News Monopoly of Germany Seen in Merger

BY WALDO DRAKE
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FRANKFURT, Sept. 10—An information monopoly reminiscent of the Nazi regime has been established in Western Germany with the sufferance of the American and British military governments.

The situation was effected Sept. 1 by fusion of the two German news agencies created by the victorious armies in 1945 as the nucleus of what they intended to be an independent free press in postwar Germany.

In this process the America-sponsored German news agency, DENA, of Bad Nauheim, has been absorbed by the British-built German Press Service, DPA, of Hamburg. The resultant merger is being controlled from Hamburg by former DPA executives and has been named German Press Agency.

A smaller agency in the French zone, South German News Agency, SUDENA, has been "induced" to join the fusion Oct. 1.

Monopoly Feared

The result is that DPA will hereafter enjoy a virtual monopoly in providing news and photographs to all vernacular newspapers in Western Germany. It is currently being supported on a pro-rata cooperative basis by 131 licensed newspapers with a total circulation of 15,000,000, but is also serving that many more unlicensed papers which have sprung up throughout the Western zones with the relaxation of occupation controls. DPA also will distribute the worldwide news of the British-owned Reuters News Service.

A DPA spokesman said tonight that because American and other foreign news services are at liberty to sell their news to any German paper which wants to buy them, the new German combine does not enjoy a monopoly. The practical result, though, is that the pro-rata cost of DPA is cur-}

MONOPOLY SEEN

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ently so high that few newspapers can afford to buy outside news at commercial rates.

The major concern of American authorities about the merger is that DPA's staff includes a number of wartime employees of the Nazi-controlled Transocean News Agency and the German News Bureau, DNB. These people were recruited by the British when DPA was established in 1945. DENA, on the other hand, is believed to be virtually free of former Hitlerites because all applicants were carefully screened by the American authorities.

One leader in the two-year merger campaign has been DPD's business manager, Hans Melchers, who during the war is said to have been chief of the Transocean's Asiatic bureau in Shanghai. Because of informal protests by the American authorities, Melchers has not become manager of the combined DPA, but according to a DPA spokesman is remaining as manager of the residue of the former British-controlled DPD.

Editors Identified

Virtually all editorial executive posts in DPD are held by men who had identical billets in DPA. These include Editor-in-Chief Fritz Saenger, Foreign Editor Emil Walter and Domestic Editor Erich Eugeleng. DPA's business manager is Dr. Kurt Neuss, who held a similar position with DENA.

The U.S. Military Government has given tacit approval to the German merger chiefly because it was confronted with a fait accompli. On Aug. 30, two days before the fusion became effective, Col. Gordon E. Textor, director of the Information Services Division of the U.S. Military Government, received a letter from the German directors announcing their intention to begin the merger. Col. Textor reminded the Germans in his letter of acknowledgement:

Protest Made

"The United States Military Government has expressed its apprehension concerning the extent to which the new agency will follow the fundamental principles of a free and independent news agency operation. The interest of the United States Military Government in development of free and independent information media is such that they are regarded as one of the essential pillars of democratic life in Germany."

"For this reason the operations of the merged agency will be watched closely and you may be sure that any aid or assistance which can be properly extended in support of the aforementioned principles will be forthcoming."

When it was founded it was given by the American authorities a valuable radio station at Sitz Vilbert which contains the only privately owned helioschreibere tape printing machine transmitter in Western Germany. The station will be used to transmit copy to all DPA clients. But all news copy originating in the American and French zones must first be forwarded to Hamburg headquarters before finally being disseminated from the United States zone.
Steel Pensions Approved, but Wage Hike Rejected

Death Takes Rulif of High Court

WILMINGTON, Del., Sept. 11—Judge Rulif L. O. Rulifson has died of a heart ailment. He was 67 years old. Judge Rulifson was a native of Denmark and had been a lawyer for many years. He was a member of the Delaware Bar Association and had served as a judge of the state court. His death is a great loss to the legal profession.

Rulifson was born in Denmark and came to the United States when he was 10 years old. He attended the University of Delaware and received his law degree from the University of Pennsylvania. He practiced law in Wilmington for many years and was a member of the Delaware Bar Association. He was a respected member of the legal community and was known for his fairness and integrity.

Captain Says Pentagon Perils Navy’s Power

WASHINGTON, Sept. 11—A navy officer today said that the Navy’s power was being eroded by the Pentagon. The officer, who asked to remain anonymous, said that the Defense Department’s influence was growing and that the Navy was losing its independence. He said that the Defense Department was exerting too much control over the Navy and that the Navy’s power was being diminished.

Crash Kills Two Youths; Eight Others Are Hurt

A car accident on a rural road yesterday morning killed two teenagers and injured eight others. The accident occurred on a rural road near the town of Hillton. According to police, the accident was caused by a drunk driver who was driving too fast for the conditions.

Nine Drown, Two Survive in Tragedy off Nantucket

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