

October 31, 1936

TIGHT NAZI BELTS

Hitler Names Goering as Dictator of Economic Sufficiency Drive

“Uncle” Hermann to the masses, “Our” Hermann to the Army and big business. Col. Gen. Hermann Wilhelm Goering last week became economic dictator and virtual Vice-Chancellor of the Third Reich.

Adolf Hitler dropped into his brawny outstretched arms full power to carry out the gigantic plan which aims at making the Nazi State economically self-sufficient.

“In four years,” the Leader proclaimed hoarsely to the Party Congress at Nuremberg last month, “Germany must be wholly independent of foreign countries in respect to all those materials which can in any way be produced through German capability, through our chemistry, machine and mining industries.

“The creation of this great German raw materials industry will employ productively those freed by the completion of rearmament. . . .

“As National Socialists, we never acknowledged the word ‘impossible,’ and we shall not accept it in the future as an enrichment of our vocabulary. In four years we will give an accounting to the nation on this work and assure its nutrition, and with that its life and independence.” Even then, *Der Fuehrer* admitted, the Reich would have to buy some raw materials and food abroad.



Goering . . . superior to all other Ministers

Goering

Party radicals sponsored the plan, and pushed it forward in September against the heated advice of Dr. Hjalmar Schacht, Economics Minister and Reichsbank President. Since last spring, the conservative financier had been nominally Goering's subordinate—a position solaced only by the fact that the General served as a burly buffer between him and the Party's Left.

The Iron Ball—Goering's first act in the new post, which makes him superior to all other Ministers—he holds the Air post himself—all business leaders, and all Party members, was to fire Dr. Wilhelm Keppler, Hitler's personal economist and Schacht's bitterest enemy.

"The masses of the German people paid and are still paying for Hitler's first four-year plan (chiefly rearmament)," the *Chicago Daily News* explained. "They paid for it essentially in terms of a lowered standard of living. The masses are now paying almost all they can be expected to pay for some time to come. The classes will pay for the second plan. General Goering is the man to make them do it."

German *Hausfraus* hoped so. Already, import restrictions have boosted the price of their butter to sixty-four cents. Coffee is a dollar a pound in Berlin. Pork and beef cost about twice as much in the German Capital as in the United States.

Meanwhile, the masses feared the Government might revive the hated War-time rationing system (reporters insist that the cards have already been printed).

Altho stock exchange quotations rose at news of Goering's appointment, business leaders and industrialists also viewed the scheme for Germany's economic isolation with misgivings. Under the plan, they must try to produce substitute materials for cotton, wool, mineral oil, rubber, vegetable oils and phosphates—all essential imports—and reorganize plants for their use.

As envisaged by Party extremists, the cost will be between one and two billion dollars—money which must be found within the Reich, since foreign credit has dried up.

Only the gagged press received the plan with ungoverned enthusiasm. "There is no phase of German life that will not or might not be touched by the four-year plan. For that reason, Hitler gave to his tried collaborator and friend blanket authority for which there is probably no precedent," the *Frankfurter Zeitung* rejoiced. "Departmental friction and the like will disappear in Germany."

THE LITERARY DIGEST