

● PSF

Germany: Hugh R. Wilson

March - Nov. 1938

PSF
Gowany; Wilson

file

Berlin, March 12, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

I wrote you a week ago about my first interview with the Reich Chancellor. I have subsequently had another talk with him on the occasion of Mr. Hoover's visit, but as we are preparing a formal despatch on this subject I will not go into detail.

In this second conversation I found his attitude much less strained, although it was far from being informal. There was an occasional attempt on his part at humorous exposition, usually in the form of ostensibly exaggerated statement. We discussed sociological and economic questions almost entirely, the only ideological one being that both Mr. Hoover and he were convinced that for his own country, without attempting to speak for the other, the present ideology was the best.

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The President,
The White House,
Washington.

I find that the Germans are apt to describe Hitler as an "artist" and, indeed, the word is applicable if we consider it in the sense of Ruskin: in the sense of a man who arrives at his decisions and undertakes his action largely through instinct rather than ratiocination. He is widely informed, of course. He could not manage this vast machine unless he were, but his reasoning, while making use of this knowledge, tends to justify an emotional concept.

As an example to illustrate what I have just said, Hitler was discussing housing accommodation. He gave the figures of housing needs as well as figures for the German achievement. This led him on to the work of the Party in endeavoring to give diversion and interest in life to the workman. He touched briefly on the excursions and various gymnasia, et cetera, and then spoke somewhat as follows:

"I feel so deeply on one subject as to be almost fanatical, and that is that men need not only food to put in their bellies, roofs over their heads, but a certain moral inner satisfaction, in order to be really productive and good citizens. I have tried to do those things which the State owes its people and to do them without being forced thereto by labor organizations, labor agitation, strikes, lock-outs and other forms of industrial conflict. As a result of this obligation of the State our workmen have remained happy, our production has enormously increased, our State income has doubled and wages have not been raised."

It seems to me that if we think of Hitler as the artist, it explains a great deal. It explains his uncanny ability to weigh chances, to estimate the extent of the reluctance on the part of the other states to intervene, to time his blows when the other states feel most impotent. In this matter of Austria he has picked out the moment when Schuschnigg's folly was generally recognized, when Italy had just started its negotiations with Great Britain and before they had reached conclusion, when France was without a government. His dramatic visit to the town of his birth and his own revelation of what it means to himself to come home in this connection - all seemed to me to be a revelation of some measure of artistic feeling. Bismarck would have weighed conditions in other countries. Bismarck would have taken advantage of Schuschnigg's attempt to call a plebiscite without preparation. Bismarck would never have been able, however, to make the personal appeal to the Germans and to the Austrian people that Hitler made in his speech at Linz.

These are immediate impressions and perhaps further study will modify them. I am merely attempting to give you a picture of how the scene looks from here.

The news of the march into Austria could not have come to me in more dramatic circumstances. My wife and I had been invited on Friday night, March 11th, to one of General Göring's gigantic parties. He gives them in the old Herrenhaus, which he has had done over in a form both garish and beautiful. In his ability to handle great shows he would strike envy to the hearts of any of our Hollywood directors. There was a huge orchestra from the opera, the best singers of Germany, the best dancers, gathered together, supper and wines were of superlative quality. We were at Göring's table. He entered late amid a blare of trumpets, followed by a burst of music from the orchestra. A fat, round figure in resplendent uniform with ~~the~~ striking, clean-shaven face, he strode around the room saluting and taking the salutes of everybody present. Like wildfire, rumors went around the room that the break into Austria had occurred. There was apparent on every German face a mighty satisfaction and intense pride of power, only mitigated by a certain apprehension as to what Great Britain would do about it. They had measured Italy and knew it would not act. They knew France would not act without a government. There remained, nevertheless, the incalculable mentality of Great Britain.

The

The show itself was given and was admirable. Göring talked to the ladies while this was going on. As soon as it was finished he seized the British Ambassador by the arm and disappeared. We only saw him again to say good night later in the evening.

I suppose every one in the room had in their consciousness the memory of the Ball of Brussels on the eve of Waterloo. The contrast of the brilliance of the entertainment with the gamble that was being undertaken made the whole political development the more striking and dramatic.

I am,

my dear Mr. President,

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "W. Wilson".

PSF: Germany; W

Wilson
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March 21, 1938.

Dear Hugh:-

That is a very interesting letter of yours. I am delighted to have that first impression. Write me if it is confirmed or altered by subsequent glimpses.

Always sincerely,

Honorable Hugh R. Wilson,
American Embassy,
Berlin,
Germany.

PSF

Germany; Wilson

Berlin, March 3, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

I have borne in mind your suggestion that when I met Hitler you would like to have me write you a letter about it. This I now set out to do, although the principal impression I carry away is the lack of drama in this exceedingly dramatic figure.

The protocol of presentation in Berlin is quite rigid. As I approached the President's House in the first car, followed by the staff in other cars, and accompanied by the Chief of Protocol, a detachment of soldiers bearing the regimental bell standard came to present arms, bugles sounded and the band began to play. I took the salute on the steps of the Palace, and we were then ushered into a large waiting room.

As I sat there I remembered the last time

I

The President,

The White House,

Washington.

I had visited the Palace when Ebert, a saddlemaker, was President, and how Ellis Dresel and I had been ushered directly into his workroom, where we munched black bread and drank beer while discussing matters with Ebert. This nation has certainly gone through kaleidoscopic changes in seventeen years.

Promptly at twelve the doors were thrown open and I was led into the room where Hitler was standing. Behind him, in a solemn row, were von Mackensen, von Ribbentrop and Meissner. Behind them again were several aides, among them Captain Wiedemann, who has recently been in Washington.

I read my speech and Hitler read his, whereupon he led me to a sofa behind a table. He sat on my left, then came von Ribbentrop, then Meissner, then von Mackensen. During the entire conversation the faces of the last three gentlemen never changed in expression, and Hitler and I carried on a conversation carefully listened to by three totally unresponsive and non-participating presences. Their unbroken gravity was such that it occurred to me that the scene might be reproduced if you, Mr. President, should receive a foreign representative in the
presence

presence of three Sumner Welles.

As you can imagine from these surroundings, the conversation did not attain any degree of informality, I am not certain as to how the Chancellor receives others, but I should say it had been planned to hold these proceedings on a strictly formal basis.

The Chancellor began by saying that he was very glad to meet me, as he thought it peculiarly happy that a man who already knew Germany had been sent here, a man who already spoke his language and could understand his people. He then paid me some compliments on my knowledge of German, of which he had not yet heard me speak more than a sentence.

I replied, in equally complimentary phrases, that it was a moment of great interest to me to meet a man who had pulled his people from moral and economic despair into the state of pride and evident prosperity which they now enjoyed. Hitler said that it was true that when the National Socialist Party had come in the people were in a state of despair. Everything had broken down through the reparations, debts, trade barriers, and finally the world financial havoc. Unemployment was of staggering proportions. The

National

National Socialist Party had accomplished some things of which he was proud. They had brought their nation to a point where unemployment was unknown, indeed they were suffering now from the contrary factor - a shortage of trained workmen. I remarked here that of the two it was certainly better for a nation to suffer from shortage of labor than from unemployment. Hitler continued and said they had not done everything they had hoped with their people, that there were many and difficult things still to do for them, but that they had, within Germany, restored confidence and eliminated the fear of Bolshevism, so the people could work in peace and freedom. I said that I hoped the day would soon come when all Europe could work in peace and freedom and without worrying about political matters and the threats to their peace.

Hitler then said that he had watched with interest the methods which you, Mr. President, have been attempting to adopt for the United States in facing some of the problems which were similar to the problems which he had faced when he assumed office. I said that in my short stay in Germany I had already noticed the similarity of some of the economic problems

problems with which you were attempting to grapple, and those which he had attacked, and in some cases solved. I added that you were very much interested in certain phases of the sociological effort, notably for the youth and workmen, which is being made in Germany, and that one of my first tasks would be to report to you on how these were being carried out.

Hitler then rose and said that he was at my disposition for matters affecting the relations between our two countries. He wished me welcome and then accompanied me to the next room where I presented my staff to him.

He was clad, as I was, in a dress suit, and wore only one Order, the Iron Cross. He is a more healthy looking man than I had anticipated, more solid, more erect, the complexion is pale, but there is more character in the face than I had anticipated from photographs. He speaks with a strong Austrian accent, but was quite easy to follow. He is a man who does not look at you steadily but gives you an occasional glance as he talks. His hands are fine, - artistic. In our conversation, at least, he was restrained and made no gestures of any kind. I had met and had a
talk

talk with Mussolini, and felt the astonishing charm of that man, as well as a vivid impression of force. I remember, when leaving Mussolini, I wished that I could invite him out to dinner and sit over a beer and talk things over with him. I had no such desire on leaving Hitler. If charm there was it lay in simplicity and directness of utterance, and a certain unwillingness, even after my compliment, to assume for himself the credit for the work which is being done.

These two weeks have been intensely interesting - and not the least interesting, in spite of the rather colorless conversation, was this talk with Hitler. The very negative nature of my impressions is surprising. I know I shall find this work of deep interest. It may often be unpleasant and difficult. I don't think it will ever be boring. I am deeply indebted to you, as I have told you before, for the opportunity of trying it out.

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "H. R. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.

*file
private*

*Memorandum
1*

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

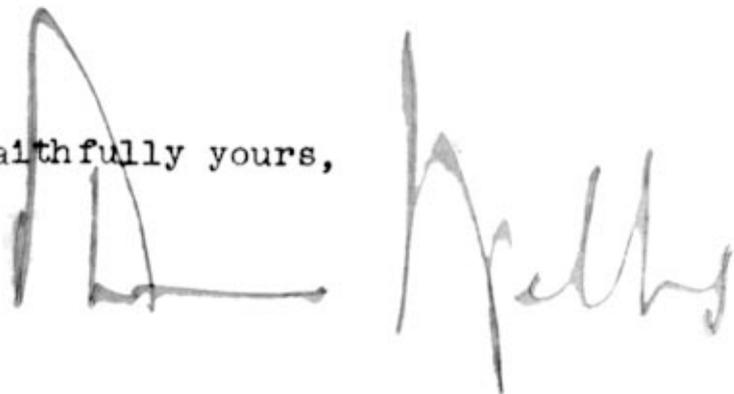
April 22, 1938

My dear Mr. President:

I believe you will be interested in this memorandum of Hugh Wilson's conversation with Goebbels which took place on March 22.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,



Enclosure:

Memorandum of
conversation.

The President,

The White House.

T-319

Enclosure No. 1 to despatch
No. 111, dated Mar. 23/38
from the American Embassy,
Berlin, Germany.

MEMORANDUM OF THE CONVERSATION WITH
RICH MINISTER OF PROPAGANDA DR. GOEBBELS.

Dr. Goebbels received me in his office at the Reichs Propaganda Ministerium at 1:00 o'clock on March 22.

He began the conversation by stating that he was very glad to meet me, as he had wanted for a considerable period to talk over matters with an American representative, that he was not at all satisfied with the press relations between the two countries. He said that he thoroughly understood the limitations upon the activity of our Government in its relations with the free Press; that he had called in men from the Foreign Office who knew America, in order to learn about this, and that he thought he thoroughly understood. There was obviously little that the Government could do in the matter with our Press. Nevertheless it was lamentable that this campaign of hatred should be carried on. He did not in any way expect that Germany would escape criticism, that it would escape misunderstanding, - indeed, it was inconceivable to him that writers in America should be sympathetic with present-day Germany because of the complete contrast of method by which the Government was acting. What he did not expect and what he deeply deplored, were wilful misstatements of fact, and slander and libel against the persons of the Reich Chancellor and those immediately around him. He said that the person of the Führer was venerated by every German. Indeed, he was going to use a word that would astonish my foreign ears, and

say

say that to the German there was something "heilig" about the Führer. Therefore the Germans deeply resented the personal attack upon him.

He continued by saying that he had kept out of the German Press nearly all of these attacks because he did not wish to see bitterness grow on bitterness and attack upon attack. The result of such tactics could only be a reiterated embittering of the situation, which might even be a latent cause of war. In any case, it was inconceivable that there could be any improvement in our cultural or economic relations until the press hatred was abated. To bring about this abatement was part of the program for a better general world understanding. He had kept out of attack, in spite of the personal temptation to retaliate in kind, especially on the slanderous attacks upon the person of the Führer, his designation as "bandit" and "robber," even when these attacks were directed against a man of the most unquestionable character and honesty of purpose. He said I was new in Germany, but he was sure that in the coming months I would have frequent opportunity to talk with and know the Führer, and I could not but be impressed with the singleness of purpose and the undeviating honesty of the man's character.

He said again he was glad to have this opportunity to talk matters over with me, because many people in Germany felt that relations with America were so bad through the Press hatred that there was no use trying to do anything about it. But he was not one of those and such a point of view was to him a stultifying

attitude.

attitude. He thought there were possibilities of making it better and believed that if we could work with some measure of confidence we could bring about an improved relationship.

I replied that before leaving Washington I had talked to Dieckhoff and we had analyzed together those things which stood in the way of better relationships between the United States and Germany; that in respect to one of our difficulties I had been happy to see shortly after my arrival that orders had been given that German citizens should not enter organizations in America, such as the America-Deutsch Bund, and analogous institutions. I said that I had received a letter from the Secretary by which I was informed that the Secretary had expressed to Dieckhoff his satisfaction over this matter. I believed that this step the Germans had taken could not fail to have a good effect.

I then said there was no use in blinking difficulties and the Minister's frankness encouraged me in responding with equal frankness. The most crucial thing that stood between any betterment of our Press relationship was the Jewish question. Thus if we were to work for better relationships we could not expect immediate results. Hatreds so deep as those which existed in my country on this question could not be mitigated in weeks or even months. It was a matter of years before such hatreds would lessen or be forgotten, and then only if new incidents did not give fresh fuel to the flames. I said that he was a

politician

politician and that I was a diplomat, and we were capable of saying, each one of us, that what took place within Germany was a matter for Germany and what took place within America was a matter for Americans. Indeed, I should be the first to contest that what took place within America concerned other people. Nevertheless it could not be expected that such objectivity would be felt by the mass of our population or by the writers.

Here Goebbels broke in and said that he had been a writer himself and he knew that every writer must show himself a better general than the commander-in-chief, a better painter than an artist, a better musician than an orchestra director, and, above all, a better politician than the chief of any country. This weakness on the part of writers was understandable and natural.

I replied that I had talked at considerable length with the American representatives here and that I felt that by and large they were a serious group of men trying to tell the truth as they saw it, but that after all the Minister must not forget that they were seeing it through American eyes and they were judging it from an American background.

Dr. Goebbels agreed with my estimate of the American correspondents and said that in respect to them he would never take stringent action against an American correspondent without talking over first with me what he intended to do and getting my views on the subject. I thanked him for this declaration

and

and said that I felt, as he did, that the way to avoid difficulties was to discuss them frankly before action and that I welcomed therefore what he had just said.

I continued on the matter of general relationships by saying that I had been much struck by noticing that it was much harder for the American people to be indifferent to what took place within Germany than it was even for the citizen of France or England, nations which had borne the brunt of the War. I felt that this arose from that Freudian complex by which deep affection which is shattered turns inevitably to hatred and not to indifference. Americans of my age and generation had been accustomed to see the best intellectuals in our country go to Germany for education in medicine, technical matters, arts, and so on; that thousands of houses, among them mine, had had German girls as governesses for the children, that ten thousands of families had German relatives. Thus the bonds between the two lands went so deep that we could not regard what happened in Germany with indifference. I said, if Dr. Goebbels wished to prove these relationships to his own satisfaction, he had only to summon a dozen of his collaborators and ask them each of the relationship they had with America. He was almost certain to find in every case that each of them had a cousin, a brother, an uncle, or some branch of his family established in our country in the past 100 years. The War had largely shattered this feeling of close contact and affection for Germany. In the
years

years succeeding the War much advance had been made in rebuilding this relationship, but it had again been shattered, primarily - I regretted to have to raise it again - by the Jewish question.

The Minister said that this was an entirely new and interesting point of view. Nevertheless it was startling to him to find the lack of comprehension of what was going on in Germany on the part of American travellers; that over and over again Americans with whom he talked had been astonished and said so when they saw the economic conditions of Germany, the normal life of its people and their satisfaction. It was unhappy that there was so little understanding on the part of the Americans for what took place in this land. I replied that I agreed with him that there was a large measure of misunderstanding and that I myself, although I had tried to study about Germany before I came, had learned a great deal since my arrival. However, I wanted to emphasize that the understanding between the countries must be mutual if it is to be of any use, and that the misunderstanding and ignorance in respect of my land in Germany was just as striking to an American as the misunderstanding of my people when they came here about Germany. I knew how beset were all public men in this country, how busy they were, nevertheless I hoped that they would find time to try to see what my country was driving at and what my President and Secretary of State were trying to accomplish.

Dr.

Dr. Goebbels said that he hoped it would some time become possible for responsible American Government officials to show at least their disapproval of the publication of lies. He pointed out that a question had been asked in the House of Commons at London about a report of 30,000 Germans landing to help Franco and the Prime Minister had replied that their reports were to the effect that there was not a word of truth in these rumors. Dr. Goebbels said that the German officials felt profoundly grateful for this statement of Chamberlain's, as it was a real indication that he was trying to better relations between the two countries.

In conclusion Dr. Goebbels reiterated his statement about talking over with me in advance any radical action respecting our press representatives and begged me to come to him freely when I wanted to talk over any matter. In return I told him that I hoped these relations could be bettered, that unless I cherished this hope I would not have come here, but that I feared that we had a difficult road in front of us and one which would take long and patient labor, if it could be achieved at all.

H.R.W.

Berlin, March 22, 1938.

HRW/hu

CA

This telegram must be closely paraphrased before being communicated to anyone (C)

BERLIN (PART AIR)

Dated April 29, 1938

Rec'd 9:50 a.m. May 1, 1938.

Secretary of State,

Washington.

212, April 29, 10 p.m.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~. In a conversation last night Goering raised the matter of helium. He spoke with deep emotion and bluntness. He said that every German felt that after the Hindenburg disaster and the engagement to permit the sale and export of helium which had been consented to, the reversal of policy could only mean deliberate unfriendliness on the part of the American Government. Relations between Germany and the United States had been brought to the lowest possible point and this over a matter of minor importance to both nations. He said "I cannot understand what leads a nation to earn the enmity of another over such a little thing". He declared to me with considerable solemnity that as chief of the air service he gave his word of honor that the helium would not be used for war purposes, indeed it would be too stupid to contemplate putting an airship into war service which could be shot down so readily. Germany, however, could not accept a control of its word of the honor. If it was impossible to get helium the German people would not forget America's attitude but it would not give up thereby the use of airships and would continue their old hydrogen.

WILSON

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confidential

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Berlin, May 2, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

I have had another interview in which I think you may be interested. I called on General Göring, both to get an opportunity to know the man and because he was the best man before whom to lay the question of American citizens in Vienna.

You know his appearance. It is a mobile face of an actor, with a gray complexion and a look of unhealthiness about it. The man is almost abnormal in the fatness of his figure built upon a powerful though rather short frame. The cartoonists of the world have made merry over his uniforms and medals, which he wears even on the most unofficial occasions. The cartoonists and writers have made jokes over this man, but however much fun has been poked at him, let no one deceive himself, this is a person. I got the impression of a man of iron will, ruthless determination, brutal frankness, and underneath it a certain likableness,

The President,

The White House,

Washington.

likableness, in spite of these far from endearing qualities. The vividness of the impact of his personality is in striking contrast with the soberness of the impact upon a visitor of the personality of Hitler.

After discussion of the situation in Vienna, during the course of which I had said that I knew him by reputation to be a man who loved direct speech, and in which I had done some very direct talking, he said that he in his turn was going to do some direct talking about HELIUM. He certainly did.

I have sent a telegram to the Department of a part of what he said about the helium matter. I did not, however, want to put into that kind of a paper my impression of the depth of his resentment, the force of the anger which he was holding in control while he spoke to me, and the really formidable nature of our conversation, even though, as I say, we neither of us raised our voices or lost our tempers. This man really believes that America must be counted among the enemies of Germany. He says that they have controlled their press here in spite of continuous and bitter provocation from the American press. He said, so discouraged were many of his friends over the relations
with

with America that, speaking in strictest confidence, they had been urging him to make trouble in America in retaliation through incitement of the German population. He had not permitted this, and didn't intend to permit it, and, indeed, recognized the folly of interference in a country so remote, but that I had evidence in what he told me of the resentment of the people around him against my country.

I saw at once that this was going to be a conversation in which I had one of two alternatives, either to lose my temper and begin to shout, or quietly and dryly to make brief replies and keep the affair on a footing where I could deal with him again when his temper had changed. I chose the latter course, and in reply to what he said above I merely remarked that such a policy was obviously shortsighted and I was glad that the Fieldmarshal himself recognized it.

I am not sending this as a memorandum of conversation, but merely to give you an impression of one of the foremost figures here with which I have to deal, and to give you an impression of the depth of feeling which has been caused by this helium incident, a feeling far out of proportion to the
importance

importance of the helium to their industry or national life, but a feeling aroused by their belief that we are falling down on an agreement which we have undertaken with them and are casting doubt upon their national honor.

In striking contrast to this conversation was one which I had a day later with Dr. Schacht. Schacht asked me to list the reasons for the intensity of the animosity being shown by the American people towards Germany. I did so very bluntly. Schacht said, "You have put the Jewish question first. Does that mean that in your opinion this is the most important problem in our relationship?" I replied that I believed this was so. Schacht then said: "How would it be if we guaranteed to every Jew the integrity of his property, made them leave the country, but allowed them to withdraw their property in its entirety over a period of years?" I replied that it was my personal opinion that this would do a lot to mitigate the hostility. Schacht nodded his head and said, "Well, we'll see."

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hugh R. Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed name.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 3, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

This is a difficult letter to answer. Here is a horseback thought.

The first question for determination is this: Is the Nuremberg Party Rally an official government celebration or a Party Convention? If the answer is that it is the first, our Ambassador can and should attend. If the answer is that it is a Party Rally or Convention, we come to the second point.

We should be guided by the action of Ambassadors in Washington. When they are invited by the President or the State Department to an opening of a World's Fair or the dedication of a monument or exercises at Arlington Cemetery, they obviously accept. But if they were invited by the President to go to a Convention of the Democratic Party or the Republican Party, I think they

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

-2-

should clearly find it impossible to attend. It is true that Ambassadors in Washington often go to party conventions but they go without invitation from the President, the Secretary of State or even the Chairman of the national party. They go merely as voluntary spectators looking for fun or fireworks, or because it is socially "the thing to do." In any of these cases they go in their private capacities and not as Ambassadors.

What do you think I should reply?

F. D. R.

Letter from Hugh R. Wilson, Berlin.

Hugh Wilson - 1938

June 10, 1938.

My dear Hugh:

The question raised in your letter to me of May 12 is an important one. If the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg can be properly regarded as merely a political party meeting, such as the Democratic or Republican National Conventions in the United States, it seems quite clear that you should not attend the meeting.

However, the State Department tells me that last September the formal invitation to the diplomatic corps in Berlin to attend the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg was issued by the Chancellor of the German Reich and was transmitted through the German Foreign Office, and that, with the exception of four chiefs of mission (of whom only two failed to attend because of political considerations), all of the chiefs of mission were present. I am further informed that for internal purposes the Nazi Party and the State in Germany are one by virtue of the law of December 1, 1933, which provides that "the National-Socialist Labor Party has become the organ of the State policy and is indissolubly united with the State".

In view of these facts, it would seem to be definitely established that the Nazi Party Congress is an official Government celebration. If you coincide in this interpretation and if you are officially invited, I think you should attend.

I think you are doing very well in very difficult times.

Believe me

Yours very sincerely,

The Honorable ²⁶⁵²₁₁₇₄₁₅₇
Hugh Wilson,
American Ambassador,
Berlin.

76/8/38

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 8, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR
THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you be good enough to
prepare the reply?

F. D. R.

Letter from Hon. Hugh Wilson, Embassy of
the United States of America, Berlin,
Germany, 5/12/38, and letter from
Mr. Sumner Welles, State Dept., 6/7/38.
(Copy of Mr. Welles' letter retained in
our files. In re attendance of our
Ambassador at the Nuremberg Party Rally.

—
x n.c.

June 7, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

With reference to your memorandum of June 3 with which you sent me a letter you had received from Hugh Wilson under date of May 12, the Secretary and I are entirely in accord with the views expressed in your memorandum.

You say in the first paragraph of your memorandum, "The first question for determination is this: Is the Nuremberg Party Rally an official government celebration or a Party Convention? If the answer is that it is the first, our Ambassador can and should attend."

In determining the question whether the Nuremberg Party Rally is an official government celebration, the following facts appear to be established. Last September the formal invitation to the Diplomatic Corps in Berlin to attend the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg was issued by the Chancellor of the German Reich and transmitted through the German Foreign Office. As a matter of interest in this connection, the conference

The President,

The White House.

was attended by all chiefs of mission excepting the Nuncio, the Soviet Ambassador, the Norwegian Minister (due to difficulties over the awarding of the Nobel Prize in 1936), and the Peruvian Minister (due to the Minister's illness).

For internal purposes the Nazi Party and the State in Germany are one by virtue of a law of December 1, 1933, which provides that "the National-Socialist Labor Party has become the organ of the State policy and is indissolubly united with the State".

In view of these facts, it would seem to be the case that the Nazi Party Congress in Nuremberg is actually an official government celebration and is so held by the present German Government.

Do you wish us to draft a suggested letter for you to send to Hugh Wilson in reply to his letter of May 12, or do you want to dictate personally the instructions you wish to send him?

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

Enclosure:
From Hugh R. Wilson,
May 12, 1938.

Berlin, May 12, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

The question of my attendance at the Nuremberg Party Rally early in September has been giving me some thought. As you remember, Mr. Dodd never attended, but the Chargé d'Affaires, Mr. Gilbert, attended last year in Mr. Dodd's absence; also last year, for the first time, the French and British Ambassadors attended. I should personally like to attend and would not consider myself any the less a firm believer in democracy for looking upon the evidences of an autocracy. It would also be a good opportunity to get to know a lot of men who are not very accessible in the Capital. On the other hand I realize that my presence might be embarrassing to you, if I were subject to attack in the American press for attending the rally.

My

The President,

The White House,

Washington.

My boy from Yale spends the summer with us and I could have a good excuse for sailing home with him about the 1st of September if you think it advisable to miss the rally. I am writing thus early about it because of the difficulty of getting accommodation on boats at that time of year. If you see no particular objection to my attending the rally I shall not visit the United States until perhaps late in November.

I should appreciate it very much if you could have a telegram sent to me giving me the benefit of your views on this matter.

I shall of course take up this matter with Mr. Hull in due course, but should much appreciate your advice if possible before that.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Woodrow Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed closing of the letter.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

June 16, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Will you speak to me
about this at your convenience?

F. D. R.

Letter of June 2, 1938 from Ambassador Hugh R. Wilson in re protest against the decree making obligatory the registration of all property held by Jews, even when those Jews are foreigners.

P.F. ←
Reference: 2/15/38

Berlin, August 11, 1938

Dear Mr. President:

I am transmitting herewith the report prepared by Mr. Beam of this Embassy on the movement in this country known as "Kraft durch Freude" or "Strength through Joy". While voluminous, the document is of considerable interest. I have talked to Dr. Robert Ley and other Directors of the movement, and put Mr. Beam in touch with them. He has done a lot of hard and effective work in getting up this paper.

If I can so appraise it, I should say that the main force behind this movement is the conception that in an industrial state wages can never be adequate to give to the workman that sense of pride, self-respect and comradeship which will make him cooperate effectively and enthusiastically
in

The President,
The White House,
Washington.

in the development of his country. From this conception flows the belief that the state has an obligation to make the life of the workman richer and fuller. The leaders of the movement are convinced that this is not a conception of philanthropy or charity, but one which gives tangible results in the abolition of class feeling and the growth of common purpose between employer and employee.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Woodrow Wilson".

Enclosure:

Report

SUMMARY OF REPORT
ON
STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

General Organization

Strength through Joy is the workers' recreational organization of the German Labor Front, the national union of employers and workers which before the accession of Austria possessed about 20,000,000 members. All members, including persons belonging to a number of professional organizations affiliated with the Labor Front (which thus embraces every "Aryan" employed person in Germany), may in theory benefit from Strength through Joy, although in practice the maximum privileges are reserved for persons earning no more than RM 300 (if single) or RM 400 (if married) per month.

The organization of Strength through Joy is based on that of the Labor Front, there being a Reich bureau, 32 Gau bureaus, and innumerable smaller local offices. In each factory one of the workers serves as the agent, or point of contact between the rest of the workers and Strength through Joy activities. Strength through Joy has 38,000 paid officials and over a million other collaborators who give their services free.

The organization is divided functionally into the following offices, each representing a particular form of activity:

- (1) Office for Travel, Hiking, and Vacation.
- (2) Office for "Beauty of Work."
- (3) Sport Office
- (4) Office for Leisure Time.
- (5) Office for Popular Education.

Travel and Vacations

The Office for Travel, Hiking and Vacations arranges trips and excursions for workers at between one-fourth and one-fifth of the normal price. The classes of journeys offered and the way in which Strength through Joy deals with the railways, hotel keepers, and private enterprises is discussed in detail in the report. All German workers have the right by law to annual paid vacations and it is estimated that in 1937 Strength through Joy trips attracted over 10,000,000 participants, the shorter trips being particularly well patronized. Strength through Joy owns five ocean-going ships (including two luxurious vessels built to its specifications), charters six more, and possesses as well a vast bulk of other facilities in its own busses, vacation villas and a giant sea bath for 20,000 workers

now being built on Rügen.

The writer made one of the shorter trips to Helgoland and while this proved very strenuous indeed, everyone seemed to have a good time. The organization was perfect and there was no propaganda on the part of the sponsors, although it was noted that many of the "white collar" employee travellers were confirmed supporters of National Socialism.

Beauty of Work

Through the department called "Beauty of Work," Strength through Joy concerns itself with the workers' welfare within as well as outside of the factory. Plant owners are persuaded (sometimes under Party pressure) to improve working conditions by providing safety devices, better light in the factory, new canteens, and larger and cleaner changing rooms, by beautifying the factory's premises, and so forth. Strength through Joy claims to have been responsible for a total expenditure of over RM 600 million up to 1938 on the improvement of working conditions. In addition, a campaign is being run to beautify German villages by the removal of dump heaps and unsightly signs and by the laying out of parks and pavements, and so forth.

Sport

For the promotion of national health, Strength through Joy encourages the participation of workers in sport beyond the time when they might normally cease to have opportunities for bodily exercise. The organization induces factories to build or hire sport fields and arrange competitions, and itself offers numerous sport courses for which the fees vary between 20 and 40 pfennigs per one and a half-hour period of instruction. Strength through Joy employs about 1,500 instructors and it is training a large number of younger workers to serve as its own sport teachers. It is estimated that in 1937 about 8,000,000 workers took part in Strength through Joy sports.

Leisure Time

The organization of leisure time is cared for by two offices, that for Leisure Time proper and that for Popular Educational Work.

An inquiry having shown that only a small percentage of workers had attended the theater or opera, Strength through Joy started a "back to the theater" movement. The organization owns two theaters in Berlin and one each in Breslau and Munich where plays and operas are offered at between 75 pfennigs and RM 1 (including the checking of hats and coats).

In addition, Strength through Joy also hires theaters and artists, arranges its own concerts, amateur broadcasts, cabaret shows, motion pictures, fashion shows, community singing, costume festivals, and so forth. It also encourages amateur musicians, painters and sculptors to form groups for the pursuit of their hobbies. In 1937 the Office sold over 29 million tickets for evening entertainments.

Popular Educational Work

Strength through Joy popular educational work would seem to be one-half "real learning" and one-half propaganda. As part of the first, a worker may learn foreign languages, amateur photography, may take lessons in music, painting or sculpture for the price of about 40 pfennigs per hour. As part of the latter (which is called "national political teaching"), he may listen to lectures on German history, national and world problems, all taught in the light of present-day National Socialist doctrine. The popular educational work is carried out partly within the factories themselves (with over 2 million participants in 1937) and partly in "popular educational stations" (with over a million participants). Teachers are hired at nominal sums or are recruited from Party

and

and government agencies. To promote comradeship, workers are taken on inspection tours of plants other than their own. The Office also arranges art lectures and visits to museums and by thus stimulating interest and appreciation, hopes to repair the artistic deficiency with which National Socialism has often been taxed.

Strength through Joy Car

On the basis of a grant from the Labor Front, Strength through Joy is building a large factory for the manufacture of a "people's car" which may be bought for RM 990 by payment on an installment plan costing a minimum of RM 5 per week. Orders for the car have just now been opened. At the end of 1939, 30,000 cars will be finished and it is planned in about eight years' time from now eventually to increase production to one and a half million. While it is claimed that the car will be within the reach of the ordinary worker and will bring about an even wider motorization than in the United States, some doubt is cast upon the immediate fulfillment of this claim, it being perceived by certain competent German authorities that owing to current wage scales the car will probably first be bought by the employee and higher paid skilled-worker class group and may only find its

way

way in the course of time down to the ordinary worker through the second-hand car market.

Finances

In 1937, Strength through Joy had a total income from money collected of RM 107,000,000 which, it is asserted, covered all expenses except for RM 35,000,000, this deficit being met by a subsidy from the Labor Front which has become one of the richest organizations in Germany. It is stated that the overland journeys are the only form of activity which completely meets costs, the other departments incurring in greater or less degree charges against the general budget. It is estimated roughly that last year German economy profited by a turnover of RM 120,000,000 from Strength through Joy, representing money spent on trips, travel equipment, and extras.

Final Evaluation

Despite the incidental costs placed upon the employers, many of the latter endorse Strength through Joy because, in their view: (1) it is a factor making for industrial peace; (2) as a result of the new demands being made on labor, some such

device for recreation is necessary; (3) the benefits it offers could only be afforded by an organization operating on a nation-wide scale.

With respect to private enterprises working for Strength through Joy, some hotel keepers have criticized the organization on the ground that it causes great inconvenience to their staffs and keeps away better paying tourists. On the other hand, Strength through Joy asserts that it has opened up little visited regions and has prolonged the normal tourist season by several months.

As regards the workers themselves, many seem to have held aloof from Strength through Joy in the past, believing that the trips were too strenuous and overcrowded. It seems that now a greater variety of excursions is offered to appeal to individual taste, in particular to persons desiring rest. . The long excursions are apparently still beyond the means of ordinary workers, which would seem to show that low as the prices are, and although adapted to the situation of the lower middle-classes, Strength through Joy has not yet succeeded in extending its maximum travel benefits to the ordinary worker. Various devices, such as raffles or free trips paid by the employer, do not solve the difficulty.

In conclusion, Strength through Joy has become a great national force: (1) by virtue of the money it has put into circulation; (2) by promoting

national unity by exchanges of visits between provincial peoples; (3) by playing a role in industrial relations; and (4) by serving as a vehicle for National Socialist propaganda, particularly in its educational work. The National Socialists claim that by giving the worker tried and tested entertainment they offer him a greater value than he would receive from a wage increase which he might spend foolishly. They also emphasize the part Strength through Joy is playing in creating a new relationship between the industrial workers and the community based on mutual benefits and responsibilities.

The success of Strength through Joy seems to be due to the Party organization and authority which facilitates its operation, and to the nature of the German masses who are gregarious and who have never been offered similar opportunities for vacation travel. A similar movement instituted in a more individualistic environment might have to be kept free from the tinge of "proletarianism."

THE GERMAN WORKERS' RECREATIONAL ORGANIZATION,
STRENGTH THROUGH JOY.

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General Introduction

The recreational organization known as Strength through Joy (Kraft durch Freude) is an institution of which National Socialist Germany is intensely proud. The organization is already known abroad for its more spectacular accomplishments such as the building of giant cruise ships for workers, but perhaps the feature which is most remarkable to anyone who has made a study of its work is the vast range and variety of its activities. In short, it may be said that there

can

can hardly be anybody to whom it does not offer something of interest.

If a worker does not care for, or has not the means to pay for, the more expensive sea voyages, he may make a cheaper railway or bus excursion to the mountains or to some part of Germany he has not seen. Country people naturally choose trips to the big cities. Hiking tours are offered the most robust. A person indeed may not wish to go anywhere but may prefer instead to take advantage of the sport facilities which include lessons in golf, tennis, skiing, swimming, etc. A beneficiary of Strength through Joy is enabled to enjoy grand opera, concerts of the best state orchestras, and to attend the latest plays within a week or so after they have been put on. If he is young and ambitious he may learn, without recourse to a correspondence school, stenography, accounting, drawing, foreign languages, or other subjects that may help him in his career. The artistically inclined may be attracted by factory art exhibits, museum tours and special lectures, whereas those craving for artistic self-expression may take lessons in singing or acting, or instruction on an accordion or mouth-organ. Popular courses in German history or literature are offered and encouraged (and although these subjects are treated strictly along National Socialist political and propagandistic lines they seem to satisfy the urge toward self-education); while persons with esoteric tastes may indulge them in

courses in tap-dancing, wood carving or crazy-quilt patching. Finally, if a person is so disgruntled or otiose as to have no interest in the entertainment program of Strength through Joy, he may unwittingly benefit by an improvement in working conditions in his factory, for this also is one of the subjects which falls within the sphere of the organization.

The stated purpose of Strength through Joy is to furnish the German workman with the opportunity of spending his vacations and leisure time in an enjoyable and inspiring way, thus helping him to gather strength to fulfill his work and duties cheerfully. Spokesmen for the National Socialist Party claim that it has a still deeper significance which is, namely, to introduce the worker into those fields of culture and recreation which formerly he was only privileged to view from afar as if a spectator on a fence (Zaungast). They point out that formerly a worker was wont to insult on the street persons going to the opera or on their way to play tennis, but now on the other hand he spares his words knowing that the same privileges are vouchsafed him through Strength through Joy. It is said that this institution is the embodiment of a true socialism which instead of inciting to class struggle or class feeling seeks rather to overcome it. In private conversation, Dr. Ley, the head of the Labor Front which operates Strength through Joy, has explained that

it is impossible for German industry to offer higher wages without harming German economy, and that therefore the National Socialist government sees its duty in offering the worker a fuller and higher real standard of living and enjoyment, which it does in Strength through Joy. At the conclusion of this report, and after a survey has been presented of its manifold activities, an evaluation will be given of the broader significance and results of Strength through Joy, particularly in relation to these statements. It is perhaps sufficient to say at this juncture that Strength through Joy is becoming an increasingly powerful sociological force which is playing an unquestioned role in the evolution of labor relationships and in the second place is promoting national political unity by indoctrinating the people with the principles of the National Socialist Party and by gradually extinguishing regional differences.

THE PARENT ORGANIZATION, THE LABOR FRONT, AND
THE RANGE OF BENEFICIARIES OF STRENGTH THROUGH JOY.

Strength through Joy is the recreational division of the German Labor Front, the vast national union of workers and employers which was established to supplant the separate employers' associations and labor unions dissolved in 1933. In November of that year, Dr. Ley, the leader of the Labor Front, was entrusted by Chancellor Hitler with the tasks of providing the working men with better vacations and of organizing their leisure time. Following the rapid development of the Labor Front and its extension into every factory and village in the country, it was possible to begin the operation of Strength through Joy as early as April 1934. The utility, or what might be called the mission, of Strength through Joy has in the meantime been enhanced by the fact that during the last four years the National Socialist Government has succeeded in introducing by law a system of paid vacations whereby workers and employees, according to their trade and length of service, receive vacations lasting from a week to three weeks each year.

With respect to precedents, it would appear that despite the advanced labor standards which have always prevailed in Germany, opportunities for entertainment were not made available on the same gigantic scale before the National Socialists came to power, although certain cities offered theater, opera and concerts to the worker at low prices, and although it is understood that some of the former trade unions ran educa-

tional

tional and training courses for their members, fashioned after a different pattern, however, from those now open to the public. While Strength through Joy had a model in the Italian workers' recreational organization, Dopolavoro, it appears to have far outstripped the latter in the variety and extent of its work. A comparison with the Soviet Russian recreational system is rejected by the National Socialists on the ground that this is operated by the State which chooses the workers to be favored and assumes practically the entire cost of their vacation trips.

As regards the development of Strength through Joy, its guiding genius is said to be Dr. Ley himself who in addition to his many other duties has taken the time to organize and invent ever new programs. The present head of the Strength through Joy division is Dr. Lafferentz, who has held that position for about a year.

At the end of 1937 and before Austria* was brought into the Reich, the Labor Front possessed about 18,120,000 members, all of whom were nominally entitled to profit in some way or another from Strength through Joy. Many enterprises other than the purely industrial undertakings are incorporated in the Labor Front, the various Fachämter, which correspond roughly to individual unions, including associations of retailers, merchants, hotel servants, etc. A large number of professional groups are also affiliated with the Labor Front, membership in any one of the following carrying with it also membership in the Labor Front: Reich League of German

Officials

* The Labor Front is in the process of being built up in Austria, and Strength through Joy has already begun operating on a limited scale among the Austrian workers.

Officials, National Socialist Teachers League, National Socialist Lawyers League, Reich Doctors League, Reich Association of German Dentists, Reich Association of German Druggists, etc. Up until now the Reich Culture Chamber, with its seven subordinate chambers of music, plastic art, the theater, authors, the press, radio broadcasting and the film, has not been affiliated with the Labor Front but its individual members are entitled to participate in Strength through Joy upon individual application and against payment of a small surcharge amounting to about 30 pfennigs for each ticket. The same arrangement also applies to farm workers who are comprised in the Reichnährstand, or Reich Agricultural Estate. The Labor Service and the armed forces were at one time associated with Strength through Joy but more recently the authorities of these bodies have decided to make their own arrangements for the recreation of the youths in their charge. As a general rule young people up to the age of 18 are not permitted to take part in Strength through Joy excursions inasmuch as the State youth organizations to which they belong have their own system of summer camps and hiking tours.

Theoretically, all members of the Labor Front, together with the affiliated groups named above, which in sum total would include every "Aryan" German man and woman engaged in a trade or profession, are entitled to participate in the activities of Strength through Joy. Whether or not the member, be he employer or worker, decides to take advantage of this privilege

privilege, he in a sense pays for it anyway inasmuch as the membership dues which he is assessed for the Labor Front go to the general funds of that organization, which in turn pays a certain amount toward the upkeep of Strength through Joy. In view of the fact that the essential aim of Strength through Joy is to afford persons vacations and pleasures which they would not otherwise be in a position to enjoy, the maximum benefits are restricted to an income class. On the other hand there is no rigidly fixed standard in this respect, the criterion being a matter of practice which is modified slightly in accordance with divergent living conditions in various parts of the country. In Berlin, which is classed as a high cost of living district, the following have been set as the maximum income limits entitling persons to benefit from the lowest uniform Strength through Joy rates: for single persons, an income of 300 * marks a month; for married persons, 400 marks per month; and for married couples with one child, 450 marks per month.

On the other hand, persons with higher incomes are not denied participation in Strength through Joy activity. They are admitted against payment of an additional contribution which is computed in such a manner that those whose earnings are above the maximum limit are charged 10 per cent of the

amount

* at the official par rate
RM 1 = \$0.4011

amount by which their income exceeds the maximum rate, plus the usual price for participation. For instance, a single person with a monthly income of 400 marks who wishes to take part in a Strength through Joy trip costing 50 marks according to schedule, would be obliged to pay 50 marks plus 10 per cent of 100 marks - the amount by which his income exceeds the maximum limit of 300 marks - or a total of 60 marks. As stated before, these schedules are not rigid and a young girl, for instance, with a secretarial job who lives at home with her family, who in turn are well-to-do, would be required to pay a surcharge even though her income did not exceed 300 marks per month. In the last analysis questions of this nature are decided by the local offices of the Labor Front.

The surplus charges are used for the purpose of giving trips gratuitously to impecunious but deserving workmen or for allowing them a subsidy towards paying for a holiday journey. In this manner the payment of an extra charge enables persons with higher incomes to take part, whereas by rigid rules of exclusion both would have to forego the benefit. Naturally, however, the great majority of the participants belong to the class whose incomes are below the maximum rates.

Individual factories adopt various policies with respect to the granting of free trips to their

workers.

workers. While some pay for a certain number of trips outright (Strength through Joy authorities estimate that last year some 60,000 trips were given altogether free), other employers insist that the impecunious worker at least pay a portion of the price. Still other factories operate what is known as a "pfennig fund." By general agreement all workers and employees contribute to a special fund odd pfennigs over the mark sum of their weekly salaries, the accumulated money going to pay for trips for a number of workers chosen each year by lot. In large factories employing over a thousand people considerable amounts are collected in this way and it is said that the workers willingly make this small sacrifice to enable their less fortunate fellows to profit from Strength through Joy.

ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE OF STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

Strength through Joy is a semi-autonomous division, called Gemeinschaft Kraft durch Freude, within the German Labor Front. Its supreme authority is a Reich, or national, Board composed of the heads of the various departments of Strength through Joy. Its regional structure follows that of the Labor Front which in turn reflects the regional divisions of the National Socialist Party. In each of the 32 Gaue (which composed Germany before the accession of Austria) there is a Gau Board of Strength through Joy headed by a Cauwart. The division is carried down further to the Kreis authorities (corresponding to the government administrative districts, or Kreise) and to the Ortsverwaltung, or local authorities (corresponding to the small townships or sections of large cities). The Kreis and Ortsverwaltung authorities for Strength through Joy work in the local offices of the Labor Front and, depending upon the volume of work, sometimes also perform other duties for the Labor Front. The lowest but most important units of the organization are the innumerable Betriebswärte who serve in the individual factories as the points of contact between the mass of the workers and Strength through Joy activities.

There are 708 Kreise, or sub-districts, in the old Reich territory, and 20,326 Ortsverwaltungen. The Reich and Gau authorities are for the most part paid permanent officials, as are also certain lower officials charged with special duties. Many of the Kreis workers and most of the local helpers on the other hand serve in an honorary capacity, their work being credited to them as service rendered the Party. The Betriebswärte receive no money from Strength through Joy but inasmuch as they are at the same time the representatives of the Labor Front in their factories they are company-paid employees who devote most of their time to the affairs of the Labor Front. The number of paid officials in the Strength through Joy organization is given as 38,000 while the number of voluntary local workers, including the Betriebswärte, totals 1,122,000.

The vertical organization as described above is divided functionally into special offices, each of which deals with a particular kind and sphere of activity of Strength through Joy. The five sections may be listed as follows:

- (1) Office for Travel, Hiking and Vacation.
- (2) Office for "Beauty of Work."
- (3) Office for Sport.
- (4) Office for Leisure Time.
- (5) Office for Popular Education.

Each of these offices has a large staff of officials in the central headquarters of the organization in Berlin. In addition there is an office

for press and propaganda matters.

The regional, or Gau, offices of Strength through Joy are subdivided into these sections. Each district, or Kreis, office has a Referent, or special official, dealing with one or more of the five listed activities. The latter in turn give instructions to, and keep in touch with, the lower Ortsverwaltung officials and the Betriebswärte in the individual factories.

Salaries of the paid permanent officials of Strength through Joy are definitely very low, the younger unmarried officials receiving, for instance, between RM 200 and RM 250 per month. One of the writer's informants, a middle-aged married official with fairly advanced rank, stated that he was paid RM 550 per month. Most of the officials are National Socialist Party members of long standing who were given permanent employment with the Party after it came to power. Despite the comparatively low salaries and the long hours of work frequently demanded of them, the great majority of these officials display a remarkable enthusiasm, particularly the younger (and less well paid) who, as has been found to be the case with many of the young Party workers, seem to be inspired with some of the Messianic zeal of their leaders.

THE PROCEDURE OF INFORMING THE WORKERS CONCERNING
THE VARIOUS ACTIVITIES

In its practical operation, Strength through Joy is exceedingly simple. The Gau office publishes each month, and puts on sale for either 5 or 10 pfennigs, a program of the attractions offered, listed under the section in charge of each form of activity, such as sport, leisure time, travel, etc. These programs in each case are drawn up with special reference to the financial capacity of the population of the Gau and their general preferences, personal tastes and inclinations. In vacation matters an inland or mountain Gau, for instance, would put particular emphasis upon sea voyages, while the populations of an agricultural, flat country might wish to make excursions to big cities or to the mountains. Moreover, special kinds of lectures which would prove suitable for city workers would hold no attraction for country people. Incidentally, considerable variety may be noted in the format of the various programs, those drawn up for provincial regions assuming the aspect of a kind of magazine in which skits and elementary political propaganda are interpolated, while those distributed for the more sophisticated city dwellers are much more businesslike and are restricted to the lists of attractions offered.

After

After thumbing over one of the monthly programs a worker will then go to the Betriebswart if his plant and inform him that he would like to take this or that excursion, or go to a performance at the theater or opera next week. The Betriebswart will then go to the local, or Ortsverwaltung, office of Strength through Joy, will hand in his list of total applicants, and in a few days will receive the necessary tickets, or Gutscheine (certificates) which he will then distribute to the workers against payment of the necessary money. Further details of the actual operation of Strength through Joy will be brought out in the discussion of its spheres of activity, which will now be undertaken.

THE OFFICE FOR TRAVEL, HIKING, AND VACATIONS

The planning of workers' vacations is the activity with which Strength through Joy has achieved its most spectacular success and widest renown, and consequently the office which concerns itself with these matters is the largest of all the sub-divisions. Indeed, as a travel organization Strength through Joy is perhaps only rivaled by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in the extent of its disposition over, and ownership of, ships, hotels and transportation facilities.

Classes of Excursions Offered

As an introduction, a list will be given of the various kinds of trips offered, illustrated in each case by a series of excursions open to a worker residing in Berlin. The list given hereunder presents only a partial picture even of the opportunities for travel afforded the Berlin worker, and to obtain an idea of the vast travel traffic of Strength through Joy, it must be realized that each of the 31 other Gau bureaus in the Reich has similar programs.

(1) Short

(1) Short Afternoon or Day Excursions by Motor Bus or Rail. Trips of this type are exceedingly popular and account for almost two-thirds of the travel business operated by Strength through Joy. They are run to a nearby spot offering something worth seeing, such as a castle, a game preserve, a Zeppelin hangar, or a ship's lock, and it is usually contrived that the buses shall stop at some place where there will be dancing or swimming or walks through the woods.

In June of this year the following trips were advertised for instance in Berlin: Saturday afternoon 1:30 - 10 p.m., "summer festival" on a river steamer, music on board, price RM 2.50. All day Sunday 9:30 a.m. - 11 p.m., by bus to the Spreewald (80 kilometers from Berlin), price RM 6, including luncheon and a boat trip on the river. Innumerable other trips of the same nature were also made.

(2) Weekend Trips By Motor Bus or Rail. Much the same as those described above, extending from Saturday afternoon until midnight Sunday. The price usually includes fare, lodging and admission fees to historical monuments, etc. From Berlin the trips may go to the Harz Mountains (RM 18.50); Thuringia and the Kyffhäuser Mountain (RM 18); a tour of provinces on the Polish border (RM 16.50); and so forth.

(3) Bus or Rail Trips with Hiking, Paddle Boat or Bicycle Tours. These excursions vary in length, sometimes taking place over the weekend

and

and sometimes lasting as much as a week or ten days. The parties, comprising between 10 and 15 members, are conveyed by bus or train to a particular locality from which they start out on their tours under the direction of a guide, stopping at hotels or hostels overnight. At a certain fixed destination they are met by bus or take the train home. Participants bring their own bicycles or collapsible boats if they choose this form of excursion. The price includes incidental fares, guides' fees, and lodging. From Berlin hiking tours visit the Harz or Saxon mountains (two weeks at a price of RM 60); or Mecklenburg (two weeks for RM 50). Three-day bicycle excursions are arranged for the Spreewald or for Mecklenburg (price RM 12.50). A week's tour of the surrounding lakes by paddle boat costs RM 25.

(4) Extended Overland Excursions Lasting A Week Or More. These excursions take the worker far and wide, as is illustrated by the list of places henceforth to be given. The special trains usually leave Berlin late in the evening, the travellers sitting up all night in third class carriages until they reach their destination during the following day. There they are put up at small town inns or in private houses. All visitors to the Rhine

make

make the famous river journey by boat.

The following are some of the tours offered the Berlin worker: Upper Bavaria, 7 days, RM 41; the Mosel River district, 7 days, RM 43.50; the Rhine, 7 days, RM 40.50; East Prussia, 14 days, RM 42; a Baltic coast seaside resort, 7 days, RM 31.50; 14 days, RM 50.50; a North Sea resort, 21 days, RM 89.50; the Black Forest, 10 days, RM 52; the Austrian Tyrol, 14 days, RM 68.50; Salzburg and Zell am See, 16 days, RM 70.50.

(5) Long Sea Voyages By Strength through Joy Steamers. The extended ocean voyages of Strength through Joy have until now followed three standard itineraries: cruises to Madeira and through the Mediterranean being offered in winter, and a Norwegian cruise in summer. In season all Strength through Joy ships are employed on these journeys. During the present year, however, two special voyages have also been made: a trip on the new WILHELM GUSTLOFF (on which a limited number of workers were taken) to Gravesend to receive on board German residents in England who wished to vote in the national plebiscite of April 10; and a voyage, conveying a number of workers and officials of the Strength through Joy organization, to Rome in July for the Third World Congress on Leisure Time and Recreation.

The following details may be given concerning the standard voyages, the prices in each instance being those which a worker from Berlin would be required to pay:

To Madeira, 16 days, RM 120.-; stop-overs of two days at Lisbon and Funchal on Madeira.

The Mediterranean cruise, 18 days, RM 150.-; touching at Genoa, Naples, Palermo, Venice (one cruise last year went as far as Tripoli), Gibraltar and Lisbon.

The Norway, or North Capes cruise, 7 days, RM 55. No landings are made after the ships leave Hamburg.

Statistical View of Strength Through Joy Travel.

There is given below a statistical survey furnished by the Office for Travel, Hiking and Vacations, regarding the sum total of its activities.

It is stated that the number of participants in Strength through Joy trips has grown successively as follows during the past four years: In 1934, 2 million participants; in 1935, 3 million; in 1936, 6 million; and in 1937, 10 million. These figures refer to participants of all kinds and include people who may have made several journeys a year. The following is the division according to income class: 30% of the participants had a monthly wage of RM 100 or less; 35%, RM 100 - RM 150; 29%, RM150 - RM 250; and only 6%, RM 250 or more. Although no exact estimates are available, it is said that with respect to the sea voyages about 60% of the travellers belong to the employee or white-collar class, while the land excursions are made up in almost equal proportions of employees and everyday workers.

In 1937 Strength through Joy arranged 158 sea voyages, carrying in all about 150,000 passengers. During this period 137 trips, comprising 140,000 passengers, were made to Norway, 3 to Madeira, with 2,500 passengers, and 18 through the Mediterranean and to Italy, with 30,000 passengers. The Norway cruise provides for no stop-overs, but some 10

landings

landings were made on the Madeira trip, in Lisbon and Funchal, while on the Mediterranean cruise some 220 landings were made, mostly at Italian ports.

In 1937 Strength through Joy offered some 230,500 land journeys which were patronized by over 9 1/2 million travellers. About 4,500 special trains were utilized by Strength through Joy. As mentioned above, approximately 2/3 of these trips were of the short week-end variety, the other third being longer trips of a week or more. About 50,000 hiking tours, led by over 15,000 guides, were arranged with some million and a half participants. While precise figures are lacking, it is stated that about one million workers took advantage last year of the winter sport vacations arranged by the Office for Travel in collaboration with the Sport Office of Strength through Joy. As regards the Rhine journeys, last year some 400,000 workers in all made the river trip by steamer. Strength through Joy also sends several thousand workers each year on one day excursions to the Party Congress at Nuremberg as well as to the annual Harvest Festival on the Bückeberg.

In 1937 a round figure of RM 81,200,000 revenue was collected in fares and the prices charged for the excursions. While of course admitting that no exact estimate can be made, officials of the organization calculate that during last year Strength through Joy travellers enriched German economy by

some

some RM 120,000,000, a figure which includes the money spent on fares, that paid to innkeepers for lodging and extras, and the miscellaneous, but in the aggregate enormous, sums spent on travel equipment, such as suitcases, hiking boots, skis, photographic apparatus, postcards, souvenirs, and so forth.

By a special agreement concluded in the fall of 1937 with the Italian recreational organization, Dopolavoro, Strength through Joy has arranged for an exchange of German-Italian vacationers. These workers, who are conveyed over the Alps in special trains containing about 400 passengers, usually only make a stay of two or three days in either country. It is learned that up to the present some 30,000 German and Italian workers on each side have taken part in these excursions.

Strength through Joy plans to expand its sea itinerary this winter to include Greece and Yugoslav ports on the Dalmatian Coast. It is noted that the British Empire press has attached considerable political interest to a rumor that a Strength through Joy excursion would be sent to the former German South African colonies. Questioned as to this report, officials of the organization stated that while some such proposal has been entertained, it has not yet reached the stage of a definite project.

Before

Before the cancellation of the holding of the next Olympic Games in Tokyo in 1940, it had been planned to send out most of the Strength through Joy fleet on a world journey to Japan, visiting American ports en route. Another project being worked upon is the idea of employing Strength through Joy ships in off-season periods to bring back Germans in distant countries on short visits to the Fatherland. It is understood that the scheme of enabling "foreign Germans" (Auslandsdeutsche) to return to the home country is already being carried out on a limited scale in Hungary where a special Strength through Joy office is maintained in Budapest for this purpose.

How The Worker Plans And Takes His Vacation.

The worker will find most of the trips advertised in the monthly program which he buys. Notices of the shorter excursions are usually posted from week to week on Labor Front blackboards in each factory. Should the worker foresee that he will have the opportunity and means to undertake an extended vacation, he will probably buy at the beginning of the year a large calendar program issued each January by the Gau office, listing the various trips under the dates on which they will begin, as well as their extent and all-inclusive price. In every case the worker will first make application to his Betriebswart as he does with respect to most of the other activities of the Strength through Joy organization. Should he wish to distribute over a period of time payment for one of the more expensive excursions, he may provide himself with a vacation savings book in which he will paste each week special 50 pfennig stamps bought from the local factory representative. The total sum represented by the stamps is good for any one of the activities of Strength through Joy, or may be redeemed at any time should the worker decide to spend the money otherwise.

In the case of one of the larger trips, the worker after making his reservation may attend

an "Urlaubertreffen und Wiedersehenfeier" ("rally of vacationers and reunion celebration") where he will meet his future fellow travellers and will be told what to bring in the way of apparel and so forth. These evenings, which are advertised in the monthly travel programs according to the district to be visited, are held once a month in fire-engine houses or beer halls. They are not only arranged for the benefit of prospective visitors to a particular locality but also for the benefit of those who might have been there a year before and who by these evenings are enabled to renew acquaintances they made on their journey as well as to tell the prospective tourists about the trip and to give them advice. Moreover, for instance, should a delegation from Bavaria be visiting Berlin on a Strength through Joy excursion, they would be invited to attend one of these evenings held for travellers about to go to Bavaria. These meetings which thus serve as a sort of clearing house of information are usually a great success, particularly if beer is made available cheaply and in plentiful measure.

When finally ready to start on his journey, the worker receives a small booklet (Gutscheinheft) containing his railway ticket to and from his destination, a ticket for his meals in the case of a shorter trip, or a combined ticket for board and lodging should he be embarking on a longer excursion.

Travellers on the Strength through Joy ships touching on foreign ports receive a small sum of pocket money in foreign exchange to spend on shore. This is included in the total price of the ticket and in case of a trip to Italy this sum reaches a maximum of 100 lire. Provided with his ticket the worker will then go to the appointed meeting place or station where he will present himself to the Reiseleiter, or guide and manager of the trip, whom he may have already met at the "vacationers' rally." On each overnight train journey there is one such Reiseleiter, accompanied by a trained nurse to attend to possible incidental illnesses. On ocean voyages there are usually three or four Reiseleiter, one of whom, or more, may be women. The Reiseleiter is in charge of the excursion during the actual journey, but when the final destination is reached he hands over his group, should it be a large one, to other Reiseleiter belonging to the local Strength through Joy organization of the region visited, who, being well acquainted with the locality, are in a better position to help direct and arrange entertainments for the whole group. In general the Strength through Joy offices of the "guest Gau" attend to the care of the travellers and make up programs for their entertainment once they have arrived.

Overnight

Overnight railway journeys are made sitting up in third class carriages. While the physical discomfort of this form of travel can be readily imagined, this is to some degree mitigated by the newly indulged-in sensation of "going places" as well as in many cases by accordion players or amateur comedians among the company. Large groups are often met at their destination by a local Party band. Individuals are then directed to their living quarters in the appointed inns or private houses.

It is understood that during the earlier stages of Strength through Joy there was a tendency to plan too much for the vacationists to do, particularly immediately after the tedious railway journey. It appears that now a happy medium has been found between restful inactivity and entertainments designed to avoid possible boredom. The first day or so after arrival is given over to recuperation. Following that, easy walks may be planned to pass the day, while the evenings are enlivened by dancing, costume festivals or community singing. In certain localities, such as Bavaria or on the banks of the Mosel river, short hiking tours with a guide, or bus excursions (all planned by the local offices) are afforded, while all visitors to the Rhine make the well-known river excursion by steamer.

It is explained that practice as divorced from theory is being applied to determine the pattern of

maximum enjoyment that can be afforded and that in this respect ever greater advances are being made in proportion to the experience being gained by the Reiseleiter. These guides, who almost uniformly serve in a voluntary capacity, are usually either officials from the central or Gau offices of Strength through Joy or veteran Labor Front factory representatives who are glad to assume the responsibilities of leadership for the sake of making the trip. The Reiseleiter of the guest Gau who take charge of the visitors after their arrival are ordinarily officials in the local office. Incidentally with respect to the relationship between the Reiseleiter and the captains of Strength through Joy steamers, it has been explained that special steps, prompted by the new National Socialist outlook of life have been taken to prevent the captains of these ships from arrogating to themselves undue authority, as many sea captains are wont to do. The head Reiseleiter is given undisputed authority over the party on board. At functions arranged when a Strength through Joy ship touches at a foreign port the head Reiseleiter assumes the role of master of ceremonies and seats the local German diplomatic representative in the place of honor at his right and the captain at his left.

The Technical Arrangement of Strength
through Joy Excursions.

The cost of Strength through Joy trips is anywhere from a quarter to one fifth of the minimum rates which would normally be charged. The reduction offered is based upon prices charged more or less according to the following standard scale: railway travel is computed at a cost of 1 pfennig per kilometer; bus journeys at 1 1/2 pfennig per kilometer; board and lodging at RM 2.50 per day. To the actual cost of each trip is added a 10% surcharge for administrative expenses. To recapitulate, a seven-day trip of 300 kilometers, say, from Berlin to Kolberg, a Baltic coast resort, would thus break down into the following components:

300 x 1 pf. x 2, for railway fare.....	RM 6.-
7 X RM 2.50, for board and lodging.....	RM 17.50
10% of this total (RM 23.50) for administrative expenses.....	RM 2.40
Total cost of the trip.....	<hr/> RM 25.90

The railroad fare of 1 pfennig per kilometer represents a reduction of 75% of the standard rate of 4 pfennigs per kilometer per person third class. In view of the fact that no detailed budget for the State railways is published, it is impossible to tell what effect these journeys may have upon their economy. Oral inquiry made of officials of the Reich Railways has elicited the information that the fare charged is sufficient to meet the actual operating expenses for these

these trips. It is pointed out that Strength through Joy trains are always full; that old rolling stock is often used; and that a saving in train personnel, in particular conductors, is effected in the fact that the excursions are run and managed by Labor Front officials. It was intimated that the fare probably did not meet the capital and overhead charges involved but that this factor was adjusted from a "social" point of view in the general budget of the Reich Railways and was covered by the income from more profitable forms of traffic.

It is the avowed purpose of the Strength through Joy to avoid prejudicing financially private enterprises by its activities. Abhorrence of an economic vacuum and the offer of a quick and steady turnover are the principles, it is claimed, which have rendered its work feasible and successful. In practice this means that if Strength through Joy needs autobusses for its excursions, it will approach a private owner and will ask him to hire, for a reduced price which will give him a small margin of profit, those busses which would otherwise remain idle. The same procedure is followed in the rent of hotel accommodations. It is stated that the offer of a specific number of guests for a determined period is especially attractive to inn keepers who

may be off the beaten track or whose tourist seasons may have ended. While the standard rate of RM 2.50 per day will not assure them much profit, they may nevertheless count on having their houses full and their staffs employed for these periods and may moreover make money out of extras such as beer, wine and cigars, for which their guests must pay over and above the stipulated inclusive price. In the smaller places which Strength Through Joy frequents, prices are low and it is said that for the rate of RM 2.50 a day, food can be obtained superior to that to which many city workers are accustomed, more particularly as their tastes are modest and many of them are in the habit of even spending less than this amount at home.

The hiring of accommodations and dealing with innkeepers is done on a local basis, that is to say, if the Berlin Gau office wishes to send excursionists to a small town in Bavaria, it will call upon the Strength Through Joy representative in or near that town to make the necessary arrangements. It is held that this plan minimizes risks which might befall organizers unacquainted with a particular locality and it is pointed out that it has the additional advantage of saving time in communication between guests and hotel and inn-keepers.

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The system of financing inter-Gau travel is moreover claimed to be particularly efficient. In the case of an excursion from Berlin to Hamburg, the Berlin Gau will not pay the Hamburg office directly, but will turn over the money collected from the excursionists to the central treasury. After the visitors have left, the Hamburg Gau will submit to the treasury a bill for the money it has put out for lodging and other expenses and will eventually receive payment from the treasury, which at the same time will reimburse the railways for their share of the costs of the excursion.

It is stated that the overland excursions by bus or rail are the only form of Strength through Joy activities which completely meet expenses from the income received from participants. There is probably little reason to doubt this statement if actual running expenses are counted apart from overhead charges. These overhead costs bulk large in the activities and projects which will now be discussed.

Strength Through Joy's Ownership
of Travel Facilities.

With a view to controlling prices, Strength through Joy to an ever greater degree is acquiring and building up its own travel facilities. It is claimed that it will not thereby compete with private enterprise inasmuch as Strength through Joy caters to a class of public different from that served by the ordinary travel agencies, and furthermore, that its volume of business is so great that in any case the organization will continue as heretofore to resort to public hire as well.

In the larger cities Strength through Joy is establishing its own fleets of autobuses. It also has about ten of its own Erholungsheime, or villas, in various scenic parts of Germany (the largest of them at Ruhpolding in Bavaria), at which workers may pass extended vacations at somewhat lower prices than the standard rate of RM 2.50 a day charged in hotels or private houses. Strength through Joy has spent RM 60,000 for the construction of an experimental sleeping car especially adapted to relieve the tedium of the longer overnight journeys. The car contains 90 beds and when eventually produced in larger numbers for the order of the Strength through Joy organization, will be used to make up trains containing as many as 1,500 voyagers at a time. With a view to saving money, ordinary freight engines

engines of the Reich Railways will be employed to haul these trains.

To deal with some of the larger properties, Strength through Joy plans to build four gigantic seaside resorts for workers on the Baltic coast. One of these, designed to accommodate 20,000 guests, is already under construction on the island of Rügen and should be completed some time next year or early in 1940. Extending in a continuous line about 5 kilometers, or 3 miles, along the shore, the buildings will be divided into 10 blocks, each containing its own dining hall and club rooms. The resort will have its own railway station, a vast assembly hall and a motion picture theater, a central square surrounded by cafés and shops, its own garages, et cetera. Each room will contain two beds, a sofa, two chairs and a table, and will be equipped with hot and cold running water. One advantage offered by the resort will be that families may take their children with them, a special nursery being provided where the children may be left during the day. It has been announced that a week's vacation at Rügen will cost RM 19. including transportation to and from Berlin, or equidistant points. The season will last ten months and the guests will be able to swim in heated pools when the ocean is too cold. It is claimed that the four resorts when finally completed will be capable of taking care of 80,000

visitors

visitors at a time, which it is hoped will provide sufficient accommodation for every German working man and woman who wishes to take a seaside vacation.

For its ocean voyages Strength through Joy utilizes a fleet of 11 steamers, 6 of which are chartered and 5 of which it owns outright. With the exception of the WILHELM GUSTLOFF, the specially built Strength through Joy ship of some 22,000 tons burden, put into commission this last spring, the others are liners of the smaller type between 10,000 and 15,000 tons, converted by the addition of numerous bunks. An inspection has been made of both the new WILHELM GUSTLOFF and the MONTE SARMIENTO, a converted ship chartered from the Hamburg-South American Line. The latter, although scrupulously clean, seemed very overcrowded, as many as 16 passengers being placed in some of the larger cabins. The WILHELM GUSTLOFF on the other hand is a remarkable ship indeed, as may be seen from some of the press photographs enclosed. Designed to hold about 1,400 passengers, it has 278 double cabins, and 241 cabins for four people. In addition there are 2 dormitories, each accommodating respectively 30 boys and girls of the State Youth organization who are occasionally taken along on the trips. The cabins not only have outside port holes but forced draft ventilation as well. The bunks seemed comfortable and there appeared to be plenty of wardrobe and locker room. With its

ample

ample deck space, swimming pool, and large, airy public rooms, the ship challenges comparison with one of the new cabin class liners, but from the large number of chairs visible in the salons it may be surmised that it is probably far more crowded than the usual ocean liner. According to the writer's guide, the passengers eat in two sittings, the first call for breakfast being at 6:30 a. m. During the day, the passengers may play on the sport deck or divert themselves by games arranged by the Reiseleiter. Evenings they may listen to concerts or lectures, witness films, or play cards and drink beer in the salons. Numerous loudspeakers are provided to carry announcements to every part of the ship. In view of the fact that the WILHELM GUSTLOFF is intended to be a model ship, the crew is ideally cared for, their smoking room being fully as comfortable as that customarily to be found in tourist class on the better liners.

It is reported that the crew of a British freighter rescued by the WILHELM GUSTLOFF during a storm were amazed at the luxury of this ship built for the working man's vacationing. Second thoughts following on first impressions inspire perhaps less astonishment for the ship itself, which after all could be reproduced by any public body determined to spend a correspondingly large sum on its construction (conservatively estimated at about RM 12,000,000), than for the organization that can sponsor such pro-

jects. As will be shown later in this report, the Labor Front is an exceedingly prosperous body. It is perhaps merely sufficient to mention here that Strength through Joy has built and has already launched a second cruiser liner, christened the ROBERT LEY, which when put into commission next spring, will be larger and even more luxurious than the WILHELM GUSTLOFF.

For its excursions on the Rhine and other German rivers, Strength through Joy has hitherto chartered the steamers it has used. Following the acquisition of Austria, however, and because it has been found that there are not sufficient steamers on the Danube, Strength through Joy contemplates building several steamers for use on this waterway, some of them adapted to overnight excursions.

Observations Made on a Strength Through
Joy Trip to Helgoland.

The writer of this report made a weekend excursion from Berlin to Helgoland with Strength through Joy. Owing to the pressure of other duties it proved impossible to undertake a longer trip but it is thought enough material was obtained on this journey to give an idea of how Strength through Joy works in practice.

This particular excursion, which included some 800 travelers, was sold out several weeks in advance. The price of the trip was RM 17., , RM 5.80 going toward rail fare from Berlin to Hamburg and back, RM 2 to lodging for one night and breakfast in Hamburg, the rest apparently covering the cost of the boat journey from Hamburg to Helgoland, as well as administrative expenses. (The ordinary price of a return third class rail ticket to Hamburg is RM 27.20, and that for the boat voyage, RM 20.) Participants were provided with a numbered rail ticket, a ticket for the boat, and a yellow Quartierschein, or lodging certificate, on which was written the address of the private family with whom the traveler would spend the night at Hamburg. Attached to the Quartierschein was a printed postcard which the traveler was requested to mail to the Gau Strength through Joy office in Hamburg stating whether or not he was satisfied with his quarters.

At the station the voyagers were told by the Reiseleiter (in this case a young desk official from the Labor Front) to take their places in compartments bearing on the window the number of their tickets. In this way there was no confusion or rush for seats and the train was able to leave on schedule at 1:30 on Saturday afternoon.

The five hour and a half train journey was passed by the writer in conversation with his compartment companions who were respectively a bank messenger and his wife and a department store clerk. (The writer would hazard a guess that about 80 per cent of the participants were low-salaried employees of the white collar class and only about 20 per cent were actual everyday laborers. The party was composed mostly of the young and middle-aged with very few older people.)

An interesting fact ascertained was that many of the travelers had been in the habit for the last three years of regularly taking their vacations on Strength through Joy trips. They were generally enthusiastic about the organization and in particular with the arrangement whereby they could save up for their vacations by putting aside a few pfennigs a week for Strength through Joy savings stamps. The general opinion seemed to be that while the shorter journeys, such as that going to Helgoland were very strenuous, a real rest could be obtained on the long Strength through Joy vacations at the seaside or in

the mountains, the holiday makers usually being left to rise in the morning when they wished and pass the day as suited them.

Upon arriving at Hamburg the travelers were told to group themselves under large signs bearing the number marked on their lodging certificate. Under each sign was a voluntary worker from the Hamburg Strength through Joy office who led parties of travelers to adjacent parts of the town where they had been assigned rooms. The writer was given a single room in the home of an elderly widow where three other Strength through Joy vacationers were lodged. The room although very small was neat and clean and next morning an excellent breakfast was served with the adjunct, extraordinary for Germany, of a hard boiled egg. Although no tips were given or expected, the lodginghouse keeper stated that she was entirely satisfied with the money which she received from Strength through Joy which helped her maintain her home following her husband's death.

Saturday evening was left to the travelers to spend as they wished, an arrangement which seemed to suit them well as many of them had never before been to Hamburg. The party was expected to meet at the boat next morning at 6:45, explicit directions being written on the program as to how the dock might be reached by subway from the main station. With the addition of another 200 Strength through Joy travelers from Hamburg, the boat was fairly overcrowded

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but nobody seemed to mind particularly, but walked about to chat with other groups or to take pictures during the long trip down the harbor. A band played almost continuously during the voyage.

On many excursions of this kind meals are included in the price of the ticket but on this particular trip it would have been quite impossible to crowd everybody into the dining-room. Certain "socially-minded" employers, however, had apparently decided to make a gift of their meals on the boat to parties of their employees, and by pre-arrangement with the Strength through Joy organization, these employees were provided with slips which they presented to obtain a simple one-course repast. The great majority of the travelers on the other hand had brought satchels loaded with sandwiches and cheese which they disposed of at odd intervals all day long.

A stop of only three hours on the island of Helgoland was provided for. This may have been arranged with purposeful forethought inasmuch as, as is well known, Helgoland, with a view to encouraging tourist traffic from which the inhabitants live principally, has been made a customs free port where foreign supplies may be obtained and enjoyed at extremely low prices. Hence three hours appeared to be sufficient time for the Strength through Joy travelers to indulge in, each according to his tastes, the perhaps mutually incompatible pastimes of imbibing strong liquors or of walking about the small, strongly fortified island. Upon departing everybody was made

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to pass a customs examination, each voyager however being permitted to take out half a bottle of liquor, a large slab of Dutch chocolate or a package of foreign cigarettes. There appear to have been no casualties or stay-behinds and the party left promptly at 5 p.m. Under the influence of the Helgoland visit, the seven-hour return voyage to Hamburg was a gay one.

Upon arrival the travelers were met again by Strength Through Joy local officials who herded them into special subway trains taking them to the main station from which the train left at midnight as per schedule. The five and a half hour long rail journey sitting upon benches of a third class carriage was grim indeed but was accepted by the majority in good part as an inevitable price to be paid. The long hours were variously spent in dozing, accordion playing and enjoyment of the spoils of Helgoland. The spirit in which the travelers took leave of each other upon arriving in Berlin on Monday morning seemed to be ample proof that everybody had had a good time.

Several interesting general impressions remain from the trip. The first is that the strength of National Socialism appears as heretofore to lie most deeply rooted in the lower middle class, more particularly among the low salaried white collar workers. Some of these had brought along an abundance of National Socialist literature and attempted to proselytize the writer. Incidentally it was interesting

teresting to observe from their rather strange conceptions of America what effect National Socialist press reporting on the United States has had upon the public mind in the last five years. The real worker, on the other hand, seemed more inclined to dismiss, with the indigenous wit of his class, politics generally and his cares in particular which he said remained about the same under the present regime. There were several Auslandsdeutsche, or Germans from foreign countries, in the gathering. Among them were some Sudeten Germans from Czechoslovakia and some Germans from the Polish corridor. References, although made for the most part jokingly, left little doubt that the Sudeten Germans in particular were expected soon to join their former Austrian brothers to become citizens of the Reich.

THE OFFICE "BEAUTY OF WORK"

While the provision of cheap and enjoyable vacations is something in which the Labor Front takes especial pride as a new departure, it regards of no less importance the improvement of the worker's environment in his factory, particularly as this is a part of his everyday life which can affect his well-being even more directly than the way in which he spends his spare time. The Office Beauty of Work, which aims at raising working standards, is regarded as a legitimate adjunct of Strength through Joy and enables the Labor Front to claim that it concerns itself with the welfare of the workers both within as well as outside of the factory. The explanation offered by Party officials in this regard, as well as in connection with the workers' sport program, is that such measures are not inspired by charity or pity for the worker, but are motivated by a national interest in conserving and husbanding the one resource in which Germany is rich, namely, its man-power.

The improvement of working conditions is conceived as including the provision of better light and ventilation, the adoption of safety appliances, the fitting out of more and cleaner wash and locker rooms, the furnishing of factory restaurants and rest rooms. It also embraces the idea of making

the factory generally more attractive by the removal of unsightly dump heaps, the planting of trees and grass plots, the setting out of park benches, the construction of swimming pools and sport fields (the latter being done in collaboration with the Sport Office of Strength through Joy). Beauty of Work also interests itself in the living conditions of hotel employees as well as in the crews' quarters of sailors on German ships.

A report published late in 1937 claimed that up to that time the Office Beauty of Work had been responsible for the building of over a thousand workers' club houses, 3,000 canteens and rest rooms, 3,500 factory parks, 200 swimming pools, and 1,500 wash and locker rooms. It is stated that living conditions had been improved on 3,000 barges and inland waterway vessels and on 324 ocean-going ships. It was estimated that as of 1937, RM 600,000,000 had been spent by factories on the objectives of Beauty of Work. It is stated that since that time the improvement of working conditions has become such a generally accepted fact that it is no longer possible to record the expenditures statistically.

One of the collateral activities of the office is the campaign for the "Beautification of the Village" which is directed toward the removal of dump heaps and outdoor manure piles, the sprucing up of

house fronts, the laying out of parks, better paving, and the display of attractive advertising signs. A competition is carried out whereby towns strive to be the "model village" of the Gau, and it is reported that as of 1937, 3,168 villages and 677 large estates containing numerous farm workers had been appreciably beautified.

The Office Beauty of Work achieves its aims by propaganda, pressure, and competitive campaigns. The cost of the improvements is made to lie almost entirely upon the employer and factory owner. The Office distributes a periodical setting forth practical suggestions and takes care that it is represented at the larger national exhibitions by exhibits of its own, which for instance may show a model work bench or locker-room, or some other improvement. The agencies of the Office in many of the Gau boards of Strength through Joy maintain consulting bureaus to which manufacturers wishing to renovate their factories or build new plants may apply for advice and even completed plans. There are now being built, for instance, from model designs prepared by the Office, a new factory club house in a town in Southern Germany, a mine-house in Silesia, and a community center near Brunswick. Some of the bureaus keep lists of architects who have made a specialty in modern factory planning and who are available to execute commissions.

The Office undertakes periodical campaigns under such slogans "GoodLight," "Less Noise," "Clean Workers in Clean Factories" and "Less Dust." In the first connection it claims to have brought it about that German electrical manufacturers have ceased to produce the old-fashioned glare shade and now sell only models approved as less harmful for the workers' eyes. The Office also frequently initiates campaigns within particular industries, having just completed, for instance, a clean-up of tanning plants which are among the dirtiest, and being now occupied with a similar campaign in the German shoe factories.

Labor Front officials claim that the activity of the employers in improving working conditions is almost entirely voluntary inasmuch as there is no way of forcing them to undertake it. This would appear, however, to be only partially true. It must be remembered that in each plant there is a representative of the Labor Front who is probably well acquainted with the economic status of the particular enterprise. If he and his fellow-workers observe that the plant is making money, and if they feel that it might therefore spend more on improving working conditions (a wage raise being out of the question in view of official policy "freezing" wages at the 1933 level), it is quite possible that he will tell the manager so, and should the latter refuse to accept his suggestion, that the cell leader

will

will then go to a higher district authority of the Labor Front who in turn may investigate the circumstances and perhaps recommend that Party pressure be exercised against a recalcitrant plant owner. It would appear that after five years' acquaintance with National Socialism most plant owners are aware of this contingency and therefore willingly anticipate possible demands in this direction. A socialistic aspect is moreover imparted to some of the schemes, as for instance the building of a swimming pool or sport field jointly by the employers and the workers, the plant furnishing the material and the every-day workers, together with their superiors, providing the labor.

Another way in which Beauty of Work is promoted is by the annual competition for the title of "model factory" which was started two years ago. The designation is bestowed for the best aggregate showing for meritorious achievement inter alia in the following lines: (1) furtherance of a workers' settlement program; (2) cooperation with Strength through Joy in encouraging and enabling workers to take vacation trips; (3) training of apprentices; and (4) improvement of working conditions. The contest is first carried out regionally and from the long list of those which survive this stage a final selection is made of those which will be named "model factories." The honor is bestowed each May 1 and the plant may keep the title from year to

year

year provided it lives up to the rigid standards required. At present there are 104 model factories in the old Reich territory. This of course represents a very small proportion of the total number, but even if a plant fails to achieve this title it may be honored with a Leistungsabzeichnung, or a certificate of merit, for outstanding performance in one of the lines of endeavor, which of course includes Beauty of Work. While these honors seem to carry with them little material benefit, there being no evidence for instance that government orders are primarily reserved for such plants, they nevertheless make the owners and managers very proud, and give them a certain standing in the community.

Visits have been made to two plants actively cooperating with the Office Beauty of Work. The first, a chocolate factory near Berlin, had done a surprisingly good job in brightening up somewhat drab surroundings. It had six tennis courts, a football field, a bowling alley, a terrace for deck chairs, and a swimming pool heated in the spring and the fall by steam taken from the condenser plant. There were two attractive canteens, one each for the men and women employees, and large, clean changing rooms with a locker for every employee.

Far more remarkable, however, was a plant manufacturing machine tools (and munitions) located on the outskirts of Berlin. This was a "model factory"

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and while it was admitted that it was exceptionally advanced in social policy, its achievements may nevertheless be noted as an example of what may be done in this line. The plant, which had been rebuilt two years ago, consisted of attractive brick buildings which are entered from a spacious court. All the roads and paths were stone-paved to allay dust, and the grounds were broken up into attractive grass plots. The steel-supply heaps, as well as the refuse piles, were housed in low sheds in order to be out of sight as well as to decrease dust. The large machine hall was high ceiled, air conditioned and marvelously light. Electric power was supplied to each unit separately, thus obviating overhead shafting which, besides being dangerous, makes for bad lighting conditions. The workers and employers ate in three shifts in an airy dining-hall where an exceptionally good meal could be obtained for 40 pfennigs. There was also a vast assembly hall with a stage for plays, lectures or concerts. The wash and locker rooms were of the most luxurious kind, the search after convenience extending to the provision of a special wash room for the war-wounded who, by a series of macabre arrangements operated by foot or by hand, could repair the deficiency of a missing limb in turning on taps. A separate establishment for the training of apprentices was included in the plant, the boys receiving a general education in addition to their mechanical schooling. Although

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the boys were able to make certain elementary castings and patterns used later in the factory, the school represented a considerable outlay of money for the plant which supported it entirely. Several factors appeared to have contributed to making this establishment one of the most progressive of its kind. In the first place it is a highly prosperous enterprise, the machine tool trade profiting tremendously by the rearmament and building boom. It was learned that the company earned an annual dividend of 12 per cent on its common stock; under existing regulations, however, only a certain percentage of such profits (between 6 and 8 per cent) can be distributed, the rest being impounded in government securities or plowed back into plant equipment, which in this case was spent upon making the enterprise a "model factory." The work, moreover, was of a clean and exact nature, the laborers being for the most part of the highly skilled class who receive from RM 60 to 100 per week, an exceedingly high wage in Germany. Finally, the plant's president and directors were old Party members who were eager to excel in National Socialist policy.

On the whole, the Office Beauty of Work appears to have rendered a creditable performance. Under its influence almost every factory in Germany has done something to improve working conditions to a greater or less degree, although the consummation of

its efforts is perhaps to be found only in those new factories which are being built up to the most advanced standards due to its expert advice. As a result of the disarmament and the Four Year Plan programs which have been responsible for the construction of many new plants, the number of such "improved" factories has steadily increased.

With regard to one of the aspects of the office's work, namely, accident prevention, the opinion of an American engineer doing business in Germany is perhaps interesting. He stated that, generally speaking, the standard in this regard was well below the American. He attributed this not so much to a lack of effort in Germany, inasmuch as the movement is being promoted here, as to the fact that in the United States employers take the greatest pains to install safety devices in view of the exceedingly high damage costs awarded by American courts to injured workers.

THE SPORT OFFICE OF STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

The movement in favor of athletics and outdoor sports made rapid progress in Germany after the War, but National Socialism has promoted and organized this trend to a degree that is perhaps nowhere else equalled, the avowed reason being that the authorities regard a healthy people as a primary adjunct of social happiness and as necessary also for the maintenance of Germany's industrial and military position in the world. The success achieved in this field in three short years by the new German methods, which amount in some of their aspects to regimentation, was amply demonstrated by Germany's achievement in the Olympic Games of 1936 as compared with its showing in the Games of 1932.

The direction of sport and athletics is centralized in the Reich League for Physical Training headed by Captain Tschammer von Osten. This body directs the physical training of children in the State youth organizations, and keeps on the lookout for promising young athletes, giving them the proper kind of training and in the case of the very best, even finding them jobs which will not interfere with their athletic form. The Reich League also supervises the activities of the Sport Office of Strength through Joy.

The purpose of the sport program of Strength through Joy has been stated as follows in a speech by Dr. Ley:

"In order to fortify and maintain the tremendous capital which the nation has in the health of its citizens, we must see to it that the age limit for persons engaged in athletics and sport is raised to at least 50 years for the normal citizen; that is, at least 20 years above the present level."

As further explained by the authorities of Strength through Joy, the Sport Office does not seek to produce record-breaking athletes, or in the main a proficiency above the average in any class of sport, but aims rather at promoting general recreation and health. It is not even interested in arranging competitions between workers' teams inasmuch as the training of teams can often result in less attention being paid to the less athletic. The Sport Office endeavors rather to encourage exercise among the workers by providing the proper facilities, and to carry forward their participation in sport beyond the point where this might otherwise cease after their leaving school and the youth organizations.

The Sport Office division of Strength through Joy maintains one or more sport bureaus in large cities, it being planned eventually to establish a bureau in every town of 10,000 or more inhabitants, a scheme which would bring the projected total of such agencies to over 600. In addition, arrangements are being worked out whereby sport advisers

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and teachers can be sent periodically to the smaller towns and villages.

The Sport Office works in different ways. After the War, and particularly during the more prosperous years of the 1920's, many factories built playing fields and swimming pools for their workers. In collaboration with the Office for Beauty of Work, which aims at improving working conditions, the Sport Office seeks to encourage the building or extension of such facilities. If a factory has no available space, the Sport Office may induce it to hire a nearby field if this is feasible.

For those who would otherwise have no access at all to physical exercise, the Sport Office undertakes a great deal on its own initiative. Taking over school gymnasiums or hiring or borrowing any kind of hall available, it will give public courses with its own instructors in general gymnastics (for men and women together), calisthenics for the elderly and for mothers, tap dancing, etc. These are known as "open courses," meaning that a person may join them at any time and is not bound to attend regularly. The Strength through Joy charge (double in the case of those not entitled to its special rates) is 30 pfennigs for an hour and a half of exercise, with a reduction of 20 per cent for the purchase of five tickets. The so-called "closed courses" in which participants must start at the beginning and sign up for the whole course, embrace

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those sports demanding a certain amount of skill, including, for instance, boxing, wrestling, tennis, golf, riding, roller-skating, rowing, etc. In these courses the fee is usually a little higher, the charge for a golf lesson (including the loan of clubs and balls) being RM 4 for five, one and a half hour-periods of instruction, each of which is charged at the rate of 80 pfennigs. Other fees vary, the charge for a one and a half hour lesson in tennis being RM 1; boxing, 40 pfennigs; swimming, 40 pfennigs; rifle shooting (including ammunition) 50 pfennigs; riding, RM 1; roller skating, 40 pfennigs; etc. For those distinctly athletically inclined, a course in preparation for the fairly difficult all-round tests for the acquisition of the Reich Sport Medal is also offered at the price of RM 3.20.

As part of a scheme aiming at a general survey of the German workers' health, all sport participants in Strength through Joy may receive free a physical examination. Another privilege that is extended free is the offering of setting-up exercises at public beaches for any of the bathers who wish to join in.

In Berlin, public-school gymnasiums or fire houses are utilized usually for the meeting places of the indoor courses, while those requiring outdoor space are held either on private fields or

tennis courts rented for this purpose, or on the magnificent grounds of the Reich Sport Field adjoining the Olympic Stadion. The location of the gathering places is advertised in the Strength through Joy monthly bulletins or on factory billboards and the participants are expected to attend that nearest to the place where they live.

The Sport Office claims that during the past year it helped found between 5,000 and 6,000 new Betriebssportgemeinschaften, or factory sport clubs, embracing some 500,000 workers. It estimates that in 1937 over 8 million people took part in its courses, or in sport events arranged under its auspices. Statistics furnished with respect to the personal status of the participants are interesting. Strength through Joy authorities state that between 60 and 70 per cent of those attending the sport courses are women. The age of the majority of women participants runs between 20 and 30, and that of the men between 25 and 35.

The Sport Office has in all about 1,500 instructors associated with it, 300 of whom are paid to devote their whole time to Strength through Joy. Those hired on a part-time basis receive a minimum standard fee running between RM 4 and 6. The Office claims that it has had little difficulty in attracting in this way instructors who are desirous of piecing out their earnings by working with Strength through Joy, particularly during off-season intervals.

The principal task of the teachers hired on a permanent basis is to train promising young athletes among the workers who in turn will be able to give their services as instructors to Strength through Joy free of charge. The grooming of a set of new instructors, which is regarded as necessary in any event to care for the ever-expanding number of sport participants, is proudly described as a contribution to the "national physical wealth."

With regard to the financing of sport activities, it is explained that while the fees received from course members pay for instructors' salaries, they do not cover other costs, such as administration, renting of gymnasium and sport fields, and equipment. These expenses are charged against the general funds of the Strength through Joy organization.

Brief consideration may be given to some of the more elaborate activities of the Sport Office. The Office has six hotels, where workers may spend a "sport vacation" at a nominal price. In collaboration with the Office for Travel, Hiking and Vacation, it arranges winter skiing excursions, and in preparation for these gives practice skiing courses on salt or pine needles. (The price of a week's stay in the Allgäu in Upper Bavaria, including railway fare from Berlin and return is, for instance, RM 55; it is stated that last year some 20,000

workers from Berlin alone took part in these excursions.)

Strength through Joy owns four sea-going yachts, the largest of which holds 50 passengers, and again in conjunction with the Office for Travel, it offers workers training courses in sailing lasting a week or ten days at a price of about RM 30 (including the loan of sea togs.) In addition to these larger vessels which cruise about the North Sea and Baltic coasts and frequently put in at Danish and Swedish ports, the organization also owns over 100 smaller sailing craft located in various sea harbors and lakes in Germany.

Not least of the accomplishments of the Sport Office is the service it has rendered in making sport equipment available to workers at a price they can afford. The Office has prevailed upon manufacturers to produce and put on sale at sport stores, a skiing set, consisting of skis, suit and boots, costing RM 39; a tennis racket priced at RM 12.50; and a pair of roller skates at RM 3. Though skeptical at first, the manufacturers are reported to have found the new venture profitable by virtue of the large turnover involved, some 30,000 ski sets, for instance, having been sold last year. These articles are advertised under the name of Strength through Joy and, in conjunction with the project for producing a Strength

through

through Joy car, have led to the witticism that the organization may soon bring out a Strength through Joy tail-coat.

Since the above was written, Dr. Ley has announced a plan for furthering sport participation of the workers on a competitive basis. In August and September of this year there will be held throughout Germany what will be called a "sport rally." A three-event competition is envisaged, consisting of a steeple-chase, throwing of the medicine ball, and a 1000-meter relay race, the matches being held on a team basis. The various factories will be called to make up as many teams as possible from among their workers, these teams then competing against each other for the honor of representing the factory. Intra-factory competitions will later take place for the regional or Gau championship. An interesting feature is that the championship will not be determined by team performance alone but also on the basis of the proportional representation of all of the workers in each factory in the initial training matches. This device is chosen to meet the objection mentioned above that intra-factory competition may some time result in too much attention being paid to an individual team to the detriment of other sport participants.

THE ORGANIZATION OF LEISURE TIME

The phases of work which have been discussed up to now may perhaps be viewed as primarily dealing with the physical welfare of the German worker. Remarkable as these arrangements are, one would seem to touch upon something intangibly more vast and significant when one comes to deal with the manner in which Strength through Joy seeks to order the laborer's spare time. This work gives a glimpse into the all-presuasive influence of Strength through Joy and its parent body, the Labor Front.

The organization of spare time is carried out by two offices of Strength through Joy, the Amt Feierabend, or Office for Leisure Time, which concerns itself primarily with the recreational aspects of the question, and by the Amt Volksbildungswerk, or Office for Popular Education which, as its name implies, aims at a general political, cultural and artistic education of the masses. The separation of these offices, which from some points of view is superfluous, is apparently due to organizational reasons, the Amt Feierabend being the successor to the N.S. Kulturgemeinde which formerly was operated independently by the Propaganda Ministry. The Labor Front's assumption of this form of activity is an indication of its ever-expanding size and power.

The Office for Leisure Time

The task of the Office for Leisure Time is to enable workers to go to the opera, theaters and concerts, which they would otherwise find it impossible to attend; to arrange factory concerts, community singing, costume and dance festivals and broadcasts by amateur musicians; to send travelling theatrical companies and motion-pictures out into the country districts; and generally to help workers spend their spare time pleurably and profitably. The service of the organization in bringing about a kind of back-to-the-theater movement is deserving of special interest.

An inquiry undertaken in 1933 among the 30,000 workers of the Siemens plant in Berlin showed that 87 per cent of the men, and 81 per cent of the women, had never heard an opera, and that respectively 63 and 74 per cent of the men and women had never been to the theater. While the Labor Front authorities, according to their own statement, did not regard this as remarkable in view of the fact that 58 per cent of the German workers earn 150 marks or less per month, the same officials set themselves the task of bringing these people to theaters and to concerts at prices they could afford. The price scale now in effect is one mark for opera and the best concerts, and 75 - 80 pfennigs for the theater (including the checking of hats and coats).

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In Berlin the following theaters are reserved exclusively for the use of Strength through Joy: the Volksoper - for opera, and the Theater des Volkes - for musical comedy. These theaters were formerly operated by the N. S. Kulturgemeinde of the Propaganda Ministry but in agreement with the latter Ministry the Strength through Joy organization has assumed predominant ownership and management. Strength through Joy also disposes over "peoples theaters" in Breslau, Dresden and Munich.

In addition to these, its own theaters, which give almost nightly performances during the season, Strength through Joy concludes agreements with private theater owners in various cities, contracting for blocks of seats for one or more evenings. The State-supported Staatsoper in Berlin reserves one evening every two weeks for Strength through Joy (probably at considerable monetary sacrifice). In other cases officials of the organization will go to theater managers several weeks after an opening (when the novelty has worn off and attendance has begun to lag), and will propose taking over the whole or a part of the seats for a stated period. The price offered is only the standard Strength through Joy rate of 75-80 pfennigs per person; this is a more welcome contribution toward the meeting of operating expenses than empty seats, however, and it is said that many theater

managers

managers are glad to receive the money to prolong a run until the expiration of their contractual obligations for rent and actors' salaries. It is reported that certain "socially-minded" producers of great successes voluntarily turn their houses over to Strength through Joy for a night every two weeks. During the past season in Berlin Strength through Joy had working agreements of this nature with six theaters.

The visits of the workers to the theaters are arranged in much the same manner as their vacation tours. After scanning the Strength through Joy programs, the worker will apply to his Betriebswart from whom he will eventually receive a Gutschein, or certificate good for the number of seats demanded. (Persons, such as domestic servants, not associated with a particular plant, will apply to the nearest local office of the Labor Front.) On the night of the performance, the worker will take his certificate to the theater where, in Berlin at least, a rather curious ceremony is enacted. Theaters owned by Strength through Joy or bound to it by contract, have in their lobbies four booths, over each of which are posted the following signs: Single Seats, 2 Seats, 3 Seats, and 4 Seats. A worker with a certificate for 4 seats will take it to the appropriate booth; a drum will then be

rotated

rotated from which will emerge his final ticket with the seat numbers. Chance is thus resorted to in order to avoid any semblance of favoritism, and the worker who sits behind a post at one performance can hope for better luck at the next.

The management of six German theaters alone has put Strength through Joy definitely in the show business, but its involvements reach still further. In various towns it will rent theaters and hire its own actors and artists, particularly for its extremely popular "variety evenings(Bunte Abende - admission price 20 - 30 pfennigs) which are enlivened by cabaret shows, by light songs from operas, and by accordion playing. Strength through Joy also goes on the road with some 30 traveling companies who visit the smaller towns and give as well free performances in the camps of laborers working on the new Reich roads. In addition to these companies, Strength through Joy also has two automobile trains (later to be increased to six) which take up one-night stands in the smaller villages, particularly in frontier sections. A glimpse has been had of one of these bands of performers who tour about the country in their auto-trains consisting of a bus for the performers and a big Diesel van for the stage and scenery. Its coming will be announced by the town crier with a bell, and its arrival greeted by the children in the

village.

village. The company will then erect its stage in the square and after collecting 25 pfennigs from each of the spectators seated on stools or benches brought forth from the school, will present a first-class burlesque show or comedy, performed by artists who may have just completed engagements in Berlin. Operating on the same principle, the organization also has about 30 motion-picture trucks which tour the villages, giving them the latest news reels, dramatic, cultural or political films at a cost of 20 or 30 pfennigs.

The following statistics have been received regarding the sale of theater tickets for the year 1937:

Opera and operetta	3,537,236
Comedies and other plays	4,870,769
Variety performances, caberet shows and other entertainments.....	20,642,997

The revenue received from the sale of tickets last year amounted in all to RM 16,517,000. It has been learned that except in the case of the theaters which admit Strength through Joy audiences and themselves assume the cost of the performances (and except possibly in the case of the People's Theater in Berlin which seats as many as 3,000 people and which was taken over at a nominal price from the emigrated producer Max Reinhardt), the theater performances run and managed by Strength through Joy

generally

generally do not meet expenses but represent a burden on the general budget of the organization. On the other hand, the variety performances and Bunte Abende which pay very little money for artistic talent frequently bring in small profits.

As far as the quality of the performances is concerned, those visited have been of the popular rather than of the more highly cultural kind, burlesque and slapstick being found in abundance. An exception, however, is the People's Opera in Berlin which with great simplicity of decor gives a truly remarkably finished production. This would appear to be due primarily to the capacities of its director, Dr. Orthmann, who, working on the principle of giving younger artists their first chance, is able to obtain transcendently good talent. It has been noticed that excellent as the People's Opera is, it does not seem to have the same attraction as the more popular shows and that although it is always full, some of the seats are bought by non-participants in Strength through Joy who pay the price of four or five marks charged outsiders.

Besides the theater, Strength through Joy is also active in the field of music. In collaboration with the Propaganda Ministry, it operates the 90-piece Reich's Symphony Orchestra which, besides being employed for general broadcasting, tours the country giving workers' concerts at an admission

price of 50 pfennigs. Strength through Joy also has agreements with the various State orchestras similar to those it concludes with theater managers. The State orchestras of Bavaria, Saxony and Württemberg regularly perform for Strength through Joy as does also the Berlin Philharmonic under such eminent conductors as Furtwängler and Schuricht (admission price RM 1). The Office for Leisure Time encourages particularly workers' concerts given during the noon-rest period by amateur musicians among the employees. Military bands of any army unit stationed in a particular district have a standing invitation to play for Strength through Joy audiences. Amateur hours on the radio have long been a feature with the Office for Leisure Time, the participating workers being glad to offer their services in return for the honor and for a good dinner following the performance. Vanity and the urge toward self-expression stand Strength through Joy in good stead and its versatile officials are ever ready to exploit these human qualities to arrange innumerable community singing evenings, string quartets, costume and folk-dancing festivals, all performed by amateurs for their less talented fellows. The getting of the most for nothing seems to be an art with Strength through Joy as is

evinced

evinced by the fact that in Berlin workers and their wives may view fashion shows, and the more inquisitive are given admittance in a hall where theater and circus managers try out aspiring performers.

With respect incidentally to the costume shows, a minor but interesting sidelight on these enterprises has been obtained. At a costume festival in Hamburg the writer observed that the costumes were all new and asked his Strength through Joy guide, a radical young National Socialist, concerning this circumstance. The latter asserted that it was not only the function of Strength through Joy to preserve the costume-wearing tradition among country people but also to revise the patterns of these costumes. He explained that owing to Germany's unfortunate wars, in particular the Thirty Years' War, and owing to the sobering influence of the Church, costumes had become too somber and too much tinged with black. It was the aim of Strength through Joy, he said, to reintroduce the original bright and gay colors and consequently the organization spent a certain amount of money in helping country people make up new patterns.

The Office for Leisure Time also actively encourages the pursuit of hobbies. As mentioned before, it gets up workers' concerts and is now

engaged in promoting music in the home by arranging that the musical members of several families should meet at the house of one of them for an evening of playing. Circles of workers interested in sculpture and wood carving are moreover brought together and the Office puts their work on exhibition. By concerning itself primarily with amateurs already proficient in a certain art, the Office for Leisure Time distinguishes itself from the Office for Popular Education, which gives elementary instruction in various lines of artistic endeavor, such as painting, sculpture and music.

Strength through Joy proudly declares that thanks to its efforts never before has the entertainment world, both professional and amateur, been so fully occupied as it is now. It is stated that the guarantee of steady attendances has afforded the artists secure employment and has also enabled the Reich theatrical authorities to put into operation social benefits for actors such as sickness insurance and old-age pensions which are in part paid for by the surcharge of 5 pfennigs on every theater ticket, including those paid for by Strength through Joy. Evidence in support of this claim is indeed found in the fact that German theaters are full most of the time; while it cannot be

said



The Office for Popular Education.

The work of the Office for Popular Education must be viewed from two different aspects: first from the standpoint of the "absolute" knowledge it imparts, and secondly from the standpoint of that knowledge which is "relative," in the sense of serving the purposes of the National Socialist Party. Briefly put, this means that the Office's work is in part "learning" and in part propaganda, it being of course understood that the word "propaganda" has no invidious connotations in a totalitarian State such as the German, which, together with the Italian, has assigned this designation to one of its principal ministries. The two elements of teaching are cleverly mixed to give a brand of popular education which on the one hand is recreational and of intellectual interest to the individual, and on the other hand fits this individual to be the kind of citizen the Nazi Party and State desire.

Schemes for the education of the worker are nothing new in Germany, and Strength through Joy had a forerunner in an elaborate system built up under the Weimar Republic. In the years after the War there existed throughout Germany between 50 and 60 Volkshochschulen, or popular institutions of secondary learning, which in most cases were supported by the State or in some cases, as for instance

the Karl Marx Hochschule in Berlin, by the trade unions. The State universities sent professors to teach in these institutions, or arranged special lecture courses of their own for the worker. According to impartial authorities, however, as well as even persons opposed to the present National Socialist regime, these institutions were a failure in so far as achieving their purpose of attracting every-day workers and raising the educational level of this class. By all accounts the courses given were too advanced, too "intellectual" and of too theoretical and deeply philosophical a nature to appeal to workers other than those of the most exceptional intelligence. The National Socialist institution of Strength through Joy has made no such mistakes and while its educational standards are doubtless lower, it appears to have devised a system which is suited to the intellectual level of the people for whom it is intended, all the time forming them to the mould of the reigning Party. While criticism may be made of the material purveyed, the methods of organization and of teaching stand as perhaps patterns of the proper approach to the minds of the masses.

The Office for Popular Education is run with the assistance of an advisory board consisting of one officer from its own bureau, an official from the Ministry of Education, and an official from

the national association of local authorities (Ge-meinderat). Its places of work are first the factories themselves, to which the Office sends its lecturers and teachers, and secondly the Volksbildungsstätten of "stations," of which there are some 600 throughout Germany (20 in Berlin alone), and which are either former Volkshochschulen, buildings contributed by the municipal authorities, or sections of Party office buildings. Small towns and country districts which are not able to have such permanent institutions benefit by visiting lecturers or teachers.

The programs arranged by the Office offer the following features:

- (1) Single lectures of general political or cultural interest, as for instance an account of the Battle of Jutland (with lantern slides), reports of their travels by returned German explorers, etc.
- (2) Lecture series developing a subject or period in German art or history, or a typical theme of National Socialist policy, as for instance its race, health or economic program.
- (3) Arbeitsgemeinschaften, "working gatherings," comprising 30 or 40 listeners from a lecture course, these gatherings being really "seminars" in which the

- subject treated in lectures is developed in further discussion.
- (4) Arbeitskreise, or "working circles" which are simultaneously lecture and discussion groups. This method is employed most frequently in the pursuit of what might be called "hobby" subjects such as amateur photography, astronomy, stamp collecting, chess, or manual training.
 - (5) Elementary courses in foreign languages (in the Volksbildungsstätten in big cities nine languages are offered); in Algebra; logarithmic calculations; book-keeping; shorthand; drawing; sculpture; wood carving; commercial German; accordion or clarinet lessons; etc.
 - (6) Exhibitions, visits to museums and places of historical interest (castles, prehistoric excavations, battlefields or places famous in folklore), guided tours through factories, etc. Strength through Joy puts special emphasis on the latter kind of tour as promoting fellowship and understanding among workers of different plants. Periodical group inspections are made of such factories of general interest as the Siemens-Halske electrical works, a local brewery or dairy plant,

the Berlin Underground system, a cigarette factory, a municipal air field, the Zoo, etc.

The mechanical execution of the Office's program is interesting. A prospective participant in any one of the various kinds of activity is urged to buy a Hörerkarte costing 30 pfennigs and good for six months. Although the card is not absolutely necessary for participation, it entitles the holder to attend certain lectures free of charge and in any case affords a substantial reduction in the price. A worker possessing such a card will, for instance, pay RM 3.50 for 12 English lessons, RM 1 for 4 algebra lessons, 20 pfennigs for a lecture on the "Life of a Bee" or "The Problem of Lefthandedness," 20 pfennigs for a museum or factory tour, etc. As mentioned before, many lecturers and teachers come directly to the factories, but in the case of an outside course, the worker does not burden his Betriebswart with requests for tickets but applies directly to the nearest Volksbildungsstätte.

Under a highly organized State such as the National Socialist, opportunities for enlisting the necessary teachers and varying the form of the undertakings is infinite. Many of the teachers are Party and government officials who deal in

their

their ordinary line of duty with the subjects on which they lecture, as for instance race or economic policy, and who therefore give their services free to Strength through Joy. Private teachers are persuaded by the professional organization to which they belong to contribute their time at very low cost (RM 2 per hour being the fee offered a school teacher brought in from his regular job to lecture at a Volksbildungsstätte). Records show that out of 6,787 teachers associated with the Office, 74.8% gave their services entirely free of charge, 23.5% worked for a small nominal fee, whereas only 1.7% were employed by Strength through Joy on a full-time basis. With respect to the visits made to the plants, which play a large role in the work of the Office for Popular Education, the factory owners can of course easily be coerced by the Labor Front to throw their plants open to inspection by visiting groups, and to provide the necessary guides.

While the Strength through Joy authorities state that the work of popular education is still only in its initial stage, they regard the following statistics for attendance during the year 1937 as quite an accomplishment:

1. Popular Educational Work in the
Volksbildungsstätten.

Single lectures.....	3136	with	545 719	participants
1977 lecture series made up of single lectures..	7344	"	239 924	"
Working gatherings (<u>Ar- beitsgemeinschaften</u>)...	1012	"	31 571	"
Working circles (<u>Arbeits- kreise</u>).....	1946	"	34 078	"
Courses	2014	"	40 892	"
Conducted tours	1551	"	70 278	"
Inspections	939	"	32 721	"
Educational trips	144	"	5 058	"
Other activities	426	"	76 439	"
Permanent exhibitions ...	18	"	65 974	"
Traveling exhibitions ...	43	"	77 449	"

Total.....18,573 with 1,220,102 participants

2. Popular

2. Popular Educational Work outside
the Volksbildungsstätten.

Single lectures.....	3 970	with	751 921	participants
Popular educational evenings:				
in factories.....	361	"	90 827	"
in the city.....	339	"	75 620	"
in the country.....	3 385	"	444 403	"
288 lectures series made up of single lectures	1 009	"	53 124	"
Working gatherings (<u>Ar- beitsgemeinschaften</u> ..	584	"	7 626	"
Working circles (<u>Arbeits- kreise</u>).....	2 388	"	41 618	"
Courses.....	471	"	7 845	"
Conducted tours.....	17 240	"	813 094	"
Inspections.....	3 986	"	166 854	"
Educational trips.....	197	"	9 120	"
Other activities.....	427	"	80 138	"
Permanent exhibitions..	35	"	95 608	"
Traveling exhibitions..	25	"	15 910	"
<hr/>				
Total:	34,417	with	2,653,708	participants.

With respect to classification of the participants according to sex and profession, the Strength through Joy authorities have only been able to furnish figures regarding attendance at the Volksbildungsstätten. These figures show that of a group of 221,135 registered course members, 60.5% were men and 39.5% women. The group listed according to

professional

professional categories was made up as follows:

Students	4 156	1.9%
Members of the armed forces	5 735	2.6%
Tradesmen	11 091	5 %
Hand workers	14 175	6.5%
Party and State officials	21 699	9.8%
Laborers	40 827	18.4%
Employees	58 196	26.3%
Others (members of free professions, housewives, etc.).....	65 256	29.5%
<hr/>		
Total.....	221,135	100 %

Personal observation made at several courses visited seems to check more or less with these statistics. It was noted that these courses were made up in large part of women and young people, the largest proportion of the adult men coming from the employee or white collar class, which would seem to show that, despite its exceedingly broad basis of appeal, the organization has not yet succeeded in attracting the great mass of the workers themselves. The attendance of members of the armed forces is interesting inasmuch as it is understood that this is the only form of activity of Strength through Joy in which army recruits are now permitted to take part.

The competent authorities declare that they are less concerned with communicating in their courses exact knowledge, such as dates and figures of the kind learned in school, than in presenting impressionistic surveys, particularly in the matter of German history, where periods and personalities are

dealt

dealt with in broad outline. Those courses may be regarded as somewhat superficial, which indeed they may perhaps have to be in order to appeal to their audiences. A more important result is that they are open to propaganda, historical figures being praised or condemned in terms of present-day National Socialist thinking. Some of the courses are indeed beguilingly learned and tendentious, as for instance a Strength through Joy lecture on the falsification of German history wrought by the fact that early historical writing was chiefly done by the monks.

In the field of art appreciation, superficial but stimulating teaching has nevertheless done a great deal to inspire the workers' interest in these matters. In collaboration with the Office for Leisure Time, the popular education authorities arrange many factory exhibits. Reproductions of paintings or etchings attached to collapsible stands which may be easily transported are exhibited in a particular factory for a week or ten days. During this period a lecturer will come at the luncheon hour and will explain the details of each picture. Working on the imagination of his listeners he will then announce a visit to a museum where the originals, or works by the same artists, may themselves be seen. Although this teaching is strongly nationalistic (primary emphasis being put on German painters), it has nevertheless suc-

ceeded

ceeded in attracting large groups to these tours. Strength through Joy claims that by methods such as these it will eventually produce a new creatively expressive generation which will repair the artistic deficiency with which National Socialism is so often taxed.

The Office for Popular Education is active in disseminating literature and has special traveling libraries contained in easily handled cases which are sent about the countryside to small towns or placed in the crews' quarters of German ships. As described in a Strength through Joy pamphlet, the various classes of literature thus disseminated is interesting, particularly the order in which they are listed: National Socialist political books, war books, historical works, books on farming, adventure and travel, and society novels. Strength through Joy also encourages the inhabitants of small towns to write their own history through the ingenious method of starting a village record-book in which are entered everyday occurrences and notable events, usually written by the local Party leaders or school teachers. Incidentally, all Strength through Joy work in outlying villages is adapted to the aim of checking the migration of country people to the cities. Very few films of city life, which might appear glamorous to the imagination of younger members of the family, are shown, and everything is done to render and portray country life as being the more attractive and happier.

THE STRENGTH THROUGH JOY CAR

The vast size and ramifications of the Labor Front which have constantly come into view in the course of this report are perhaps most notably demonstrated by the entry of the Labor Front into the field of automobile manufacture for the production of the famous "people's car" which has been talked of for several years and which now, by order of Chancellor Hitler, is to be called the "Strength through Joy Car." While the question of this car perhaps lies more properly within the field of discussion of automotive experts, it nevertheless must be treated briefly as one aspect of the activities of Strength through Joy.

"The Company for the Promotion of the People's Car" was founded early in 1937, with a capital of RM 50,000,000 drawn from the general funds of the Labor Front. This company is a more or less independent body and its present connection with the Strength through Joy organization is asserted chiefly through the direction of the company by Dr. Lafferentz, who is at the same time head of Strength through Joy. The marketing of the car is to be undertaken by the offices of the Labor Front and of Strength through Joy.

On

On May 17 of this year the Chancellor laid the cornerstone for the factory, which is to be situated near Fallersleben (Hanover) at the intersection of the East-West Autobahn and the Mittelland Canal. It has been stated that the plant will eventually employ 60,000 workers and will be a combined "model factory" and "model village" in every respect, boasting of all the improvements of "Beauty of Work" and possessing a workers' settlement colony which will be rendered comfortable and beautiful by parks, sport places, etc. A first series of 30,000 cars will be ready at the end of 1939; while production will be progressively stepped up thereafter, it is expected that manufacture will not reach the peak of about a million and a half until 1946.

Pilot models of the car which will eventually be produced in three types, a limousine, an open car, and a convertible limousine, have already been exhibited. Designed to seat 4 or 5 passengers, the car is 4.2 meters long (13 feet, 8 inches), 1.55 meters wide (5 feet, 1 inch) and weighs 650 kg (1438 pounds). An aircooled motor of 24 horse power (German measurement) placed in the rear will, it is claimed, consume only 6 or 7 liters (6 to 6 1/2 quarts) of gasoline and 1/10 of a liter of oil per 100 kilometers, or 65 miles. The car, it is furthermore claimed, will be capable of a sustained

speed

speed of 100 kilometers per hour on the new Reich automobile roads. In general appearance the car does not represent any radical departure, being very similar to a small Mercedes-Benz which has been on the road for several years. It is understood, however, that the use of an aircooled engine situated in the rear is very much of a novelty, but this and other engineering features are for the time being held a close secret, the motor being jealously guarded against close inspection at all exhibits where the car has been shown. The car was designed by Dr. Porsche, the well known constructor of racing automobiles, which in itself is taken as a guarantee that it will render creditable performance. Pictures of the Strength through Joy car are enclosed in an appendix to this report.

Of distinct interest is the plan envisaged to facilitate purchase of the car. The factory price is quoted at RM 990. In order to enable prospective owners to anticipate purchase now, an installment-paying scheme was opened August 1st, whereby payments are to be accepted at a minimum weekly rate of RM 5. In order, it is said, to prevent the Strength through Joy car from being considered a "lower class" car, the payment scheme will be open to all Germans, irrespective of income, and weekly installments higher than RM 5 may be made. In fact, the total cost of the car may be paid now, although

cash

cash payments are out of the question and the car can only be acquired through the purchase of RM 5 stamps which may be bought up to the whole, or any partial amount, that the prospective owner desires. In the ordinary course of events the installment payer will provide himself with a savings-book containing space for 50 stamps, and when this has been filled, will turn it in for another. When in all three such books (representing a paid-up amount of RM 750) have been turned in, the holder will receive an order number. It is said that by a system of regional contingents, steps have been taken to prevent persons who have paid higher installments from receiving their cars before others who have paid less, delivery to be determined in the order of precedence of the individual inscriptions. The sum of RM 200, which will provide insurance for two years covering public liability and a limited amount of damage to the car itself, may also be paid by the installment method.

At first the cars will be made available in only one color - blue gray - and production will be restricted to only two models - the enclosed limousine and the convertible limousine - the latter costing RM 60 more. Cancellation of orders will be permitted only in exceptional circumstances, although payment of the installment may be deferred, at the sacrifice, however, of the holder's place in

the order of delivery.

The German press reported that the Strength through Joy and Labor Front offices, with which orders must be filed, have been swamped since August 1st, and that during the first three days 30,000 applications were received in Berlin alone. Incidentally, as it will be some time before even the manufacture of the car will be begun, it is observed that the Labor Front will be able to accumulate in the interval a tidy sum from the installments received, on which, of course, no interest is allowed.

It has been claimed in the German press that the Strength through Joy car will do more for cheap general motorization than has already been accomplished in the United States. While such claims make good internal propaganda, their validity, or rather their immediate fulfillment, is doubted in responsible circles. At the former par rate of 1 Reichsmark equaling \$0.25 (which is probably not a valid comparison in view, inter alia, of differences in respective wage scales, but which may be taken to give every benefit of the doubt to the National Socialist argument), the price of the Strength through Joy car would come to approximately \$250, which is certainly cheaper than any new American car. For this price, however, the American worker may obtain a good second-hand car which, considering the quality of materials, might well have as long a life as a new

Strength

Strength through Joy car. In Germany, on the other hand, second-hand cars are fairly expensive. A law enacted in May 1933 exempting cars built after that date from the State tax, has had the effect of maintaining the re-sale value of such cars; others, while they may be had cheaply, must pay the tax, which is very high. In the opinion of an authority in the motor transport division of the German Army, what is needed to bring about cheap motorization in Germany is a second-hand car market similar to that in the United States.

In this connection, the experience which has been gathered with respect to the sale of motor-cycles in Germany is interesting. Since 1934, when the government building and armaments programs began to have the result that many workers in the semi-skilled and skilled categories made more money (the first, by virtue of being transferred to the skilled classes owing to a general labor shortage, and the latter, by virtue of working overtime for higher pay), the motor-cycle has become more and more a means of conveyance for these classes of workers. Within the last year or so there has grown up a market for second-hand motor-cycles and these in turn are at last finding their way into the hands of many unskilled workers. The particular authority consulted envisaged that the Strength through Joy car would gradually take the place and repeat the

role

role that has been played by the motor-cycle. It is believed that even with the installment-paying scheme very few day laborers (whose average weekly net wage for 1937 was RM 31.2, as reported on page 43 of the semi-annual review of the REICHS-KREDIT-GESELLSCHAFT, English edition, for the first half of 1938) will be able to afford a **Strength through Joy** car. These cars, as in the case of the motor-cycle, will first be bought by the lower middle classes and the comparatively well-paid skilled worker, and then perhaps two or three years after they come into general use - say, six or seven, or even ten years from now - may eventually become available at second-hand prices to large numbers of the every-day worker, as has occurred in the United States.

It is admitted by the competent authorities that the **Strength through Joy** car project presents many difficulties. In particular it is realized that four years would be required before the car can be entirely paid for by a purchaser paying the lowest weekly installment, and that when the peak of production is finally reached some scheme may have to be devised to enable the lowest-paying owners to acquire new cars at shorter intervals than four years. It is understood, however, that the authorities are giving attention to this problem as well



THE FINANCING OF STRENGTH THROUGH JOY

The Labor Front which sponsors Strength through Joy is one of the richest organizations in Germany, but just how rich it is cannot be ascertained inasmuch as no detailed report has ever been published concerning its finances. In a private conversation at which the writer was present, Dr. Ley mentioned that the Labor Front had an annual turnover of over 2 billion marks (i.e., income and out-go of money) and he stated confidentially that it enjoyed such prosperity that the Reich Ministry of Finance had made attempts to levy taxes upon it.

The wealth of the Labor Front derives in part from the funds confiscated from the former trade unions in May 1933 (amounting, so Dr. Ley declared in a speech delivered in Nuremberg in 1937, to RM 120,000,000) but chiefly from contributions from members, including not only workers but the employers as well. The following is a partial scale of the monthly contributions based on the income of individual members:

Monthly

<u>Monthly Dues</u>			<u>Monthly Earnings in Reichmarks</u>
.40	unemployed on the dole		
.60	invalids		
.60	---		40.00
.80	from 40.01	to	60.00
1.20	" 60.01	"	80.00
1.40	" 80.01	"	100.00
1.80	" 100.01	"	120.00
2.20	" 120.01	"	160.00
2.80	" 160.01	"	180.00
3.40	" 180.01	"	220.00
3.80	" 220.01	"	260.00
4.40	" 260.01	"	300.00

The above table may be regarded as covering the ordinary worker group. From that point onwards, the scale of contributions ascends to RM 12 which, it is stated, is the highest contribution charged any member. On the other hand, it is learned that many employers make supplementary voluntary contributions amounting to as much as RM 25, RM 50, or even RM 100 a month. It may be assumed that considerable sums are received on this score. Each member has a book in which he pastes each month stamps designating the amount of his membership contribution, which in many cases is deducted from the worker's salary automatically by his firm's accountants.

The average monthly contribution in 1935 was RM 1.57 and in 1937, RM 1.885, the increase it is stated, reflecting the rise in national income which had taken place in the interval. It is claimed that the latter figure of RM 1.885, even though it is an average based on the contributions of employers as well as workers, is less than the amount paid by the worker to the former trade unions. Members of the Labor Front apparently receive nothing per se for their contributions other than the privileges of membership, which among other things entitles them to participate in Strength through Joy and, in some deserving cases, vouchsafes workers or their families certain subsidies should they become destitute through no fault of their own.

The writer was told that in February 1937, RM 28,600,000 were received in contributions, and that the monthly total thereafter ran at about RM 30,000,000 until December when RM 35,200,000 were collected. It was explained that the exceptional rise in December was based upon income increases due to Christmas and year-end bonuses.

The sum of RM 300,000,000, representing contributions for ten months of the year, added to the amount of RM 63,800,000 received in January and December, would therefore yield a grand total income in contributions of well over RM 363,000,000 for 1937.

The Labor Front has of course other sources of income besides contributions, inasmuch as it runs its own savings-banks, insurance schemes, settlement projects and even in some cases its own business enterprises. Considering the ramifications and variety of activities of the Labor Front, the total annual turnover of RM 2 billion mentioned by Dr. Ley is not necessarily a surprising figure.

In view of the fact that the great bulk of the Labor Front's funds is spent upon such schemes as workers' housing, costly vocational training, and benefits for destitute workers, et cetera, the survey given above of its finances is perhaps of only indirect interest as far as Strength through Joy is concerned, although it is nevertheless useful in showing the gigantic resources that stand behind the recreational organization. According to statements made by a high official in the treasury division, the Labor Front launched Strength through Joy on a capital of about RM 24,000,000 granted during the first year and, in proportion to the expansion of Strength through Joy, has increased the subsidy to the point where RM 35,000,000 were paid in 1937. It is claimed that this figure includes inventory, meaning the cost of the new cruise ships and other facilities, but did not comprise the sum of RM 50,000,000 allocated to capitalize the manufacture of the Strength through Joy car. While some doubt has been cast on these figures

by certain German business men, who offer a much higher estimate of the cost of Strength through Joy to the Labor Front, it must be accepted as the only official statement available.

With respect to the budget of Strength through Joy, it has been possible to obtain only very rough figures. According to the official in the treasury division of the Labor Front, the debit balance of Strength through Joy, that is, the total money expended for ordinary purposes, was approximately RM 135,000,000 for 1937, while the credit balance, that is, money received, amounted to approximately RM 107,000,000. The difference of RM 28,000,000 was made up from the subsidy of RM 35,000,000 received from the Labor Front, the remaining RM 7,000,000 of that subsidy representing capital outlay on new equipment, including the installment for that year toward the cost of the two new cruise ships.

On the income side Strength through Joy received RM 81,200,000 in payments made by workers for their vacation trips, and RM 16,517,000 in payments received for theater tickets and other forms of entertainment offered by the Office for Leisure Time, the total of these amounts coming to about RM 97,717,000. The difference between the latter sum and the figure of RM 107,000,000 representing the total ordinary revenue of Strength

through

through Joy was made up by fees collected by the Sport Office and by the Office for Popular Education.

With respect to the financial status of each individual subdivision of Strength through Joy, it was asserted, as has been mentioned before, that the land journeys of the Office of Travel, Hiking and Vacations paid for themselves and indeed sometimes rendered a small surplus which was devoted to money lost on the sea trips. The writer's informant did not have at hand any figures for the Sport Office but said that apart from the large amounts spent by individual factories on sport arrangements, the Office itself had to pay certain sums to cover rent of sport fields and deficits in instructors' salaries over and above the fees charged the participants. Apart from administrative expenses, the accomplishments of the Beauty of Work Office cost Strength through Joy very little, inasmuch as the charges for the improvement of working conditions were made to lie chiefly upon the plant owners.

Despite the large revenue received by the Office for Leisure Time, its deficit was perhaps greater than that of the other departments, inasmuch as it ran its own theaters and frequently had to sustain losses arising from the failure to sell tickets it had contracted for, as well as losses

due



FINAL EVALUATION

The above account is primarily a factual survey based upon what the writer has been told by official informants, upon what he has seen of Strength through Joy in practice, and to a lesser degree upon what he has read (mostly Gau programs and earlier speeches by Dr. Ley, there being little other printed material of value). The writer believes that this account presents a fairly accurate picture of Strength through Joy activities in the large, although he is not satisfied concerning certain statistics and figures, particularly those relating to the finances of Strength through Joy in which certain discrepancies have been noted in statements made. However, as no other sources than the purely official were available, there remained no alternative but to select that information which seemed to be the most plausible and reliable.

While incidental comment has been interpolated in the preceding account, no attempt has been made to draw the picture together in even its smaller outlines before the completion of the survey. In view of the extended range of Strength through Joy, judgment upon it must necessarily be of a composite nature and it is therefore believed that a comprehensive estimate of the achievements of the organi-

zation

zation can perhaps best be approached through opinions obtained among the following groups: first, the employers; secondly, private individuals and businesses who serve Strength through Joy; and lastly, and most important, the workers and employees themselves.

Employers' Views Regarding Strength through Joy.

Discussions have been held with several employers (including an American business man located in Germany), in such various lines as the electrical and machine tool industries, as well as in the department-store trade. Inasmuch as it is customary for large firms in Germany to assign one of their directors to handle social policy, consultations have been sought with several of these directors.

With almost no exceptions, universal approval was expressed by these employers of the Strength through Joy idea, this approval, however, ranging from the unqualified enthusiasm of the Party-member director, to the begrudging endorsement of the old-line type of employer opposed to many features of National Socialism. Several of the latter seemed to feel that many firms in Germany with advanced social standards had for years been giving their workers many of the benefits of Strength through

Joy, particularly in the way of sport and factory entertainments, but they admitted that the travel and vacation facilities afforded today could only be put into execution by an organization such as Strength through Joy operating on a national basis. A fact elicited, which corrects the impression given by official spokesmen that Strength through Joy had taken hold from the very beginning, is that the workers in many factories are just now beginning to take part in the excursions, having been doubtful at first as to whether they would enjoy themselves. At that it would appear that the greater proportion of the excursionists are younger people and employees of the white collar class.

An interesting theory advanced was that some such device as Strength through Joy is perhaps necessary in view of the increased demands in the way of intensified labor processes and longer overtime being made of the German worker as a result of the high tempo of the rearmament and Four Year Plan projects. With respect to what might be called the over-organization of some excursions (which was certainly not observed, however, on the trip which the writer made, but which it is understood characterizes some other tours), some of the employers were of the opinion that this might not indeed be a disadvantage from the workers' point of view

inasmuch

inasmuch as, being unaccustomed to traveling and arranging their spare time on their own initiative, they welcome being guided around and being told what to do.

It would seem that Strength through Joy costs every factory a certain amount of money, specifically in the sums which plant-owners are induced to spend on the improvement of working conditions, on the construction of sport fields and club houses, and in providing numbers of workers with free trips, or contributing to the price of these trips. An American firm employing about 3,000 workers in Germany expended, for instance, about RM 17,000 last year on Strength through Joy. The sums spent are on the whole not regarded as exorbitant, particularly as German manufacturing businesses are at present enjoying considerable prosperity, and it is explained further, that while some pressure is unquestionably exerted by the Labor Front, the latter has become more reasonable lately in its expectations. Strength through Joy may indeed be purchased as a form of penance, as it was by one firm which, after becoming involved in difficulties with the Party, bought itself back into favor by spending large amounts on workers' recreation.

Most employers apparently accept Strength through Joy as playing a definite role in industrial relations and as a factor contributing to a greater or less degree to the maintenance of indus-

trial peace. Quite apart from their feelings with respect to National Socialism, they seem to believe that Strength through Joy is founded upon sound premises and has become an integral and permanent part of German life.

The Attitude of Private Business Toward
Strength through Joy.

Occasion has been taken wherever possible to speak with innkeepers, sport instructors, teachers and others who have served Strength through Joy. More criticism is to be heard of the institution in these circles than perhaps in any other. In a way, however, some of the criticism may be taken as a tribute to the parsimony and lack of extravagance of Strength through Joy spending.

Innkeepers in the scenic portions of Germany have been known to complain that in the early days of Strength through Joy they were forced to take large numbers of excursionists against their will during the peak of the tourist season. This proved exceedingly burdensome, particularly as many hotels had equipped themselves to care for a better-paying class of tourist who consequently was kept away by the influx of visiting workers. The staff of a hotel which accommodates Strength through Joy must work hard, moreover, and usually

obtains

obtains little profit therefrom as the travelers have not much money to spend for tips or extras. These disadvantages seem to make themselves less felt in the case of private families who receive occasional Strength through Joy boarders.

Officials of the organization admit that at the beginning there arose many difficulties and misunderstandings. They state that now, however, arrangements better serving the mutual interests of all parties concerned have been worked out, and in particular that in big tourist centers certain days only have been set aside for Strength through Joy visits. They explain that Strength through Joy has thus limited its excursions to these more popular centers and is seeking, in so far as possible, to divert its traffic to less well-known but equally beautiful districts. They point to the success they have had in opening up the hitherto little visited district of the Emsland on the Dutch border. They claim, moreover, that they have rendered hotelkeepers generally a great service in prolonging the tourist season beyond its ordinary limits, inasmuch as the program of Strength through Joy excursions extends from the beginning of May and lasts well into October.

As regards other private individuals who work for Strength through Joy, the sport teachers, to name one category, feel that they more than earn

the small fees granted them. One of the difficulties which places a particular strain upon them is the tendency of the pupils, particularly the women, to stand around and exchange gossip in place of devoting proper attention to the courses. Professional teachers called in to assist with popular educational work seem to face much the same obstacles.

The Workers' Attitude Toward
Strength through Joy.

The attitude towards Strength through Joy of the masses for whom it is intended is a difficult problem to discuss in detail in view of the varied composition of the aggregate body of workers. The conclusions set forth on this score have been derived from the writer's conversations with his companions on the trip to Helgoland, as well as from incidental contacts he has made with other workers.

As regards the achievements of Strength through Joy on the whole, it should be admitted at the very first that quite apart from official claims, the organization must be judged a success if only by virtue of the fact that Strength through Joy excursions are to be met with everywhere in Germany during the travel season. If the institution were a

failure

failure it probably would cease to be patronized.

The two criticisms most frequently heard of Strength through Joy trips are that they are too strenuous and too overcrowded, and it is known definitely that these objections have served to keep many workers away. The concensus of opinion is that the shorter trips, as well as the longer journeys which cover a great deal of territory, are indeed strenuous and overcrowded. On the other hand, it is pointed out that most of the travelers who chose these excursions are young, that they enjoy visiting places they have never seen, and that companionship between people of the same age relieves to some extent the strain of crowding. An elderly person seeking rest may find it on a visit to a seaside resort where he is lodged in a private house and is left pretty much to himself. If such a person opts for a strenuous excursion and is dissatisfied, it is held to be his own fault, and he will probably be better advised to choose another type of vacation next year. Thus, it is pointed out, the question resolves itself in the last analysis into that of choosing the type of excursion which best conforms to one's personal tastes.

The long sea voyages are regarded as particularly enjoyable and indeed this opinion is confirmed

by

by several foreign journalists who made the trip to Norway and who have stated that everybody seemed to have a thoroughly good time (and that curiously enough very little propaganda was purveyed to the travelers). It has been noted, however, that several workers have spoken of these trips somewhat wistfully as being beyond their means.

The workers' remarks on this point would seem to raise the question as to what degree Strength through Joy has been really successful in benefiting the every-day laborer for whom it is supposed to have been created. From an absolute standard, Strength through Joy prices are exceedingly low and it would be difficult to conceive of any further reduction being granted without changing the whole basis of operation and thus necessitating a larger subsidy from the Labor Front. Each excursion is open to the worker who has the means to pay for it. At the same time, however, it is doubtful whether a married worker earning as much as RM 50 per week (a good salary in Germany) could afford for himself, without his wife, more than one trip a year costing much over RM 15, the price of one of the shorter week-end excursions. The conclusion may perhaps be drawn that, marvelous as the organization Strength through Joy may be, and perfectly adapted as it is to the situation of the lower middle classes (particularly the office employee group),

it has not yet succeeded in extending the maximum benefits of long-range travel to the real workers. The provision of free journeys by such devices as a "pfennig-fund" raffle is no solution of the problem, any more than is the granting of free trips on the basis of meritorious (and possibly political) service, inasmuch as this expedient can only include a small proportion of the workers of a particular plant during a given year. The fault for this state of affairs would seem to lie rooted in the general economic structure rather than with Strength through Joy which seems to extract the maximum opportunities from the facilities at its disposal.

With the exception of the longer excursions noted above, the other activities of Strength through Joy are well within the range of means of the ordinary worker. The theater entertainments, sport and educational facilities are offered at minimal prices, whereas the drives for the improvement of working conditions cost the laborer nothing at all. For the organizers the problem presents itself chiefly in the form of devising new and attractive programs, and these the National Socialists, with their highly developed instinct of popular appeal, have been immensely successful in doing. Incidentally, being curious as to whether the workers were particularly grateful to National



There can be little doubt but that Strength through Joy has become an important force in present-day German life. By virtue alone of the vast sums of money it sets into motion it has become a national economic factor, while socially and politically it is yielding returns in giving pleasure to large numbers of the masses and in helping unite the country psychologically by furthering acquaintance and exchanges of impressions between hitherto highly differentiated provincial peoples. As an institution now so enormous that the worker can hardly avoid contact with some form of its activity within or outside of his factory, Strength through Joy seems indeed to have achieved a totalitarianism of its own which at the same time reflects and subtly promotes that of the National Socialist Party which created it. Strength through Joy does indeed seem to offer the worker a surplus value over and above his real wages, as Dr. Ley was quoted as saying at the beginning of this report. Whether or not this is done from an entirely clear motive or for the ulterior purpose of diverting demands for higher wages perhaps admits of some debate. In this connection the following general index figures given on page 43 of the semi-annual report of the REICHS-KREDIT-GESELLSCHAFT with respect to average net weekly wages during certain key years are interesting: 1929 - RM 39.5; 1932 - RM 26.3; 1937 - RM 31.2. National Socialists look upon Strength through Joy as in part compensating for the wage decrease shown in a comparison of the averages for the

years

years 1929 and 1937. This decrease affects primarily the unskilled worker, for, as has been noted previously, many workers in the skilled and semi-skilled categories are earning more money owing to overtime labor and owing to their transfer to higher wage groups.

Although it can by no means be claimed that Strength through Joy has given a final answer, it nevertheless has at least raised the question as to whether a worker would really derive more enjoyment from a wage increase which he might spend foolishly (even though the right to do so might give him some satisfaction), than he would in spending a part of his savings upon a trip or form of entertainment tried and tested by an organization which specializes, and is experienced, in arranging the workers' spare time in a manner found to offer the most pleasure to people of his class. National Socialists emphasize particularly that Strength through Joy is introducing a new relationship between the industrial worker and the community whereby the former, fully conscious of his responsibilities to the community, looks to the latter to furnish him a surplus value.

With respect to the point as to whether an organization similar to Strength through Joy would prove successful in other countries, an examination must first be made of the causes which make the institution workable in Germany. In brief, two factors

seem

seem to be primarily important: first, the National Socialist system of government and, secondly, the nature of the German people. Without the Labor Front there would be no Strength through Joy, and without the Party, no Labor Front. The Party furnishes the organization upon which is grafted that of the Labor Front, and in addition provides the necessary authority to carry through all projects officially endorsed by the latter. While Strength through Joy seeks arrangements with private enterprises as mutually profitable to both as possible, there nevertheless exists little doubt that it can usually accomplish what it wishes in the way of hiring specific facilities or improving working conditions in particular factories.

This should not perhaps be taken to mean that an institution such as Strength through Joy would be impossible to operate in other countries lacking an authoritarian basis, although it is obvious that the existence of such authority greatly simplifies and expedites its work. It is learned, incidentally, that the Hungarian Government is considering introducing an adaptation of Strength through Joy and it should be interesting to observe how the procedure may be modified to a somewhat different form of government than the National Socialist.

With respect to the clientele of Strength through Joy, the German lower and middle classes are disciplined, exceedingly gregarious and usually blissfully content with the very little that they possess or that is offered them. Never having had anything like Strength through Joy excursions before, and lacking the means to tour the country by automobile, they have developed a new delight in travel and are willing to put up with many discomforts on their journeys. An additional stimulus to travel is of course the ideal nature of Germany as a tourist country in that variegated and beautiful scenic districts lie within comparatively easy reach of each other and of the big cities and manufacturing centers. Despite National Socialist attempts at "democratization," class distinctions still remain very strong in Germany, and while the worker is told that he is being afforded the privileges of the rich in Strength through Joy, he is left in no doubt that these privileges are presented to him in a form appropriate to his station, and he consequently does not expect many luxuries. In an individualistic environment a Strength through Joy movement might possibly have to be kept free from this tinge of "proletarianism" and be made to construct its appeal upon the values it was capable of offering universally, or at least on a broader basis than is now the case in Germany.

WORLD CONGRESSES ON LEISURE TIME AND RECREATION,
AND THE INTERNATIONAL CENTRAL BUREAU FOR
JOY AND WORK.

While not entirely germane to the subject of this report, mention must be made of the World Congresses on Leisure Time and Recreation, and of the International Central Bureau for Joy and Work, in view of the fact that high officials of the German Labor Front play a prominent role in both these activities.

The first World Congress on Leisure Time and Recreation met in Los Angeles in 1932 concurrently with the Olympic Games of that year and was sponsored by the National Recreation Association of the United States under the leadership of Mr. Gustavus Town Kirby. An International Advisory Committee was set up which decided to hold the next World Congress in Hamburg on the occasion of the Olympic Games taking place in Germany in 1936. At Hamburg the International Advisory Committee resolved to found a permanent International Central Bureau for Joy and Work which would have its seat in Germany and which would be headed by Dr. Ley, the leader of the German Labor Front. The Committee also elected to hold a World Congress every two years and in July of 1938 the Third World Congress met in Rome.

According

According to a list published by the International Central Bureau, the following countries were represented at Rome by official delegations or delegates named with the approval of their governments: Afghanistan, Albania, Argentina, Belgium, Bolivia, Bulgaria, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Chile, Costa Rica, Danzig, Egypt, Esthonia, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Japan, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Irak, Latvia, Lithuania, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Rumania, Siam, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Uruguay and Venezuela. The United States appears to have been represented unofficially by Mr. Kirby and several other American delegates.

The International Central Bureau for Joy and Work is supported almost entirely from German sources and its managing director is Dr. Manthey, a German. It publishes a lavish, and what must be a very expensive, monthly periodical called FREUDE UND ARBEIT, a copy of which is enclosed. The bureau also has begun publication of a research series, the first issue of which is also enclosed. On page 51 of this periodical, which is entitled DAS NEUE PROTOKOLL, will be found an account in English dealing with the organization of leisure time in the United States.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND LIST OF
ENCLOSURES.

As far as is known there has never been published, either in German or English, a comprehensive survey of the activities of Strength through Joy. The writer has therefore had to elicit his information for this report from numerous interviews with officials in all departments of the Labor Front and from a perusal of innumerable Strength through Joy programs, circulars and announcements. Some of the individual Offices of Strength through Joy have adopted the custom of drawing up for internal use annual reports on their work and these reports which were obtained from the Offices for Sport and for Popular Education proved most useful. A brief report submitted to the Department by the American Consul General in Stuttgart on the operation of Strength through Joy in Württemberg and Hohenzollern (voluntary report mailed September 24, 1937) was very helpful at the beginning as serving as a guide.

There are enclosed a series of envelopes containing material hereinafter specified:

- Envelope A - Miscellaneous Gau Programs, Illustrated Folders, etc.
- Envelope B - Miscellaneous Photographs of Strength through Joy Activities.
- Envelope C - Photographs and Material Describing the Strength through Joy Car. (There is furnished a newly-published prospectus of the car (with English translation) which may be of particular interest in view of the attention which this car has aroused in Germany and abroad.)
- Envelope D - Publications of the International Central Bureau for Joy and Work (see Appendix 1).

Berlin, August 31, 1938

(Personal and
confidential)

Dear Mr. President:

I mentioned a matter to Bill Bullitt when I saw him in Paris last week end, concerning which he suggested that I write you at once, even though our War Department is already aware of the situation through reports from the Military Attaché here.

It appears that mobilization, in the old sense of the word, will no longer be in Germany a prelude to offensive action. The Army is now in a continually mobilized condition and troops can be sent on a march directly from their barracks for a given destination, junction taking place en route, so that there would be no pause for mobilization.

This means that if action is taken, in all probability we will have news of it only in reports of military movement some six or eight
hours

The President,

The White House,

Washington, D.C.

hours before military action is engaged in.

I still hope and believe that nothing of the sort will be taking place in the immediate future.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Very respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Woodrow Wilson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the typed text "Very respectfully,".

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 3, 1938.

MEMORANDUM FOR

HON. HARRY L. HOPKINS

Will you summarize the enclosed? Read, if you want to, and return for my files.

F. D. R.

September 3, 1938.

Dear Hugh:-

I have not had a chance before this to thank you for that excellent report on the youth camps. I am making it the basis of a broader study from our own point of view over here.

Thank you also for the "Strength through Joy" report which I am now reading. All of this helps us in planning, even though our methods are of the democratic variety!

You are, I know, going through difficult days in Berlin but today things seem a little brighter.

My best wishes to you,

Always sincerely,

Honorable Hugh R. Wilson,
American Embassy,
Berlin,
Germany.

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION

WALKER-JOHNSON BUILDING
1734 NEW YORK AVENUE NW.
WASHINGTON, D. C.

HOPKINS
RATOR

*File
Confidential*

October 18, 1938.

Wilson
OCT 21
THE WHITE HOUSE

The President
The White House

Dear Mr. President:

In Mr. Hopkins' absence I am writing in reply to your memorandum of September third bringing to our attention an interesting report submitted by our Embassy in Germany on the "Strength Through Joy" program in that country. *

I have read this report with considerable interest and have prepared in accordance with your suggestion a memorandum commenting on it which I enclose herewith.

Sincerely yours,

Aubrey Williams
Aubrey Williams
Deputy Administrator

x 444-6

MEMORANDUM ON STRENGTH THROUGH JOY REPORT

Summary:

This report describes the activities of the German organization, Strength through Joy. This is the recreational branch of the Labor Front, Nazi substitute for independent labor unions, and includes twenty million workers.

This organization operates in six major fields:

1. The promotion of cheap excursions varying from day trips to ocean cruises, including the construction and operation of ocean liners and excursion boats.
2. The promotion of better working conditions and recreational facilities in private industrial plants through the voluntary cooperation of plant owners.
3. The promotion of sports including the construction of facilities, the organization of competitions, and instruction.
4. The furnishing of inexpensive tickets to theaters, concerts, festivals etc., the actual conduct of such activities, and the promotion of leisure time participation in the arts by workers.
5. Promotion of popular educational work for workers in all fields including Nazi indoctrination.
6. The development of a low price automobile.

Comment:

The activities described in this report are, for the most part, in themselves desirable and many of them are a part of our own leisure time program as carried on through federal, local and private agencies and more particularly through the WPA recreational projects in this country. It is the motivation, method, and goal that is different. Here are a few of the more obvious differences:

Motivation Their leisure time activities are intended to compensate workers for low wages and divert them from any effort to increase them. Ours are intended to assist workers to realize their own potentialities and so become aware of their conditions and of their own capacity as citizens and workers in a democracy to improve them.

Control Their program is imposed from above on an authoritarian basis with no par-

ticipation in management or in the determination of policy. In our program every effort is made to secure the widest possible participation through sponsorship, community councils, and through cooperative arrangements with independent organizations such as trade unions.

Social Implications Their program is based on a conception of class alignment fundamental to the Nazi philosophy which compensates through the theory of racial and national unity and superiority for the suppression of working class interests as recognized in a democracy.

The class character of the Strength through Joy program is emphasized by the exclusion of Jews, the limitation of its benefits to lower income groups, and the payment of membership dues in proportion to income. In our program every effort is made to emphasize the democratic principle that all individuals are entitled to public benefits, at the same time imposing no barriers to the recognition of the special interests of working people and their right to promote those interests through organization or other means.

Conclusion:

Disagreement with the fundamental philosophy of National Socialism should not blind us to the interesting aspects of their activities in the recreational field. It should be possible to adapt what is good in their leisure time program to our own democratic institutions without confusion of purpose, so long as the fundamental distinctions outlined above are clearly recognized. Actually, most of their activities have been simultaneously developed in this country, without dominant stress on centralized control and standardized practices.

Does this just
file confidential?

A. Yes

8/31/38

FOR CABINET MEETING FRIDAY

(VERY CONFIDENTIAL)

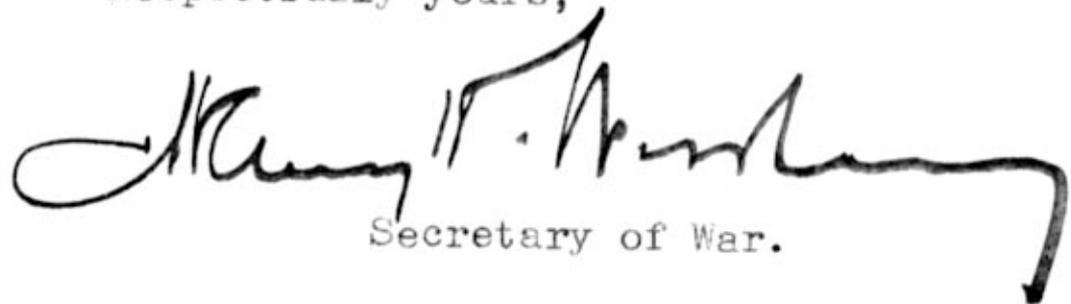
WAR DEPARTMENT
WASHINGTON

7 2
September 3, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

Herewith is the letter from the Ambassador to Germany which you gave me yesterday. I have made a copy which I am retaining, and the matter will be kept confidential.

Respectfully yours,



Secretary of War.

The President,

The White House.

Berlin, July 11, 1938.

(~~Strictly Confidential~~)

Dear Mr. President:

During the last few weeks I have had a number of talks with the Military Attaché, and especially with the Air Attaché, concerning German air production. I have also had talks with Mr. Glen Martin, Mr. J. H. Kindelberger and other American manufacturers and experts.

The conclusions reached from these talks are startling to any one used to thinking that France, England and the United States, especially the United States, held at least a small margin of superiority in the air over Germany. The facts are that Germany in the short time since throwing off the restrictions applicable to production of military aircraft, has produced an air arm second to none in numbers and quality of first line fighting airplanes. The

German

The President,

The White House,

Washington.

German aircraft factories are now producing between six and seven thousand airplanes of all types annually, but their potential production is not less than seventeen thousand a year, without including additional factories.

These revelations are so startling to American visitors who know something about our own industry that at first they find it hard to believe and to grasp, but they go away convinced of the truth of what I have said.

It is difficult indeed for the officers here to carry conviction through the written word as to the magnitude of this affair, its quality, and above all the rapidity and ease with which orders are placed, prototypes furnished and production of new types begun. The very difficulty with which the officers can carry conviction to our Army and Navy on these matters leads me to believe that it might be highly important for high authorities in the Air Force, accompanied by the necessary technicians, to come over and look at this situation.

Our officers here have the best relationship with the German Air Force and producers. The Germans have been consistently willing to show our people about and give them the widest kind of knowledge. I firmly believe that we should take advantage of this and send

some

some people who are of sufficient influence to carry conviction when they get home. Not only would there be advantage from the technical point of view in these gentlemen seeing this organization, but the great advantage would lie in the methods of placing and carrying through orders which might be readily adapted to our own needs in our war preparations.

My excuse for writing you direct on a matter of this kind is your well known deep interest in the state of our military organizations and my belief that this production in Germany is of so much greater importance to the world than is fully realized at home.

I am, my dear Mr. President,

Respectfully yours,

Hyge R Wilson

Hugh Wilson - 1938

THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

September 30, 1938.

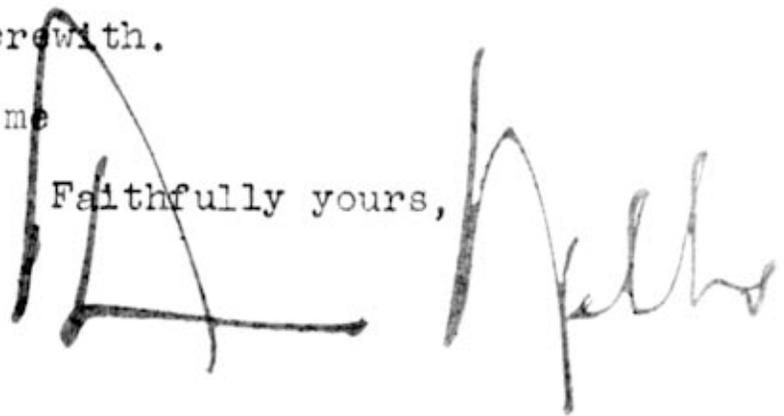
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Wilson (9)
Confidential

My dear Mr. President:

I have just received a personal letter from Hugh Wilson which I think will be of interest to you and I am therefore enclosing a copy herewith.

Believe me

Faithfully yours,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "A. Mellon". The signature is written over the typed words "Faithfully yours,".

The President,
The White House.

EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(Personal)

Berlin, August 14, 1938

Dear Sumner:

While I was in Nuremberg I had a talk with the Argentine Ambassador, Labougle, who told me of a conversation that I think will interest you.

Labougle was seated next to the German Ambassador to Argentine at a luncheon given by von Ribbentrop in Nuremberg. During the course of the luncheon the German Ambassador stated that it was a great pity that the Argentine Government had changed its attitude to the extent which it had in relation to the activities of the German colony in the Argentine. Labougle replied that the Ambassador ought to understand why this attitude had been changed, as his Government had only recently become conversant with the extent to which the German Government was trying to impregnate Germans abroad with Nazi ideals, and even to the extent of proselyting for those ideals on Argentine territory.

The German Ambassador complained bitterly about the influence of the United States, which he said was increasing and increasingly hostile to all other nations. Labougle replied that it was certainly true that American influence was increasing, but that this was due to the good neighbor policy that had been adopted by Mr. Roosevelt, and which the United States had practiced for the past six years. There was no longer any conflict between the states of Latin America and the United States and Labougle felt, and so informed the Ambassador, that on the contrary there was unity of interest.

The German Ambassador then complained about the unfair practices of the United States in commercial matters; how the United States Chamber of Commerce in Buenos Aires had tried to oust German influence, and how our diplomatic representatives had backed up these

The Honorable
Sumner Welles,
Under Secretary of State,
Washington, D. C.

efforts. Labougle replied that the commercial side was another view of the picture, that the Germans practiced dumping and other things that were generally considered "unfair practices in trade". However, Labougle continued, the United States had never attempted to utilize their commercial advantages as a means of spreading political theories and this was a policy of the German Government which the Argentine could not tolerate. Labougle states that he continued by warning the German Ambassador that if they followed their present practice among the states of Latin America they would encounter a reaction which would be lamentable for German trade and German culture in these lands.

This ends the account of the interview. Labougle said to me further that for five years he had been warning his Government about what the Germans were trying to get at in the German colonies residing abroad, and it was only recently his Government had become awake to the danger. He was apprehensive of the whole movement, in view of the apparently uninterrupted line of successes of Germany, and feared that it might give encouragement in the following up of their proselyting ideas in a still more active form.

I write this letter not knowing whether you have yet returned from your vacation. If so, I hope it has done you no end of good and that you get back to your desk full of vigor and health.

Yours, as ever,

HUGH R. WILSON

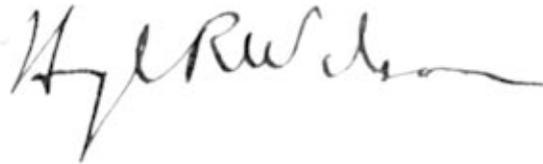
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DEPARTMENT OF STATE
WASHINGTON

November 29, 1938.

My dear Mr. President:

I wanted to write you a line to thank you for the very good time that we had at Warm Springs. It was charming of you to receive me so hospitably and I enjoyed every minute of my stay. With very many thanks,

Very respectfully,



The President,

Warm Springs, Georgia.