

"Told 'cha it wouldn't work," cackled Gramp as he spat again and leaned against the barn. As he stood there trembling with amusement and triumph, he looked like an old dried up turtle, head drawn in, sunning himself on the back.

Open Letter to Hitler

Wayne Gute

Ag. Ed. So.

Der Fuehrer,
Herr Adolf Hitler,
President and Prime Minister of the Reich,
Dictator of every civil, judicial and military function in Germany,
Creator of the Third Reich:

They tell me you are a liar, and I believe them,
For the Sudetenland was not your last territorial claim on the
Continent.

They tell me you are treacherous, and I answer,
"It is true. He directed the killing of his best friend, Ernst
Roehm."

They say you are heartless, and I tell them,
"Yes, I have read of the Battle of France."
"You are un-Christian!" they shout, and I answer,
"Yes, he heads a pagan party."

And they claim that you are cruel, and I turn to them, saying,
"There is truth in American and British propaganda."

They tell me you are ruthless, and I believe them,
For you have hounded the Jews at every turn.

And having answered them thus,
I turn to them again, O Fuehrer, saying:

"Show me another man who could have restored the German
people to a place of equality among nations.
Show me another who could repudiate the clauses of humiliating
post-war treaties.

Show me another man, who, in five years could create a first class
army.

Show me another man who has achieved mastery of Europe after
six years of power.

Find me his equal as a propagandist and organizer.

Is it not as well to have one liar at the head of a government, as
several?"

Herr Hitler,

You are a supreme contradiction—

The idol of millions of Germans,

But a man without friends . . .

Across the Atlantic you will find another contradiction:

A people who believe in free speech, though many have nothing
to say.

A people who desire freedom of worship, though many know no
God.

A people who believe in equality, but discriminate racially.

Who believe in government by the people but are governed by
political machines.

But Fuehrer Hitler,

America will keep her democracy—

She'll build her army through cooperation, not coercion.

Keep her church, though it may be but half-filled on the Sabbath.

Stir her people against political bosses, puppets of your regime.

Maintain her place in the world through cooperation, not brute
force.

She'll treat her minorities fairly.

Der Fuehrer,

Your swastika shall never flutter on Capitol Hill.