OFFICE OF U. S. CHIEF OF COUNSEL
FOR THE PROSECUTION OF AXIS CRIMINALITY
INTERROGATION DIVISION. ANALYSIS

Interrogation of: HERMANN GOERING

By: Colonel , mon, 17 October 1945, AM

PERSONS AND ORGANIZATIONS IMPLICATED, AND SUBJECTS

1. GOERING:
   a. Preparation for war
      (1) Secret Financial Plans (pp 1-2)
   b. The REFO Bills (pp 3-5)
   c. The System of Devisen—Goering as coordinator (pp5-7)
   d. Chief of Four Year Plan (p6)
   e. Relationship with Schacht (p 2; 6-6) (9-12)
   f. Austria
      (1) Conversion of Austrian currency—post-Anschluss. (pp 13, 14)
   g. Relationship with: Schacht (pp1-5); Hitler (2); Blomberg (2); Schwerin von Krisigk (2); Funk (5); Luther (5); Schmidt (5); Darre (7); Koppler (12); Reichenau (2).

2. SCHACHT:
   a. Preparation for War (p 13)
      (1) Secret Financial Plans (pp 1-5)
      (2) Minister of Economics (s5)
      (3) Financial Advisor of Hitler (p.5)
      (4) Plenipotentiary War Economy (pp 8-9)
   b. Resignation (p5-12)

FINANCIAL PROBLEMS IN THE PREPARATION FOR WAR

In 1933, Schacht, in cooperation with the Ministry of Finance, assumed the obligation to raise funds for the rearmament, which was kept secret up to 1938. Goering confirms the fact that any money used for armament purposes which was not covered in the budget had to be raised by secret means, unknown to foreign nations.

At the conference where the secret means in raising funds were discussed, Hitler, Goering, Blomberg, Schwerin von Krisigk, Schacht, Reichenau, and the Supreme Commanders of all three branches of the Wehrmacht were present. All State Secretaries concerned and the Secretary of the Reichs Chancellery were also
Hermann Goering, 17 October 1945

Present at this conference, Goering especially recalls such a conference in Berchtesgaden which took place "either late in 1934 or early in 1935." The cost of the complete rearmament program was estimated at 30 Milliards (Billions) by Hitler, but Hitler did not inform Schacht about it, to prevent him from "fainting." Goering continues, "that, Schacht would have declared that no possibilities could be found to raise this sum." (1, 2).

Goering, as Chief of the Air Forces, spent as much as he could for the expansion of the Luftwaffe, regardless of the sums allotted for it in the secret budget.

The MEFO Bills: Schacht made proposals about the ways and means to raise secret funds for the rearmament program, especially about the famous "MEFO Bills." Goering first became acquainted with the details of the MEFO financing when he took over the Four Year Plan, and Goering claims that Funk suggested to burn the MEFO Bills as they had no value any more. Later on, Goering became more familiar with the MEFO financing, but he claims that it played no important part, because at that time (1936) it was already attempted to advance the financing by increasing the experts and taxation. Around this time there were also discussions in which Schacht mentioned the danger of inflation, and made proposals to prevent the inflation, by fixing of prices and wages. Schacht participated in the discussions under the chairmanship of Goering, but he cannot remember any details. (3-5)

Schacht: Schacht was the financial advisor of Hitler from the time that Hitler came into power and before Schacht took over the Presidency of the Reichsbank from Luther and the Ministry of Economics from Schmidt. Schacht and Bomberg asked Goering and proposed to Hitler the appointment of Goering as coordinator of raw materials and devision. Goering does not remember for sure, whether Schacht knew of or suggested his appointment as Plenipotentiary for the Four Years Plan. (5-6).

The Devision: Schacht-Darre controversy: Regarding the controversy between Darre and Schacht, Goering points out that the former was interested in the devision for getting the food supply, while Schacht wanted the devision for the purchase of raw materials for the industries, including the armament industry.

So far as the main issue was concerned; namely, the securing of the rearmament program, Darre and Schacht did not differ; Schacht procured the necessary raw materials, and Darre accumulated grain reserves.
Hermann Goering, 17 October 1945, M

Goering made the final decision in these controversies and according to the importance of various factors, he allotted the division to Darre once, and to Schacht the other time. (7).

Schacht intended at the time, as Goering was a Commissar for raw materials and division, to become an economic dictator of Germany. Schacht hoped that Goering would not concern himself so much with the problem of raw materials and division, and leave that rather to Schacht, such would strengthen Schacht's position and authority. Schacht hoped also to find in Goering a protector against certain members of the Party who were making complaints about him. It did not work out the way that Schacht had hoped. (8)

The agreement of 7 July 1937: Schacht resigns: Referring to an agreement of 7 July 1937, which was shown to him, Goering stated that Schacht, at that time, not only opposed very forcibly any attempt to abolish Goering's position as Plenipotentiary for the Four Year Plan, but was also urging that he (Schacht) be given broader powers in case of war. (9)

Goering on the other hand wanted Schacht's position abolished in the event of war, so that finally came to the aforementioned compromise, agreement which, upon the request of Goering, was inserted a clause that he (Goering) could give orders also to Schacht at any time in the case of war.

In the conference which led to that agreement of 7 July 1937, Schacht suggested to Hitler that he (Schacht) should retain his powers as economic dictator in the event of war, and wanted the Four Year Plan abolished. (9, 10).

After the agreement of 7 July 1937, disputes often arose between Goering and Schacht, concerning economic matters, as it is mentioned in the letter dated 26 August 1937, from Schacht to Goering. Referring to a phrase in the letter: "Fundamental differences exist in our economic policies," Goering stated that Schacht was expressing himself in such a way, when he felt that Goering was interfering in economic matters.

Goering confirms that Schacht always tried, though indirectly, to imply that if he were permitted, to handle all economical matters by himself he could manage it better than any body else.

Schacht left the Reichsbank after a controversy with the Minister of Finance, who demanded an advance at the end of the month which Schacht refused. Goering says that that was only a minor reason, but emphasizes that Schacht was dismissed for that reason, and not for a refusal of his to participate any further in the rearmament program. (10, 11, 12)
Hermann Göring, 17 October 1915, N.Y.

Göring denies a statement of Keppler that he (Göring) wanted to get rid of Schacht as early as 1936. (12)

Göring defines a deposition of Schacht as nonsense, that he (Schacht) resigned as Minister of Economics because Göring's war policy was overloading the industry. If Schacht would have made such a statement at the time of his resignation, he would not have remained a member of the cabinet or retained his position as Chief of the Reichsbank. (p12) If Schacht made that statement just now, then, of course, he had very successfully hidden his real feelings and opinion at the time of his resignation. Schacht never was opposed to the rearmament program as such, but had only different opinions about the methods to be employed. Göring recalled a meeting in his house on the 5th of January 1931 at which were present Thyssen, Schacht, and Hitler. Hitler at this meeting described more of his plans regarding the interior policy, than the foreign one. (p.13)

**Anschluss of Austria.**

Plans for the conversion of the Austrian currency into German currency, were made after the Anschluss, and Göring decided an exchange rate of one to according to the instructions of Hitler. Schacht was present at this meeting where the exchange rate was discussed. He executed the conversion program which fell into his competence as President of the Reichsbank. (13, 14).