Note: Just returned to this country after five months' internment by the Germans at Bad Nauheim, Louis P. Lochner, former chief of the Berlin bureau of Wide World and a Pulitzer prize winner for excellence in foreign correspondence, is writing a series of daily stories in which he reveals many facts about Germany's present leaders and the situation within the country. Next: Hitler and his generals.)

By LOUIS P. LOCHNER

NEW YORK, June 3 (Wide World)—Adolf Hitler, for almost 20 years a master psychologist at sensing what the masses want to hear and what they are prepared to accept in the way of burdens and deprivations, has shown definite signs of late of failing to fathom public sentiment correctly.

In consequence, his unexampled hold upon the masses is gradually slipping. The most recent case in point is his reichstag speech of April 26.

Another Winter

Thoughtful Germans are asking themselves: How could Hitler at the end of a terrible winter, which took a severe toll of German life at the Russian front, inaugurate spring by telling the nation that next winter better transportation would be provided in the east? Why not see first how the summer offensive turns out and reserve talk about the next winter until then?

We who heard the speech on our secret radio during the final days of our internment at Bad Nauheim noted the depressing effect upon the German hotel personnel.

American businessmen who joined us on the S. S. Drottningholm directly from Berlin told us: "A few more such speeches and the masses are through with Hitler. They don't want to hear of another winter of war."

Forecast of Doom
Their experience was like ours five months previously: Our grocer, our barber, our butcher, not to speak of our closer friends, literally cried when we made our last purchases or bade them farewell. They all realized instinctively and from their recollection of the war of 1914-18 that America's entry into the war—forced by Hitler himself—would spell the doom of Germany.

Aboard the Drottningholm I heard an elderly lady, a refugee and obviously from Wurtemberg judging by her dialect, discuss the war with an old man whose speech indicated he came from East Prussia.

"The war simply must end this summer," the elderly woman

said. "All the men from the front who come home on furlough tell us it is so terrible out east that they won't have another winter of it."

"Yes, that's the way we feel up our way," nodded the East Prussian.

Adolf Hitler's declaration of war upon the United States showed a similar misgauging of the psychology of the masses.

How explain Hitler's obvious weakening in psychological understanding?

Uncanny Ability

There was a time when Hitler's sensibility in feeling out his way with the crowds was nothing short of uncanny. I have seen him address soldiers, women, agricultural workers, party functionaries, little tradesmen. I have seen him stand before highbrow academicians and before hundreds of thousands of common folk.

Invariably I was impressed with der fuhrer's ability to be all things to all men. Hitler played with his audiences as an orchestra conductor plays with the members of his musical ensemble.

His meetings often reminded me of the old revival meetings. Even the most hard-boiled seemed to "get religion"; i. e., the Nazi religion of blood and soil.

Stage Setting

The whole stage management for these meetings contributed toward this mass psychology—the martial music played during the hour or two before der fuhrer's arrival, the challenging slogans on huge banners throughout the vast assembly hall, the gradual arrival, on the staggered principle, of the second line of Nazi leaders, then of the top men like Goebbels, Goering, Hess, Himmler, and finally the dramatic entry, with searchlights playing upon his lone figure, of Adolf Hitler himself.

After Hitler became chancellor and later chief of state, he could seldom extemporize but had to read important pronouncements from prepared copy. Yet these speeches, too, during the first six or seven years of his dictatorship showed a remarkable psychological understanding of the German people.

Personal Appeal

In one of my interviews I said to the German dictator: "We are all aware that you owe a great part of your success to your ability to win over the masses of the people by your personal appeal in extemporaneous speeches. Now that you are the head of government, you must write out most of your pronouncements. Does that not cramp your style?"

"Not at all," he replied. "When

I compose a speech, I visualize the people. I can see them just as though they were standing before me. I sense how they will react."

That was some years ago. Today his speeches don't have the same compelling power with his hearers.

Cloud World

The explanation seems to lie in the fact that Adolf Hitler now lives in a cloud-world of his own, high up on Mt. Olympus, and that his contacts with the real world are carefully filtered by the coterie of confidants about him.

In short, Hitler no longer sees his German people through his own eyes but through the strongly colored spectacles of his underlings.

These underlings permit Hitler to hear only what they think he should hear.

One German ambassador, returning from his post to report, told Hitler all he thought his chief of state might be interested in knowing about the country to which he was accredited. Before leaving Hitler's study, however, he presumed to put in a good word for a friend who had been taken to a concentration camp by the gestapo.

Gestapo Listens

"Why, the man has already been released," Hitler replied, obviously surprised.

"Sorry to say, no, mein fuhrer," was the diplomat's rejoinder. "All our efforts to get him liberated have failed thus far."

When the ambassador reached the anteroom, the SS guard on duty spoke to him harshly.

"If you dare once more to discuss matters with der fuhrer that are not on the agenda," he shouted, "your career is finished."

The diplomat then realized that the gestapo listens in even on Hitler's discussions with visitors.

Men in the German dictator's

Stretch It



Because fighting planes must have countless tires such as these, U. S. is stretching its rubber supply as far as possible, reclaiming all it can. Tire on bottom fits medium bomber.

entourage have often told me that there are times when they must reveal no unpleasant facts to their chief, as this might disturb the equilibrium of his temper and make him unfit to work at his problems. In course of time, Hitler's temper has become an excuse for withholding all sorts of facts he should know.

I have made it a point during the nine years of Hitler's chancellorship to watch the expression on his face as I encountered him from time to time. It has become more and more of an imperious, self-complacent, aloof-from-the-masses one.

In the years that I have known him, he has become more and more unapproachable by the rank and file of the people and even by the rank and file of his faithful party members.

The masses naturally are quick to sense this. There is no longer that spontaneous enthusi-

HOOKE NAMED TO HEAD LIONS CLUB

The Lions club at the regular weekly luncheon held Tuesday noon, held the annual election of officers with the following members of the club being selected as the officers for the coming year: R. E. Hooker, president; Merle Adams, vice president; Everett Vanderpool, secretary-treasurer; Eddie Burroughs, lion tamer; Paul Skeen, tall twister. Directors elected for two years are Dr. Peter Rozendal and Roy Rakestraw, and Phil White was elected as director for one year.

Installation of officers will be held some time the latter part of June, with the above officers taking office the first Tuesday in July.

VITAL STATISTICS

QUIGLEY—Born at Klamath Valley hospital, Klamath Falls, Ore., June 3, 1942, to Mr. and Mrs. John Quigley, 1814 Ivory street, a girl. Weight: 7 pounds 9 1/2 ounces.

asm which characterized the reaction of the crowds during the first years of the Hitler regime.

The masses which now line the streets are mostly sent by the labor front and the SA and SS and Hitler youth to be there. Flags are pressed into their hands by the police to give the impression of spontaneous enthusiasm.

School children, excused from classes, more and more make up the "spontaneously cheering thousands" about which the papers then write the next day under Goebbels' tutelage.

Teamsters Union Chief Raps Picket Lines in Article

WASHINGTON, June 3 (AP)—The International Brotherhood of Teamsters (AFL) has termed picket lines "an organizing racket" in many instances and directed its members as a wartime measure to go through them where necessary to deliver goods.

In the June issue of the union's magazine, General President Daniel J. Tobin said: "I know many of our unions have a clause in their contract which reads that it shall not be considered a violation of the agreement to refuse to deliver goods where there is labor trouble."

"Let me say now, unless the International union orders you not to go through picket lines, that clause must be set aside during the period of the war."

"Even in nondefense industries every means within your power should be used before you stop work. But the so-called picket line, since the passage of the Wagner act, in many instances can be honestly called an organizing racket that isn't founded on legitimate trade unionism." x x x

Radio Day by Day

(Pacific War Time)

NEW YORK, June 3 (Wide World)—Broadcast by both NBC and the BLU is announced for 2:30 a. m. Thursday of the address of President Quezon of the Philippines to the senate at Washington. The program is scheduled for half an hour. He spoke to the house Tuesday, but there was no broadcast. Rudy Vallee has now announced that a special tribute will be paid to John

Barrymore, who starred as the program's comedian for so many weeks, in the Thursday night broadcast on NBC.

Dialing Wednesday night: MBS—5:15 new series, "Fight Against Inflation," Sec. Morgenthau; 6:30 pass in review, army camp.

GOVERNOR NOMINATED
DES MOINES, Ia., June 3 (AP)—Governor George A. Wilson captured the Iowa republican nomination for senator today on the basis of unofficial incomplete returns in the state's lightest primary in 20 years.

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