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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of LEY, Robert (Dr.)

By: Major Monigan, 11 October 1945, p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects
1. LEY

a. Labor Front

- (1) Hitler's decree of 19 October 1933 (1)
- (2) Labor Front Budgets (2)
- (3) Union funds (3)
- (4) DAF total membership (3)
- (5) DAF dues (3)

b. Relation between CT and DAF (4)

c. Training of Politische Leiter and their selection (5-6)

- (1) Salaries of Politische Leiter (7)

d. HJ was under Axmann (8)

Ley states that the taking over of the labor unions by the D.F (German Labor Front) was legalized in October 1933 by a decree issued by Hitler "where everything that had been done hitherto was repeated and legalized". Later on a law was promulgated concerning the Party, and this also included the Labor Front. Admits that the Nazis discontinued the function of the trade unions replacing them with those of the D.F.(p.1)

Under Ley's direction the budget of the Labor Front increased from five million to between thirty and forty million Marks per month.(p.2)

The NSWV (National Socialist People's Welfare) was dissolved years later than the unions. At first the unions were taken over, then they were divided into three groups (workers, white collar workers and employers) and the funds of the three groups were eventually combined.(p.2)

Ley states that D.F membership was voluntary, a fact that was repeatedly stated in orders issued by him, Hess and Bormann. Toward the

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last the DAF had 24 million individual members and six million collective members (p.3) Dues collected varied between 90 and 99%. Collections were made either by salary deduction or through individual collection by representatives of the lower DAF units.(p.3)

RELATIONSHIP TO OT.

Through an agreement with Speer OT. members were included in the DAF. In disciplinary matters they remained under the jurisdiction of the OT. but their interests through their employers were safeguarded by the DAF. Housing etc. remained the responsibility of the OT.. Especially in foreign countries and in occupied territories Ley's organization had no influence over OT. members. Efforts by the DAF to inspect OT. factories and plants were made difficult, due to the semi-military character of this organization. Ley does not recall whether liaison men between the DAF and the OT. were appointed. Suggests asking Mende about this.(p.4)

TRAINING OF "POLITISCHE LEITER"

It was the objective that all "Politische Leiter" were to undergo special training. At first this was impossible and the Politische Leiter were appointed by their respective Gauleiters or Kreisleiters. The ultimate goal was to select Gauleiter and Kreisleiter from among people trained in Adolf Hitler schools or "Ordensburgen" (p.5).

Hitler's will not to have any people in leading positions who did not undergo training in these schools. All this was still in the process of development, however, since only one third of the Ordensburgen and Adolf Hitler schools were actually completed. Only fourteen of the latter were in operation. The educational program had not been worked out and was only based on speeches or utterances by Hitler. (p.6)

All future leaders were to be trained first at the Adolf Hitler schools and then to undergo advanced training at the Ordensburgen. The intention also existed to hold compulsory refresher courses every year. The training was to include only the higher political leaders.(p.7)

Politische Leiter were not compensated as such and received their salaries due them by virtue of their official position.(p.7) They were paid by the Party through Reich Treasurer Schwartz. The Politische Leiter in the DAF organization were paid by the DAF.

Ley and Schirach were jointly responsible for the school program, the teaching staff etc. Ley denies that Schirach was under his direction in regard to the subjects taught.(p.8)

Direct control of the HJ was exercised by ~~A~~mann.(p.8)