II C

b. The Nazi conspirators destroyed the free trade unions and obtained control over the productive labor capacity of the German nation.

(1) They destroyed the independent organization of German labor.

(a) Before the Nazis took control organized labor held a well established and influential position in Germany.

Most of the trade unions of Germany were joined together in two large congresses or federations, the "Free Trade Unions" (Freie Gewerkschaften) and Christian Trade Unions (Christlichen Gewerkschaften). Unions outside these two large groupings contained only 15 per cent of the total union membership. The "Free Trade Unions" (Freie Gewerkschaften) were a congress of two federations of affiliated unions: (1) the General German Trade Union Federation (Allgemeinen Deutschen Gewerkschaftsbund, or the "ADGB") with 28 affiliated unions of industrial workers; (2) the General Independent Employees Federation (Allgemeinen Freien Angestelltenbund, or the "AFA") with 13 affiliated unions of white collar workers.

The membership of the "Free Trade Unions," the affiliated organizations of the Christian Trade Unions, and all other unions at the end of 1931 (the last year for which the official government yearbook gives statistics) was as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Union Group</th>
<th>Number of Members</th>
<th>Percentage of Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Free Trade Unions&quot;</td>
<td>4,569,876</td>
<td>65.9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian Trade Unions</td>
<td>1,283,272</td>
<td>18.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Unions</td>
<td>1,081,371</td>
<td>15.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL:</strong></td>
<td><strong>6,934,519</strong></td>
<td><strong>100.0</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

392-PS, Das soziale Leben im Neuen Deutschland unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Deutschen Arbeitsfront (The Social Life of New Germany with Special Consideration of the German Labor Front), circular directive of the Political Organization of the NSDAP, 21 April 1933, pp. 51-52.
HITLER stated: "The organizations on both sides and agreements between them shall be recognized." Factory Representative Councils (otherwise known as Workmens or Factory Works Councils) had the right, in conjunction with employers' representatives, to take an official part in the initiation and administration of social and economic legislation.

"It (the trade union) created the economic weapon which the international world Jew uses for the ruination of the economic basis of free, independent states, for the annihilation of their national industry and of their national commerce, and thereby for the enslavement of free people in the service of the above-the-state-standing, world finance Jewry (Überstaatlichen Weltfinanz-Judentums)."

In announcing to Germany the seizure of the Free Trade Unions," the Nazi Committee for the Protection of German Labor stated:

"You may say, what else do you want, you have the absolute power. True, we have the power, but we do not have the whole people, we do not have you workers 100 per cent, and it is you whom we want; we will not let you be until you stand with us in complete, genuine acknowledgement."
Soon after coming to power the Nazi conspirators took drastic action to convert the Factory Representative Councils into Nazi controlled organizations.

The Nazi conspirators eliminated the independence of the Factory Representative Councils by giving the Governors of the "Länder" authority to cancel the membership of labor representatives in the councils; by abrogating the right of the councils to oppose the dismissal of a worker when he was "suspected of an unfriendly attitude toward the state";

and finally by limiting membership in all Factory Representative Councils to Nazis.

(After 7 April 1933, the Governors of the "Länder" were appointed by the Reich President "upon the proposal of the Reich Chancellor," HITLER.)

Soon after coming to power the Nazi conspirators proceeded to destroy the independent unions.

In mid-April 1933, HITLER directed Dr. Robert LEY, then staff director of the "PO" (Political Organization) of the NSDAP, to take over the trade unions.
"Free Trade Unions." LEY issued an NSDAP directive circular on 21 April 1933 detailing a "coordination action" (Gleichschaltungsaktion) on 2 May 1933 against the General German Trade Union Federation (ADGB) and the General Independent Employees Federation (AFA), the so-called "Free Trade Unions".

This directive created a special "Action Committee" to direct the entire action and declared that the supporters of the action were to be drawn from the National Socialist Factory Cells Organization (NSBO), the NSDAP political leaders (Politische Leiter) in the factories (See (3) (a), infra); it named NSDAP commissars for the administration of the larger ADGB unions to be seized in the action; it declared that the Gau leaders (Gauleiter) of the NSDAP were responsible for the disciplined execution of the action in their respective areas and that they were to nominate additional commissars for administering the unions subjected to the action. The directive ordered that SA and SS were to be used in occupying union offices and the Bank of Workers, Employees and Officials, Inc., and for taking into protective custody the higher union leaders.

The order of seizure was carried out as planned and ordered. On 2 May the official NSDAP press service reported that the National Socialist Factory Cells Organization (Nationalsozialistische Betriebszellen-Organisation, or "NSBO") had "eliminated the old leadership" of "Free Trade Unions" and taken over their leadership.

Christian and Other Unions... On 3 May 1933 the NSDAP press service announced that the Central League of Christian Trade Unions (Gesamtverband der Christlichen Gewerkschaften) and several smaller
unions "have unconditionally subordinated themselves to the
leadership of Adolf HITLER".

2225-FS, Nationalsozialistische Parteikorrespondenz
(National Socialist Party Correspondence),
release of 3 May 1933, p. 1.

The next day the NSDAP press stated that the German Nationalist
Clerks League (D.H.V.) had also "recognized the leadership of the
NSDAP in German trade union affairs ... after a detailed
classification" between Dr. LEY and the leader of the D.H.V.

2226-FS, Nationalsozialistische Parteikorrespondenz
(National Socialist Party Correspondence),
release of 4 May 1933, p. 2.

In late June 1933, as a final measure against the Christian Trade
Unions, LEY directed that all their offices were to be occupied by
National Socialists.

2227-FS, Das soziale Leben in Neuen Deutschland
unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Deutschen
Arbeitfront (The Social Life of New Germany
with Special Consideration of the German Labor
Front), excerpt from an order of Dr. Robert
LEY, 24 June 1933, p. 54.

The duress practised by the Nazi conspirators in their
assumption of absolute control over the unions is shown by a pro-
clamation of MUCHOV, leader of the organizational office of the
German Labor Front, in late June 1933. By this Party proclamation,
all associations of workers not yet "concentrated" in the German
Labor Front had to report within eight days. Thenceforth they were
to be notified of the branch of the German Labor Front which "they
will have to join".

2228-FS, Nationalsozialistische Parteikorrespondenz
(National Socialist Party Correspondence),
release of 26 June 1933, p. 5.

(a) The Nazi Conspirators eliminated the Right of
Collective Bargaining Generally.

During the same months in which the unions were abolished,
a decree eliminated collective bargaining on conditions of employment
and substituted regulation by "trustees of labor" (Treuhandör der
Arbeit) appointed by HITLER.
The NSDAP circular ordering the seizure of the "Free Trade Unions" on 2 May 1933 directed that the SA and SS were to be used to occupy the branches and paying offices of the Bank for Workers, Employees, and Officials, Inc., and that all union funds were to be blocked until re-opened under the authority and control of NSDAP-appointed commissars.

392-FS, Das soziale Leben im neuen Deutschland unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Deutschen Arbeiterfront (The Social Life of New Germany with Special Consideration of the German Labor Front), circular directive of the Political Organization of the NSDAP, 21 April 1933, pp. 51-52.

The Führer's basic order on the German Labor Front of the NSDAP in October 1934 declared that all the property of the trade unions and their dependent organizations constituted (bildet) property of the German Labor Front.


Referring to the seizure of the property of the unions in a speech at the 1937 Party Congress, LEY mockingly declared that he would have to be convicted if the former trade union leaders were ever to demand the return of their property.

1678-FS, Dokumente der deutschen Politik (Documents of German Politics), published by the director of the High School for Politics, speech of Dr. Robert LEY, Vol. V, p. 373.

The Nazi conspirators persecuted union leaders.

The NSDAP order on the seizure of the "Free Trade Unions" directed that the chairman of the unions were to be taken into "protective custody". Lesser leaders could be arrested with the permission of the appropriate Gau leader of the NSDAP.
392-PS, "Das soziale Leben im Neuen Deutschland unter besonderer Berücksichtigung der Deutschen Arbeitsfront (The Social Life of New Germany with Special Consideration of the German Labor Front), circular directive of the Political Organization of the NSDAP, 21 April 1933, pp. 51-52.

German Labor Front

In late June 1933 the published a "List of Outlaws" who were to be denied employment in the factories. The "List" named union leaders who had been active in combatting National Socialism and who allegedly continued to carry on their resistance secretly.

2336-PS, Besonderes Rundschreiben, Organisationsamt, Deutschen Arbeitsfront (Special Circular, Organization Office, German Labor Front), 27 June 1933, Section C) 2.

The Nazi conspirators subjected union leaders to maltreatment ranging from assaults to murder. Among the offenses committed against union leaders are the following: assaults and battery; degrading work and work beyond the physical capacity of some of the unions leaders; incarceration in concentration camps; solitary confinement (strict and ordinary "bunker" arrest); denial of adequate food; surveillance; arrest of members of their families; murder.

2330-PS, Schutzhaftbefehl Polizeidirektion Nürnberg-Fürth (Order for Protective Custody, Police Directorate of Nürnberg-Fürth) of Josef Simon, Chairman of the German Shoemakers Union, 29 August 1935.

2331-PS, Erklärung (Declaration). Required of union leader Josef Simon upon his release from Protective Custody by the Bavarian Political Police, 20 December 1935.

2335-PS, Signed statements of Josef Simon, Chairman of German Shoemakers Union in 1933.

2334-PS, Signed statements of Lorenz Hagen, Chairman of Local Committee, ADGB, Nürnberg, in 1933.

2277-PS, Signed statement of Gustav Schieffer, Chairman of Local Committee, ADGB, Munich, in 1933.

2332-PS, Death certificate, Flossenburg Concentration Camp, concerning union leader Staimor and official letter to his wife, 22 December 1941.

2333-PS, Death certificate, Flossenburg Concentration Camp, concerning union leader Herrmann and official letter to his wife, 29 December 1941.
(2) The Nazi conspirators introduced the Leadership Principle into industrial relations.

In January 1934, a decree introduced the Leadership Principle (Führerprinzip) into industrial relations, the entrepreneur becoming the leader and the workers becoming his followers.


(3) The Nazi conspirators dissolved Independent Unions by an affiliated Party organization, the German Labor Front (DAF).

(a) They created the German Labor Front.

On the day the Nazis seized the "Free Trade Unions", 2 May 1933, they publicly announced that a "united front of German workers" with HITLER as honorary patron would be formed at a workers Congress on 10 May 1933.

2224-PS, Nationalsozialistische Parteikorrespondenz (National Socialist Party Correspondence), release of 2 May 1933, p. 1.

LEY was appointed "leader of the German Labor Front" (Deutsche Arbeisfront, or "DAF") on 10 May 1933.


The German Labor Front succeeded to the confiscated property of the suppressed trade unions (Paragraph (1) (f), above). It was an affiliated organization of the NSDAP, subject to the Leadership Principle; LEY was concurrently Reich Organization Leader (Reichsorganisationsoffizier) and leader of the German Labor Front.


The National Socialist Factory Cells Organization (Nationalsozialistische Betriebszellen-Organisation, or "NSBO") contained the political leaders (Politische Leiter) of the NSDAP in the German Labor Front and these political leaders were given first preference in the filling of jobs in the DAF (See also Brief of Section 6).
The German Labor Front became the largest of the Party's organizations. At the outbreak of the war it had 23 million individual members and about 10 million corporate members who were members of organizations affiliated with it.

They utilized the German Labor Front as an instrument to impose their ideology on the masses, to frustrate potential resistance, and to insure effective control of the productive labor capacity of Germany.

The DAF was charged with the ideological orientation of the broad masses of Germans working in the factories. Its leaders were charged with weeding out potential opponents to National Socialism from the ranks of the DAF and from employment in industry. In its surveillance functions, the German Labor Front relied on Gestapo reports and on its own intelligence service.

The German Labor Front took over the leadership of the German Cooperatives with the view to their subsequent liquidation.

The Nazi conspirators established "Factory Troops" (Werkscharen) within the "Strength Through Joy" branch of the German Labor Front as an ideological shock squad (Weltanschaulicher Stosstrupp) within the factory."
1817-PS, Organisationsbuch der NSDAP (Organisation Book of the NSDAP), 1936 Ed., p. 211.

These shock squads were formed only of voluntary members ready "to fight" for Nazi conceptions. Among their objects were the speeding up of labor effort and the forging of a "single-willed community."


The SA was charged with the promotion and building up of Factory Troops by all means. When a factory worker joined the Factory Troops, he automatically became an SA candidate. Factory Troops were given a special uniform and their physical training took place within SA cadre units.


During the war, the German Labor Front was made solely responsible for the care of foreign labor employed within the Reich.


Barely two years after the suppression of the independent unions and the creation of the German Labor Front, the Nazi conspirators decreed compulsory labor service (Reichsarbeitsdienst) under which young men and women between 18 and 25 years of age were conscripted for labor service under the administration of the Reich Minister of Interior, FRICK.


After war had been declared, the conspirator LEY became quite clear in admitting the objectives of the Nazis' control over labor. A publication of the Scientific Institute of the German Labor Front declared that it had been
difficult to make the German people understand continuous renunciations in social conditions because all the nation's strength had been channeled into armaments (Wohrhaftigkeit) for "the anticipated clash with an envious surrounding world."

Addressing workers five days after the launching of war on Poland, LEY admitted that the Nazis had mobilized all the resources and energies of Germany for seven years "so as to be equipped for the supreme effort of battle" and that the First World War had not been lost because of cowardice of German soldiers, "but because dissension and discord tore the people asunder."

LEY's confidence in the Nazis' effective control over the productive labor capacity of Germany in peace or war was declared as early as 1936 to the Nürnberg Party Congress:

"The idea of the Factory Troops is making good progress in the plants, and I am able to report to you, my Führer, that security and peace in the factories has been guaranteed; not only in normal times, but also in times of the most serious crisis. Disturbances such as the munitions strikes of the traitors Ebert and confederates, are out of the question. National Socialism has conquered the factories. Factory Troops are the National Socialist shock troops within the factory, and their motto is: THE FührER IS ALWAYS RIGHT."

(Capt. D. A. Sprecher)