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## NAZI WAR CRIMES DISCLOSURE ACT

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### The Krupp Puzzle

Very few persons outside the Krupp family and some employees can be happy at news that the Krupp industrial empire in West Germany is apparently being put back together and even enlarged. Yet several very practical questions are involved in whether the World War II Allies can or should hold Alfred Krupp to a postwar agreement to break up and dispose of his coal and steel enterprises by 1958.

Two views of the matter are presented on this page. To those still seared by memory of Nazi cruelty, the role of Alfred Krupp's father as armorer to Hitler is not easily forgotten. But today the most serious threat of dictatorial rule comes not from a revival of Hitlerism but from a Soviet empire devoted to the spread of communism. Against that threat the West needs strength in West Germany.

Herr Krupp points out factually that there is no one in West Germany with money enough to buy him out. The smaller Mannesmann syndicate has already been reorganized. The six parts of the former I. G. Farben chemical combine are likely to be re-integrated soon. The Krupp indus-

tries, of course, have made their postwar recovery without armament manufacture.

There is a certain irony in the United States assenting to the reconcentration and expansion of Krupp holdings while its Department of Justice carries on an antitrust investigation of General Motors.

But the West German Government now has its own laws against the revival of cartels, and Economics Minister Prof. Ludwig Erhard is a vigorous advocate of competition. There are also strong controls applicable under the relatively new European Coal and Steel Community.

The misgivings raised by imminent revival of the Krupp industrial empire are that it will wield monopoly powers in trade and that it may form part of a remilitarized Germany. As to both these hazards, the best hopes lie in democratically strong German government and a peace-serving sense of European unity.

Unless these can really be depended upon, this newspaper believes there is ground for the deepest reservations against permitting a revival of far-flung power in the Krupp industrial empire.

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