

Answer—Imperative

By Marquis Childs

From his column "Washington Calling" in The Washington Post

THE crimes of the Nazis were so revolting and on such a scale that they left a sense of shock and horror. We found it hard to believe that human beings could commit such acts.

But the human memory is short lived. The horrors of Maidenek and Dachau are like an evil nightmare which we want to put out of mind.

One reason may be because our own consciences are troubled. On the face of such mass crimes, there is a kind of collective responsibility. All mankind stands at the bar of justice.

The death factories and the horror camps have been destroyed. The surviving victims are being built back to health. That was fairly easy.

It is proving less easy to combat the vicious poisons that generated these horrors. From all reports, anti-semitism is a political reality throughout Europe. Although the Nazis liquidated four million or five million Jews—no one knows the exact number—the survivors are finding their lot extremely difficult.

Partly, this grows out of the propaganda that the Nazis sowed all over the world. If the atomic bomb leaves behind deadly radio activity, as some scientists say it does, the propaganda of hate and fear, likewise, leaves behind deadly infections in men's minds. Partly, the reason for Europe's current anti-semitism is the old, familiar one—economic insecurity.

The Germans were diabolically clever. Their own gauleiters and torturers took the juicy prizes wrested from the Jews in occupied countries, such as the ownership of department stores and other properties. To natives of the occupied countries, however, they gave the small rewards: The little jobs, the small privileges and perquisites.

This last adds up to a sizable total when you consider that seven, to eight million European Jews were pushed out of the economic order entirely. Five years have passed since that happened.

To try to make present job-holders, be they Czechs, French, Belgians, or whatever, step out in favor of the Jews who held those positions is all but impossible. Even new liberal governments with the best will in the world are coming up against that blank wall.

What about migrating out of Europe, then? Isn't that a solution for Europe's million and a half surviving Jews? Here is another blank wall.

Immigration and quota systems operate in every country in the world to keep out all but a trickle of Europe's unwanted. That was true before the war. It is even more true today. In 1938, at a Refugee Conference in Evian, France, representatives of the major powers met to try to find some haven for men and women persecuted for race, religion or political beliefs. In the course of that conference, the rep-

representative from Australia, a country nearly as large as the United States; with a population of 7,000,000, said this:

"Gentlemen, we in Australia have no racial problem, thank God, and we do not intend to have one started."

That remark sums up the futility of the Evian Conference. Nothing was done. Millions marched into the death factories.

The Zionists say that the only door left open is a Jewish state in Palestine. About a half million Jews have gone there to form what is a flourishing community. They make what seems to me a very strong case.

At this point, however, you come up against a controversy boiling just beneath the surface of world news. The Arabs in the Middle East want to keep out any more Jews. Their leaders say they will fight to keep them out.

The British apparently take this threat seriously. They just sent the Regent of Iraq home on a battleship as he loudly denounced the plan for any influx of Jews into Palestine.

Palestine may not be the final answer. But the world must find an answer. Anti-semitism, as we have learned to our immense sorrow, is a poison that destroys both the poisoner and the poisoned.

THE ULTIMATE

● Music-lovers should appreciate Mayor La Guardia's ovation to Beethoven's Ninth symphony. "The Ninth symphony is about the greatest piece of music ever written. It is a sort of spiritual and musical compound, a sedative, a vitamin, a tonic and a stimulant. Folks, as the opening bars start, you relax. As its unfolds, you reach out and hold your wife's hand."

YE GOODE OLDE DAYS

● Things aren't what they used to be. The town of Waynesburg, Pennsylvania, has undergone a face-lifting. An ordinance just enacted changes the name of Whiskey Alley, in Ward One, to Wood Street; Whiskey Alley, in the East End, to Hessell Street; Cider Alley to Church Street, and Sherry Alley to Cherry Street. At last report Strawberry, Blackberry, Locust and Fruit Alleys were unchanged.

● And Tulsa, Oklahoma, has also undergone a change. The town had an ordinance limiting the public kiss to three minutes, so that traffic in the downtown areas would not be slowed up. The mayor, however, has decreed that the elapsed time of a public kiss must hereafter not exceed one minute. He explains: "Just streamlining things a little more."

● In a courtroom in the Arkansas hills, the judge drawled: "Who's the defendant here?"

A lean character in the jury box arose and said, "I'm him."

"What are you doing in that jury box?" asked the judge.

"They picked me," was the reply.

"You can't be both the defendant and a juror," pointed out the judge.

"No?" asked the hillbilly. "I was thinkin' I was kinda lucky."

—*Sporting Goods Dealer*

● Egyptian priests, it has been discovered, used an early form of the steam engine to open temple doors mysteriously.

Civil vs. Military Control

The clash between General MacArthur and Dean Acheson points up an old problem.

CIVIL AUTHORITY

In the eyes of Senator Wherry, Acting Secretary of State Dean Acheson appears to have been guilty of a peculiarly heinous form of *lese majeste* — simply because he asserted civilian authority over the military. But the primacy of the civilian government is a cornerstone of this, or any other, republic. Generals occasionally need to be reminded of this fundamental fact. They are chosen to be executors of policy. But policy itself is far too important to entrust the determination of it to military minds.

General MacArthur's statement respecting the reduction of our occupation forces in Japan had the effect of prejudicing at once our foreign policy in the Far East and our demobilization policy at home. He has, as we observed in commenting upon his statement when it was issued, "made the future in the Far East uncertain and ominous, since so much depends upon him." Mr. Acheson, as the acting custodian of our foreign policy, simply clarified intentions which the general had unfortunately beclouded in respect to Japan. It is, as Senator Barkley said, "perfectly ridiculous" to assert that he has blackened the name of anybody. He has merely, very properly, put a general in his place.

We have no doubt that the Acting Secretary of State was speaking for the administration—that is, for the government of the United States—when he declared that we intend to foster economic and social change in Japan, though, in all the circumstances, it would have been better if the President had been as explicit as Mr. Acheson was. We should have won the war to very little purpose were we content to reap less as its reward. The world, for which we are acting as a trustee in Japan, is certainly entitled to a candid declaration of our purpose in this regard.

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