

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 23, 1948

GERMANY INVADED BY REQUEST MORAL RE-ARMAMENT

At the close of the World Assembly for Moral Re-Armament held during July-October at Caux-Sur-Montreux, Switzerland, a delegation was invited to Germany by the entire Cabinet of North Rhine-Westphalia, the Minister Presidents and leaders of Bavaria and Wurttemberg and Baden, spokesmen from Berlin and other parts of Germany. The Assembly was attended by over 5,000 delegates from 50 countries; among these delegates were 500 Germans, including 32 Cabinet Ministers and Secretaries of State.

When Senator Cain of Washington saw the effect of the conference, and especially the Moral Re-Armament revue "The Good Road", had made upon the Germans present, he took immediate action with the United States authorities in Berlin: "As a citizen, as a taxpayer and as a Senator," he wrote General Clay, "I know of no greater investment to be made at this time than to make the Moral Re-Armament plays available to every German. If this programme cannot be re-vitalised and re-inspire a desire in free nations to remain free, I do not know what can."

General Lucius Clay and the British authorities authorised the visit. The force consists of 260 persons from 20 nations, the largest civilian group to enter Germany since the war. There are men who fought in the Resistance Movement in Norway and Holland and others who suffered in concentration camps, French from Alsace who have been led since childhood to hate the Germans; a Luftwaffe pilot and an ex-Nazi, now comrades in a fight for freedom that cuts across all previous battlelines. Most of the delegates are in the cast of "The Good Road", which will be presented in the various German cities to be visited.

The delegation received a warm welcome in Germany. At Munich, a city which has been forty per cent destroyed by bombs, at less than a week's notice, more than half the group were taken into the homes of local German families. The Gartnerplatz theatre, just re-built, which is one of Germany's finest, was set at their disposal by the Bavarian State officials, for the revue. The first night audience was the most distinguished and representative gathered together since the war.

The play received the same enthusiastic reception everywhere. German newsreels shot scenes, while the radio recorded entire performances for later broadcasts. Even though the play is in English with only a final song in German, the ideas and the spirit get across. The German leaders who had attended the Moral Re-Armament Assembly at Caux, had grasped the meaning of inspired democracy and are applying it in their situations. An official reception by the Lord Mayor, Wimmer, in the picturesque old Rathaus, the press conference and private conversations all evidenced the readiness of this nation for an inspired ideology to give life to the democratic framework set up by the political, economic and military efforts of so many earnest and able men both within and without the country.