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BILL TO REFORM Join In Forming Cabinet FORM CABINET

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French Tradesmen Threaten To Close

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Socialists Reluse To

Take Part In

Chicago Daily Tribune Paris edition Tuesday January 31st, 1933

t was the start of one of the worst moments in history. One of these occasions when it seems that God was looking somewhere else, neglecting to take care of his human creatures down here on earth. And the devil took over.

At 5 p.m. on the 30 of January 1933, Adolf Hitler, the 44 year old former house-painter, for years a fiery political barnstormer, sentenced to four years in prison for attempting a putsch in 1923, presided over his first Cabinet meeting as Chancellor of Germany.

Given the history and methods of the Nazi party everything looked scary. But at this stage in Hitler's climb to absolute evil power there was still some hope of a constitutional government, according to the media, and even some, only some, members of the defeated opposition were ready to "let him have a try" in solving Germany's acute economic and social problems. It was wishful thinking. The Chicago Daily Tribune expressed in its front page headline its fear of a fascist dictatorship even if in its report on the appointment of Adolf Hitler as chancellor it quoted the Nazi party spokesman on Foreign Affaires as saying: "the country wants to live in peace and friendship with the entire world".

For his part, Hitler took an oath that he would soon forget: "I will employ my strength for the welfare of the German people, protect the Constitution and laws of the German people, conscientiously discharge the duties imposed on me, and conduct my affairs of office impartially and with justice to everyone."

How ironic. From then on the headlines in the papers all over the world would be full of alarming and tragic news: the annulment of liberties, the persecution of the leftist opposition and other political parties, the burning of books, the building up of a one-party racist, intolerant, dictatorial and aggressive state, the persecution and extermination of Jews, the manipulation of the truth, history and the minds of the German people. Violence, and terror. And a terrible, bloody, atrocious Second World War.