

# Letters to The Times

## Help for Czechs Needed

### Refugees in France Are Described as Being in Dire Straits

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

In our deep sympathy and concern for the French and English who are bravely fighting for the values and very existence of free peoples, let us not forget those whose nation was one of the first to feel the Nazi onslaught—the Czechoslovakians. Over 50,000 Czech refugees are in France, and 15,000 of the little Czech Army are fighting with the Allied forces. The Czechs have no national treasury behind them. The French Government is treating them like their own soldiers, and soldiers' families, but the needs of these people have been swallowed in the vast aggregation of need which has rolled up in the last six months.

As a citizen of Czecho-Slovakia during the first years of my exile from Germany, when Czecho-Slovakia extended to me as to many other Germans the freedom and citizenship of its democracy, I know what a special debt Europe owes to that country. As a resident of America I know what deep ties of brotherhood and faith in democracy bind these two countries.

I therefore wish to remind American citizens of the needs and dire distress of Czecho-Slovakians today and to ask their generous help. The Red Cross is helping; so, too, are the Y. M. C. A. and other organizations. There is one group in this country which has rendered special services to the Czechs—the Unitarians. Last year, with the Friends, they formed a Commission for Service in Czecho-Slovakia, raised a fund and sent two commissioners to Czecho-Slovakia who worked there from February until August. They were entrusted with the funds of the American Committee for Relief in Czecho-Slovakia as well.

With courage and American practicality they supported rest homes and orphanages, built homes for refugees, set up and ran an emigration office, helped get Czechs out of prison, built up morale and hope, and cooperated with dozens of Czech welfare organizations.

Now, the new Unitarian Service Committee, on the basis of concrete information gathered by thirteen weeks of investigation in Europe, and out of humanitarian sympathy for a gallant people who can at this time be helped only outside of their country, is sending their two experienced commissioners to France to take care of Czech refugees. They will work in cooperation with other organizations, but make it their special responsibility to do personal work—in tracing families, taking care of health problems, starting education and recreation projects—all those things which not only keep people alive, but also help them to live.

Here is a definite and worthy way in which Americans can help—not to save the world, but to help save some of its free people. In these days the Allies need every bit of such personal service and aid as we can give. I know Americans will not fail to share the opportunity.

THOMAS MANN.

Princeton, N. J., June 11, 1940.

### A Navy Seen Ready at Hand

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

We must prevent the French Navy from falling into Germany's possession. How can this be accomplished?

A simple scheme, not yet considered to this writer's knowledge, is for the United States to purchase the French Navy before the actual armistice or peace negotiations begin. We need a larger Navy in proportion to the growing strength of Germany; and every vessel we keep from falling into German hands increases our own strength and decreases that of the Nazis. At all cost we cannot afford to have the French Navy fall under German control and hence become a threat to us in time to come.

By purchasing the French Navy we help the French, strengthen ourselves, and weaken Germany relatively. But we must act without delay before unconditional surrender occurs or armistice negotiations are concluded.

The amount and terms of payment are minor matters. Having been agreed upon, however, the credits so established could be used in this country for the purchase of food, clothing, etc. to support the French people over the coming Winter and to begin the rehabilitation of France's devastated areas.

NORMAN S. BUCHANAN.

Hempstead, N. Y., June 17, 1940.

### Preparedness Essential

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Whatever we may think of Hitler, we must admit that his accomplishment since May 10 will go down as one of the great events in military history. It was all due to one thing—preparedness.

Twenty-five years ago I was a young lawyer in the office of one of the officers and directors of the Military Camps Association. I took a great interest in that organization and was convinced of the necessity of preparedness and compulsory military training. I swore in hundreds of applicants for Plattsburg.

Today I have two sons of military age and I am all the more convinced that we need preparedness and compulsory military training. Preparation is required in all phases of human conduct, not alone in military affairs. John E. Parsons, Nestor of the American Bar, under whom I worked early in my law career, repeatedly said "Verdicts and decisions are won in the office and not in the court room." He meant that thorough preparation would result in ultimate victory.

LOUIS A. STONE.

New York, June 15, 1940.

### Choice Open to Us

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Since not a day passes without confusion about the terms "dictator" and "tyrant," may I attempt definition? Although it is of little importance that the word "dictator" is of Latin origin and "tyrant" of Greek, their respective meanings are matters for which nations and peoples have perished.

A tyrant is one who, like Hitler, Mussolini or Stalin, has seized absolute authority for life, with responsibility to no one. A dictator, however, is one to

whom, like Chamberlain, absolute authority has been accorded within definite time limits, revocable at will by and absolutely responsible to the electorate.

Since force can be overcome only by superior force, and since superior force can be organized only by authority, the option now confronting the American nation is whether they prefer a temporary domestic dictator or a permanent foreign tyrant.

THOMAS MEANS.

Brunswick, Me., June 14, 1940.

## Books Seem to Betray Him

### Nazi Literature Viewed as Refuting Hitler Disinterest in America

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Thousands of misguided Americans are deluding themselves with false hopes in imagining that Germany has no designs on the United States and Canada. Anybody familiar with a certain type of Nazi literature knows that Germany has very definite plans in regard to both countries.

Permit me to draw the attention of your readers to only a few of the many "tendentious" works published in Hitler's Reich under the strict Nazi censorship. Those mentioned in this letter may be found in the New York Public Library and in scores of other well-equipped libraries throughout the United States.

For the past several years Meyer's Lexikon, in pre-Nazi days a reputable encyclopedia, has been in process of revision in accordance with Hitler's view of life. The eight volumes of the Nazi-fied version which have appeared since 1936 throw a flood of light upon Germany's intentions toward the rest of the world.

In Volume 3, for instance, the article headed "Deutschtum im Ausland" (German Nationality Abroad) devotes a whole column to the United States and Canada alone. In connection with this article, one of the most revealing illustrations (Plate VIII) shows a parade of determined-looking young Nazis garbed in the uniform of Storm Troopers and bearing swastika banners. The caption reads: "Auslandsdeutsche aus Kanada marschieren zu einem groszem Treffen der Hitlerjugend in der Ostprieignitz." Translated, this means: "Foreign Germans from Canada march at a grand assembly of the Hitler Youth in the Ostprieignitz district (in Germany)."

Too few Americans know about Colin Ross, a German of Germans and a Nazi of Nazis, despite the Scotch-sounding name. His two most recent books on the United States, as well as his works on Canada, Mexico and South America, should be of special interest to all of us at this time. Nazi Germany's attitude toward the United States was made clear four years ago in the very title of Ross's principal work, "Unser Amerika"—"Our (that is, Germany's) America."

ALEXANDER KADISON.

New York, June 15, 1940.

### Underground Arms Plants

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Referring to Mr. Frost's excellent suggestion to have munitions of war manufactured underground, would this not dispel the necessity of Midwest concentration for these plants and permit more flexible distribution? The protection would be adequate and the locations could be shielded from overhead visibility. We should be careful to arrive at the distribution of these plants with the utmost caution and good judgment.

CHARLES PLATT.

New York, June 14, 1940.

### Well, What?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

Here is an interesting observation made by an Italian member of a road gang the day after Mussolini declared war:

"You get a kid, raise him up, grow him big, then somebody wants come and shoot him off. What the hell!"

R. L. S.

Hopewell, N. J., June 12, 1940.

### Odoriferous Buses

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

A. P. Keasbey, whose letter referred to gas fumes and smoke created by the buses traversing our streets, will be interested in some correspondence which I had with the Transit Commission last Summer regarding this nuisance. At that time the commission stated that their investigator found some justification in my complaint and had taken steps to remedy the situation. Apparently the remedy was not permanent.

Last night while riding home on one of the old buses the conductor became so ill that he could not see to make change. I asked him why he did not register a complaint and he stated that complaints were unavailing.

Perhaps if Mr. Keasbey and others who realize the danger inherent in the inhalation of these obnoxious fumes would address communications to the Transit Commission, concerted effort might get permanent results. In view of the fact that some bus lines do not offend to the same degree, it would appear that something can be done quickly. Many of the buses of ancient vintage have been commandeered for the Summer, but evidently nothing was done to recondition them so as to alleviate the trouble.

C. SACHS.

New York, June 15, 1940.

### As to Macadam Pavement

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NEW YORK TIMES:

A recent article in your paper spoke of the deterioration of the asphalt in the macadam pavement on La Guardia Field.

Macadam's invention, for which the British Government over 125 years ago gave him £10,000, was for a road surface made by covering a layer of coarse cracked stone with one of finer stone, that the heavy iron "tyres" of commercial "waggons" crushed finer and bound into an even surface. At the edge was a U trough of heavy stone blocks.

Telford improved it by adding a layer of asphalt. But as soon as asphalt appears on a road it is no longer macadam.

Most macadam and Telford pavements are too thin, and are laid on an insufficiently compacted dirt bed.

ROBERT GRIMSHAW.

Leonia, N. J., June 17, 1940.