

VOICE READERS COMPRISE a \$30,000,000 MARKET

EDITORIAL

U.S. Watched Carefully on Its Racial Solution

BY ROY WILKINS

LUXEMBOURG—The still-green hills and valleys and rolling farms flashed by as the streamlined Trans-Europe express covered the distance between Amsterdam and Luxembourg. The country resembled a section of New England except that the houses, both farm and village, seemed more solid in their square brick and stone construction.

Why cannot the United States, with its vast know-how, manage to do something about train travel? Europe has augmented its national railroad service with a network of high-speed streamlined expresses, charging a modest extra fare, which links West Germany, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Belgium, France, Switzerland and Italy. Railroad stations here are still very busy places, not the mausoleums which stand in many American cities.

Unlike the Scandinavian countries where English is readily understood and spoken, French and German and the Luxembourg variation of German prevail here, with French as the official language. Everyone agrees that the noticeable increase in English-speaking tourists will make it necessary for Luxembourgers, already courteous and hospitable, to learn and use English more widely.

United States Highly Regarded

But this language habit has not affected the high regard Luxembourg citizens have for the United States and its people. They are warm friends of America and remember that American troops liberated their country from the Germans in World War II. There is no sloppy sentimentality over this, nor any resemblance to a political or economic posture.

Perhaps their suffering and humiliation during the war years have something to do with their keen interest in the way racial problems are being attacked in the United States. Like all others, they know of the flare-ups, but they know of the efforts to effect change and they wonder when they hear of the raging destructiveness of a Watts, whether the government policy is working or is adequate.

I was fortunate enough, through the kindness of our new U.S. ambassador, Mrs. Patricia Harris, to have a short informal chat with Prime Minister Werner. He has been to the United States several times and is well aware, from the standpoint of a chief government administrator, of the great complexity of the U. S. race problem. He could not, of course, express any official opinion, but his conversation showed him to be familiar with the latest developments. His questions reflected his insight and his interest. If his opinion had been directly expressed it would have been, in my estimation, one different from that of, say, Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama.

Communism Down on List

One or two others in Luxembourg, unrestrained by official protocol, expressed forcefully the opinion that world judgment of the United States will rest upon what our country does on three great problems: unemployment, urbanization and racial equality. These people think communism is no longer a factor, despite

Peking, Southeast Asia and sundry annoyances within and without the U.S.A. They say:

"The multi-racial millions of the world wait to see what a freedom-proclaiming nation will do about assuring in fact the dignity of man. The harassed governments in a dozen countries, plagued with the interlocking human and economic problems of spreading urbanization, are watching what a giant with almost limitless resources will do. The same goes double for unemployment, multiplied by a technology that now reaches into tiny, hitherto isolated village handicrafts."

All of which, as the train sped away toward Paris, past the great steel mills that produce Luxembourg's largest export item, brought up once more Barbara Ward's assertion that the city, with its explosive racial and other problems, may be more deadly than the bomb.

Car Thieves on Rampage Police Sgt. Bolden Warns

LOCAL CAR OWNERS are cautioned that several well-organized and highly successful auto theft rings have been operating in this area lately. According to Det. Sgt. L. C. Bolden of the Las Vegas Police Dept., car thefts in 1965 have already soared over the 600-mark here compared with a total of 256 for all of 1964.

Sgt. Bolden, who is in charge of auto theft investigations for the LVPD, will be recalled as Basic High's fine Negro football player of a decade ago. He said the Westside colored community has been especially hard hit by the car thieves, with 56 autos reported missing in the 1,000 block of West McWilliams St. last month alone. Owners of General Motors products have been the chief victims according to Sgt. Bolden, who asked that all car owners observe the following rules:

1. Don't leave your car parked on the street for long periods without checking it from time to time.
2. Don't park your car and leave it with the key in the ignition switch. Chevrolet owners in particular should be sure their cars are parked with the ignition switch in a locked position.
3. Don't leave your motor running to dash in a store for a quick purchase. The car thieves may be quicker.
4. Don't leave valuable or eye-catching articles in your car where a passing thief can spot them. The car and everything in it may be gone when you return.
5. Don't fail to keep a record of your license plate and motor serial numbers on your person or in some easily available place outside your car so you can make a fast, complete report to police headquarters if you find your car missing.
6. Don't fail to notify the police department if you notice a car parked in the same position over an extended period of time. Sgt. Bolden said that although many stolen vehicles are eventually located by his detail, most of them are found stripped or burned out on the desert.

He also pointed out that the big increase in local auto thefts and vandalism is the cause of the commensurate increase in auto insurance in this state.

"Car owners can save themselves money and avoid inconvenience by being extra cautious," he warned.



AFRICA in Today's World

SOME 40 YEARS AGO, the town of Bakerville in South Africa was a teeming diamond-mining center. Today, the gleaming gems are rare and Bakerville resembles some of Nevada's once glorious gold camps--almost desolate and on the brink of becoming a "ghost town."

But every so often, somebody gets lucky around Bakerville according to a recent UPI dispatch. C. J. Lawrence, for instance, is a grizzled, old diamond hunter who won't give up. He recalls that only a few weeks ago, a digger hit the jackpot.

"He was down on his luck, so broke that he couldn't even afford to pay his boys," Lawrence explains. "The boys were about to walk off the claim in disgust, but he persuaded them to stay for one last washing."

"As soon as he scooped up the first sieve of gravel, he realized he was on to something. He could see the diamonds glittering before he even dumped it on the sorting table. One hour later, he was \$13,522 richer. He earned more from that last chance than in the whole previous five years."

STORIES LIKE THAT keep other diggers going. But today's jackpots, which are few and far between, aren't anything like the old days.

The "old days" started in 1924 when a local farmer stumbled on the diamond field by accident. His African laborers uncovered diamonds while digging a hole to bury a dead ox.

News of the discovery leaked out and the rush was on. By 1926, 5,000 whites and 15,000 Africans were reaping a rich harvest from the earth. Before the end of 1927, there were 50,000 whites and 100,000 Negroes on the diamond fields and in that year alone, they discovered almost \$14,000,000 worth of gems of the finest quality.

Diamond hunting in the Bakerville fields was easier than finding diamonds at the famous Kimberley diamonds, which are found embedded in hard blue volcanic rock, the diamonds of this western Transvaal area are alluvial stones. They lie in gravel deposits close to the surface within reach of anybody willing to grovel in the dust.

BUT IN 1928, the bonanza was over. Output fell sharply and a drastic drop in the price of diamonds in the 1930's closed the boom town down. Now, the 50 or so diggers who remain no longer need race to win a claim. They simply have to have the endurance to dig into the scarred earth, carefully washing each bucketful of gravel with water in the hope that diamonds will be separated out.

Today, ancient equipment rusts in the fields. The roadside is littered with broken tools of the trade. An expensive heavy tractor stands quietly, a relic of better days.

Here and there, a building still stands, some of them occupied; a post office that does almost no business, a virtually empty butcher shop, a broken-down general store, a corrugated iron residence of antique design.

But the surroundings don't bother men like Lawrence. He just keeps "digging and sifting while the dust sticks in his throat."

"We've hardly started digging yet," he says confidently. "Stick around. Tomorrow you just wait and see..."

WOMEN'S JOURNALS

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SEVEN DANGER SIGNALS

STOP

- 1 Unusual bleeding or discharge
- 2 A lump or thickening in the breast or elsewhere
- 3 A sore that does not heal
- 4 Change in bowel or bladder habits
- 5 Hoarseness or cough
- 6 Indigestion or difficulty in swallowing
- 7 Change in a wart or mole

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