

Much to do about nothing.

The Fallacy of "Liquidation"

By MARTIN E. PECK

SINCE the outbreak of the war in Europe, this writer has been plagued with letters from individuals who claim they have the only logical solution for the eradication of this man-made solution for the world's economic and social problems.

As this country has moved, day by day, closer to the conflict, these communications have increased in number and rabidness. Nearly every last one of them places the blame for the European predicament upon the shoulders of the German state. All advocate that Nazism must go, but not one has offered a formula for a more efficient productive system, a more equitable distribution of the returns of industry, and the prevention of the concentration of land into the hands of a few individuals. These are the very problems from which Nazism was able to grow.

The most recent communication to arrive at my desk recommends that the German state must be "liquidated." The theory upon which this suggestion is based runs something like this: A civilization which is trying to destroy itself is dangerously sick. Its culture is decaying, which indicates its society is diseased. Germany is employing its natural resources to destroy material culture and tear down the painfully built structure of religion, the family and ethics. The German state, therefore, is considered pathological and should be scheduled for obliteration.

How shall this "liquidation" be carried out? My correspondent recommends that there might be inflicted upon Germany a system of breeding and environmental control of human stock based upon knowledge of human biology and a regard for eugenics! Thus Germany will be relieved of the problem of cramming her population with inferior organisms.

This fantastic scheme immediately presents the task of selection, for, after all, human reproduction cannot be likened to the creation of a new hybrid corn, a new wheat, a purebred hog, a Fauvic Star, or a purebred Rhode Island Rod fowl. Who is to be the new Lamarck, the Darwin, the Weismann, the Guyer or Smith? History presents us with certain facts that cannot be omitted in this biological rodeo. If the Allies defeat Germany and our country has anything to say relative to the disposal of the German state, we can rest assured that the Republicans will not want the Democrats to taint the breed.

Make no mistake about it, the whole science of genetics will become one grand chase. Business associations will give labor unions a merry round. The rich will hunt the poor and the poor the rich; Catholics will hunt Methodists, and Methodists will hunt Presbyterians; blondes will hunt brunettes; husbands their wives, and wives the husbands; and old maids will build the siderails of their beds down to the floor. Who then is to be the Adam and Eve in this new Eden where the rights of *all* the people are valued and where

morality, ethics, and respect for religion will insure a national future?

The "liquidation" of the German state rests directly upon whether or not the states now at war with the Reich are willing to jeopardize their own class system by winding up the affairs of the German Junker class, for in the last analysis biological control is going to depend upon who controls (has the sovereignty of) the nation.

The state may be defined as a person or group of persons living within a certain territory, permanently, and having the right to make and to enforce laws without the consent of a higher authority. This right to legislate and administer laws implies sovereignty, and in the United States we are taught that it is the *whole* body politic that should control the government. Should one person, for example Louis XIV of France, have all the sovereignty, that person would be the state. In Germany, where a wealthy land-owning and military class holds sway, that class is the sovereign state. (See Bruno Heilig's "Why the German Republic Fell.")

In short, if we are to "liquidate" the German state we must first isolate that institution and then ascertain whether or not those states based upon a similar class system are willing to draw the biological knife. Here lies the rub. The state which on paper is to be eradicated, is not the state in the terms of sovereignty. To destroy the real German state would mean the obliteration of the wealthy land-owning Junker class, for this is the class that has conquered and subjected, using every conceivable means, the other ethnic groups. (See Franz Oppenheimer's "The State," p. v.)

We are living in a Twentieth Century economy. In spite of a cultural lag, modern means of transportation and communication have erased the barriers of time and distance. When an earthquake wrecks buildings and takes lives in Chile, school children in Nebraska and the Bronx spend their pennies to repair the damage. A small bank in Vienna closed its doors and the United States participated in a bank holiday. A rich man is rich and a poor man is damnably uncomfortable in this modern age whether he be in Monte Carlo, Palm Beach, or Addis Ababa. To "liquidate" the German Junker class would mean that similar classes in other lands are doomed to the same procedure. Would a Morgan in the United States and a Norman in England be willing to receive the same biological obliteration that they would mete out to a Goering in Germany? The answer is obvious. In fact, the Morgans, the Normans, and the Goerings are still condemning the 1917 "liquidation" of their Russian compatriots.

The "liquidation" of susceptible and undesirable elements that crowd our present-day populations is not the road to political freedom. Economic freedom must be re-

established. There is slowly rising in our history a tempest that will involve our capitalistic economy and democracy. In the United States there have been at work since the days of Alexander Hamilton the same forces that created Hitler. So important to the world at large is this coming crisis that the Temporary National Economic Committee included in its final report in March, 1941, this warning: "We know that most of the wealth and income of the country is owned by a few large corporations, that these corporations are owned in turn by an infinitesimally small number of people and that the profits from the operation of these corporations go to a very small group with the results that the opportunity for new enterprises, whether corporate or individual, are constantly being restricted."

In 1850, Dr. Ernest Engel, a German economist, published his study of the relationship between family income and expenditures. He found that as a family's income increased the percentage of income spent for luxuries, health and education increased. Today we are certain that education is responsible for the decrease in the size of families. There is no guarantee, however, that classes with the lowest birth rate (biologically speaking) are the best. Social and cultural lag are not items of biology and eugenics, neither are they dependent upon the improvement of race. They are dynamic only in an economy of freedom! The forces that aim toward the concentration of land might heed the phenomena revealed by Engel.

There is no need for the liquidation of peoples to free the world from undesirable organisms. Give to the people an efficient industrial system with free access to the land and the full reward of their labor. This is the only means under the sun to bring man into correct relationship with his fellow men—association in equality. This is the sure road to progress and the only way to permanently free the world of war.
