

Anti-Nazi German Bishop Warns Revenge Will Endanger Peace

By Dr. Max Jordan

Fulda, Germany—(NC)—"I won't take back one word of what I said!"

The Most Rev. Clemens August Count von Galen, Bishop of Munster, Westphalia, stood erect and spoke in a firm voice when making this flat statement in answer to a question as to how he viewed in retrospect events during the critical years when the Nazi Regime considered him one of its most outspoken opponents.

"Just as I made my position clear at that time," continued the Bishop, "I want to make my views known now. I have only recently been apprised of secret reports discovered by the Allies in the files of the former Nazi propaganda department; reports that indicated why I was never arrested."

"The Gestapo had insisted that I should be taken in custody, but Goebbels felt that I had too strong a following. Does not this show clearly enough that I was but a spokesman; that good Catholics, and numerous good Protestants too, were totally out of sympathy with Hitler?"

"Many of them wrote to me regularly; hundreds of them actually expressed their full agreement with the criticism I voiced of the men who were our oppressors. No, you cannot say that all Germans were Nazis. The very fact that the Gestapo did not dare to touch me is ample enough demonstration of that."

The Bishop then referred to a problem which was widely discussed here during the Bishop's meeting - the forced evacuation of Germans formerly residing in Poland, Upper Silesia and Czechoslovakia. A report available here indicates that some 12,000,000 people are affected, about half of whom are Catholics.

"In some places," says the report of a priest who was an eyewitness to this mass migration, "people hang on the trees like plums." This was an intimation that suicides were countless.

It is reported, in this connection, that German priests in Czechoslovakian territory are not allowed to say Mass except on Sundays and are not permitted to deliver sermons in German, and their churches are closed during the week.

"How should we solve this problem?" asked Bishop von Galen. "Hitler was the first to establish the practice that people be evacuated from conquered territories, but do we have to imitate him? Can it be that Hitlerism has poisoned the minds of those who fought against it?"

"Yes, I know," the Bishop replied, "when I pointed out that, sadly enough, all of this is the tragic consequence of the evil perpetuated by the Nazis, but our approach to these problems ought to be a Christian approach. Hate is never constructive and revenge will never help to build real peace. The victors must remember that desperation always breeds chaos. It has happened with Hitler; it may happen again unless we join forces to stem the tide while there is still time."

Marine Battle Veteran Killed by Automobile

Deaver — (NC) — Through some of the bloodiest battles in the history of the Marine Corps — Guadalcanal, Tarawa, Saipan and Iwo Jima — went Pvt. Thomas G. Speidel, who was a member of St. Catherine's parish, here, and came out unharmed. After 31 months of service in the Pacific, he came back to the comparative peace and safety of the United States. Then, on August 24, he was involved in an automobile accident in Hollywood and was killed.

Bishop Haas Outlines Duties of Labor

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rank and file members of unions rather than against higher union officials.

"Organized labor" should also ask itself, how can it condone the violation of contracts, even though such violations are indulged in only occasionally, and at times under great provocation from management. Obviously, it cannot.

"Finally, government itself should examine itself on Labor Day. It may not stop with the mere enactment of stop-gap measures, necessary though they are in the crisis before us. It should see from bitter experience that by attempting to manage and control the complexities of economic life, it only tangles itself in endless confusion, to the neglect of its higher duties as supreme arbiter of the sovereign good, and to the suffering and want of citizens.

"Government should contemplate, and even initiate, the establishment of an economic society made up of democratically organized management, democratically organized labor, democratically organized professions and democratically organized agriculture, with the government itself, as custodian of the common good, guiding and directing the entire structure for the protection and benefit of all the people."

Services In Opera House
Stuttgart — (NC) — The former Royal Opera House here, a stately structure that remains intact in the midst of the ghastly ruins which are the only remnants of the downtown section of this southern German capital, is now being utilized for divine services every Sunday.

Cardinal Honored By Florentines

Vulturno City — (NC) — A highlight in the ceremonies marking the anniversary of the liberation of Florence was the bestowal of honorary citizenship of His Eminence Edm. Cardinal Della Costa, Archbishop of Florence.

The Cardinal is respected as symbol and instrument of divine protection for the city of the Virgin of the Assumption, in recognition of his efforts to save the city during the German occupation.

Abbot Trying to Shield Nuns Said Killed by Reds

Fulda — (NC) — The Rt. Rev. Adalbert von Wittkowski, O.S.B., resigned Abbot of Weingarten, was killed in Berlin during an altercation with Russian soldiers after the Prelate tried to shield a group of Sisters with whom he was staying, according to information received here.

The soldiers had attempted to force their way into the convent and the Abbot offered the Sisters his protection. No further details on the incident are available so far.

Explanation for Quotes

Orators must go back a century or two to find a statesman worth quoting. You see, the old-timers didn't use ghost writers. — Philadelphia Bulletin.

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