

Washington Daily *7-17 3/19/41*
Merry-Go-Round

(Trade Mark Registered)

By **DREW PEARSON** and **ROBERT S. ALLEN**

The man who handles American relations inside the Nazi government is Dr. Hans Dieckhoff, former ambassador to the United States and one of the ablest diplomats ever to operate in Washington.

Dr. Dieckhoff is the brother-in-law of Foreign Minister von Ribbentrop and also served as a lieutenant during the World War with Gen. Wilhelm Keitel, chief of staff, so has no trouble in getting his views across to Hitler.

According to diplomatic information received here, wise Ambassador Dieckhoff passed the word to Hitler last winter not to answer any of the speeches or statements made by Roosevelt or any leaders of the Roosevelt Administration. To do so, he advised, would merely arouse the American people.

He also pointed out that this was an election year in the United States, when the public was more concerned with domestic politics than anything else, and that if Hitler ignored the United States and went out of his way to be conciliatory, there would be little danger of American intervention.

In accord with this policy, no statements have come from Hitler regarding the United States except the very conciliatory interviews given to Karl von Wiegand, in which Hitler emphasized the point that Germany had no interest in the Western Hemisphere.

Mysterious Dr. Westrick

Ambassador Dieckhoff also is reported to have advised that after the war was over, the United States would be among the first to want to do business with Germany, and the operations of Dr. Gerhard Westrick, now famous Nazi commercial counselor, appear to be in conformity with that policy.

According to New York businessmen with whom Dr. Westrick talked, he was preaching the idea, as early as last spring, that Germany would be ready to do business with the United States by September 15. When New York businessmen laughed at the idea that the war would be over by that time, Dr. Westrick is quoted as saying:

"I am not a military man, so I can't discuss these things. But the people who ought to know in Berlin tell me that we can do business after September 15."

This was last spring, and New York businessmen told him to come back after September 15.

Later, when Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France, one by one, fell victims to Hitler, business leaders began to think twice regarding Dr. Westrick's proposals.

Appeasement in Wind

Dr. Westrick's argument has been that after the war is over Germany will need the United States, and the United States will need Germany. The two countries can co-operate. Hitler will rule all of Europe, and if the United States wants access to this vast market, it had best see things the Nazi way. Furthermore, Germany needs the benefits of American peacetime industry, while the United States has no need to develop a war industry in which Germany already is so proficient.

Although Dr. Westrick is now slated to leave the country, reports from Wall Street indicate that a...

tomobile, just as he did Westrick. Later he also gave the Spanish Fascist's son a job in Venezuela working with the Texas Company.

...received here, wise Ambassador Dieckhoff passed the word to Hitler last winter not to answer any of the speeches or statements made by Roosevelt or any leaders of the Roosevelt Administration. To do so, he advised, would merely arouse the American people.

He also pointed out that this was an election year in the United States, when the public was more concerned with domestic politics than anything else, and that if Hitler ignored the United States and went out of his way to be conciliatory, there would be little danger of American intervention.

In accord with this policy, no statements have come from Hitler regarding the United States except the very conciliatory interviews given to Karl von Wiegand, in which Hitler emphasized the point that Germany had no interest in the Western Hemisphere.

Mysterious Dr. Westrick

Ambassador Dieckhoff also is reported to have advised that after the war was over, the United States would be among the first to want to do business with Germany, and the operations of Dr. Gerhard Westrick, now famous Nazi commercial counselor, appear to be in conformity with that policy.

According to New York businessmen with whom Dr. Westrick talked, he was preaching the idea, as early as last spring, that Germany would be ready to do business with the United States by September 15. When New York businessmen laughed at the idea that the war would be over by that time, Dr. Westrick is quoted as saying:

"I am not a military man, so I can't discuss these things. But the people who ought to know in Berlin tell me that we can do business after September 15."

This was last spring, and New York businessmen told him to come back after September 15.

Later, when Norway, Denmark, Holland, Belgium and France, one by one, fell victims to Hitler, business leaders began to think twice regarding Dr. Westrick's proposals.

Appeasement in Wind

Dr. Westrick's argument has been that after the war is over Germany will need the United States, and the United States will need Germany. The two countries can co-operate. Hitler will rule all of Europe, and if the United States wants access to this vast market, it had best see things the Nazi way. Furthermore, Germany needs the benefits of American peacetime industry, while the United States has no need to develop a war industry in which Germany already is so proficient.

Although Dr. Westrick is now slated to leave the country, reports from Wall Street indicate that a considerable amount of business appeasement is in the wind.

Note — Torkild Rieber, who resigned as head of the Texas Oil Company because of his friendship with Dr. Westrick, was a lot closer to the Nazi Fascist groups than leaked out. As early as March 17 this column quoted one of his conversations with War Minister Goering. Also when General Franco's agent, Col. Antonio Sanz Agero, was in the United States, Captain Rieber lent him an au-