

Maptalk

p. 222

Nuremberg and Re-education

Significant was the reaction of Germans to the war crimes trials. Correspondent Louis Lochner reported that several members of the tribunal's staff were busy reading and filing the flood of letters from all parts of Germany. An average of 150 letters arrived in Nuremberg headquarters daily. Some of the writers were crack-pots like Rudolph Guertler of Weinboehla who wanted \$50,000 for world rights to his "War Criminals Song." Other correspondents made concrete proposals: Johann Schmid of Stuttgart-Stelton demanded that German bishops be put on the witness stand to prove they compromised with Nazism. Seventeen year old Heinrich Mueller of Schwarzenberg-Erzgebirge wrote with deep emotion: "I desire to represent the German youth and be the accuser of people who wanted to poison the youth of our land and who already have inflicted upon large masses their poison." Many writers urged that the 21 defendants be taken on a tour of Germany, caged as wild animals. Still others felt Nazi leaders were no more guilty than the average run of Germans. The Nuremberg trial was becoming a course in Germany's re-education curriculum.



Louis Lochner

(image added)