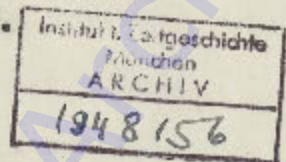


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TESTIMONY OF KURT LANGE TAKEN AT NURNBERG,
GERMANY, ON 8 JANUARY 1947, 1430 - 1600
BY FOSTER ADAMS REPORTED BY JUNE OVERTINGTON.
ALSO PRESENT: PATRICIA BULL.



BY FOSTER ADAMS TO KURT LANGE:

Q. In your previous interrogation you told us that in the Reichsbank you had as your principal responsibility the handling of personnel matters.

A. Yes.

Q. How do you explain your being selected to handle personnel matters in the Reichsbank?

A. That was not for some time after I came to the Reichsbank. I came early in 1939 with FUNK and ERINKMANN. I took the place previously held by Mr. HULSE but not the whole area which he had but a part of it. Then Mr. ERINKMANN became leader and he lasted several months until one knew that it was necessary that he had to go out. Until that time I had beside this job also that department in the Wirtschaftsministerium but it was impossible to carry both jobs. Then one day Mr. FUNK told me that it was impossible, which we knew before, to take both positions and said he would like to see if I would join with my duties in the Reichsbank also the responsibility for the personnel department.

Q. What experience had you had before that in handling personnel matters?

A. Before 1933 I had my own business and had personnel and when I was manager of the department in the Wirtschaftsministerium I had my personnel and I think that I did this job besides my other official jobs always very well.

Q. I am interested in this - the handling of personnel in the Reichsbank.

After you took over that function, the handling its personnel, according to all of the testimony which I have had from Reichsbank officials, became much more closely tied in to the Nazi Party than it had ever been before. My question to you this afternoon is how do you explain your selection to handle personnel matters in the Reichsbank in such a way that your activities would have to be closely coordinated with the desires of the Nazi Party and with the Partei Kanzlei?

A. Before FUNK and I came to the Reichsbank it was said that the connection between the Reichsbank and Party had been very bad. Funk did not know himself perhaps, but the Nazi Party, as I know, raised a question and told to Mr. FUNK that now under his leadership it must be changed. At that time when I was selected to take that job from the Nazi Party, that means from Partei Kanzlei, one man was directed to the Reichsbank at the same time with me. I did not know him before that - Dr. UNTERBERGER...

Q. And Dr. UNTERBERGER was put in the Reichsbank by the Partei Kanzlei?

A. Yes by FUNK but on account of the wishes of the Partei Kanzlei.

Q. And what was his title in the Reichsbank?

A. He was, when I came, I think, Regierungsrat still, and a short time afterwards he became Director of the Reichsbank, that means from the other departments Oberregierungsrat, that is quite the same. He became Director of the Reichsbank. This man was in former times in the Wirtschaftsministerium and then came to the Partei Kanzlei and from there when we entered in the Reichsbank he was given to the Reichsbank for the personnel department and he told me what the wishes of the Partei Kanzlei were and told me that many things would have to be changed particularly that when higher officials were to be promoted in every Ministerium the Partei Kanzlei had to be asked.

Dr. SCHACHT did not do that before and BORMANN now told the Reichsbank to do the same, and, therefore, that Mr. UNTERBERGER would advise me.

Q. In carrying out your responsibilities in connection with personnel in the Reichsbank, with whom in the Partei Kanzlei did you deal besides this man UNTERBERGER who was put in the Reichsbank by the Partei Kanzlei?

A. I had several talks with the Secretary of State, Dr. KLOPPER of the Partei Kanzlei and under him was a Ministerialrat - but I do not remember the name - in the same department as KLOPPER. They told me nearly the same things as Dr. UNTERBERGER had already told me that we should now have better connections with the Party than in the time before. Mr. KLOPPER, who was informed, told me now I should make a good connection.

Q. FUNK told you that you should maintain close connections with the Partei Kanzlei?

A. Yes.

Q. What orders or advice did you ever receive from Hess?

A. No advice from Hess. Personally I was with him only once. I wrote in my report that I visited Hess but that was on quite another affair. I think it was before I came to the Reichsbank when I was still in the Wirtschaftsministerium before the war. FUNK told me one day that Hess would like to know something about the management of financing and therefore I visited him personally or later from BORMANN I did not receive any advice but only from Mr. KLOPPER and the men below.

Q. In other words, nothing which Hess or Bormann may have wanted was told to you directly by them. You were advised either by KLOPPER or by some other subordinate in the Partei Kanzlei?

A. Yes. But I must tell you they were not special orders, for you know

Mr. KLOPPER was a polite man. We had several conversations and spoke about several men whom I would like to have take a better position and he told me, or his men told me, that it could not be agreed to and out of that we had several connections.

Q. How early did your interest in controlling personnel in the banking and financial field in a way which would be in the interests of the Nazi Party extend from the Reichsbank to other financial institutions?

A. I noted in my report too that in the time - I think 1943 or beginning 1944 - BORMANN told me through KLOPPER and especially through his banking committee, he had in the Partei Kanlei out of the Gauwirtschaftsberater formed a banking circle and the president of this banking circle was also from the Gauwirtschaftsberater - Dr. BOERNICKE. He told me also about BORMANN'S wishes about the other banks, especially the five great banks including the Deutsche Bank, the Dresdner Bank, the Commerz Bank and also the important regional banks just like Hypotheken und Wechsel Bank of Muenchen.

Q. What did he tell you he wanted done in connection with these banks?

A. That men from the Nazi Party should enter and join the vorstands of these banks.

Q. And the aufsichtsrat?

A. Not first the aufsichtsrat. It first named the vorstand and some time after that I heard from these men that several of them wanted to enter in these banks. Mr. BOERNICKE, WECHSLER, Mr. SAUPERT and SCHWARTZ, the Party Treasurer, and I spoke about these things with Mr. FUNK. Mr. FUNK, as well as I, was of the opinion that these men should not enter or join the vorstand of such institutions and then we quarrelled on account of this with BOERNICKE and FUNK wrote personally to BORMANN on account of these things

to ask him if it was right that he sought to join these persons. I remember BORMANN answered that he did not give an order for these particular people but generally in the banks he desired to have well known Nazi Party members. The same named persons tried still further for themselves to join and with very bad manners they made a little pressure in speaking with the men from the banks.

Q. This Committee that you are speaking of became known as the "Martin Bormann Banking Committee"?

A. Yes.

Q. In connection with appointments to high banking positions or promotions of bank officials to better positions you discussed these matters with representatives of the Partei Kanzlei. Did you discuss them at times with OTTO CHRISTIAN FISCHER?

A. Yes, I think I did.

Q. And with RIENIE?

A. That is the Ministerial Director? That is my successor in the Wirtschaftsministerium.

Q. You discussed these appointments at times with him?

A. Yes, I think, but we had not such a close connection and

Q. Now tell me of the big banks which one of the big banks was most willing to accept men nominated by the Nazi Party in its Vorstand and in its Aufsichtsrat?

A. The Dresdner Bank first had several conversations with Mr. BOERNICKE and one of his men but these men wanted to become the first men of the Vorstand and therefore they did not agree and they afterwards took several of these men in the Aufsichtsrat. This was as I had advised them. The Deutsche Bank took

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Prof. Dr. HUNCKE who was a Gauwirtschaftsberater from Berlin and just before he became President of the Industry und Handelskammer he became representative of the Vorstand from the Deutsche Bank. I was astonished to hear that because I did not know anything about it until it happened and then I heard from Mr. FUNK that he himself arranged it because he wanted personal contact between the Industry und Handelskammer and a banker and therefore he made Dr. HUNCKE - in agreement with the Vorstand of the Deutsche Bank

Q. The man from Hannover on the Bormann Banking Committee you were trying to remember - was his name MAIER?

A. Yes.

Q. So that you would say of the big banks that the Dresdner Bank was the most willing to accept men nominated by the Nazi Party?

A. Yes. It is difficult to say. We had several conversations and I cannot say if in their hearts they were very willing. I cannot say but I think that none of the banks were willing to take such persons into the Vorstand and the only way was to take them into the Aufsichtsrat where it was not so important for the whole business.

Q. What were the circumstances under which WILHELM AVIENY went with the Dresdner Bank?

A. AVIENY was the Gauwirtschaftsberater from Frankfurt and he belonged to that banking committee under BORMANN just like the other Gauwirtschaftsberater. I only knew he was a member of the Aufsichtsrat of the Dresdner Bank after several conversations.

Q. As I understand from you, after the Martin Bormann Banking Committee was formed there were conversations which were held with the top men of the different banks in which various people from time to time participated - took

part - and as a result of these conversations with the leaders of these big banks, including the Dresdner Bank, ardent Nazis became representatives of the vorstand or of the aufsichtsrat of these banks?

A. But I only know one man who became a Vorstand member and that was HUNCKE.

Q. Did you participate in some of these conversations leading up to the acceptance of these nominees of the Martin Bormann Committee with any of the officials of the Dresdner Bank?

A. Yes. I took part in these conversations. The men of the banking committee said several times that they themselves wanted to join the vorstand and besides these conversations I had several conversations with leading men of the bank in my office.

Q. With whom in the Dresdner Bank did you discuss this matter?

A. I spoke with Mr. GOETZ.

Q. That is CARL GOETZ?

A. Yes. Professor LUER, Dr. RASCHE and I think also Dr. SCHIPPEN and in these conversations we were of the same mind that these men should not join the vorstand but at least it was not possible to avoid

Q. Do you mean that an ardent Nazi like RASCHE was opposed to increasing the influence of the Nazi Party in the Dresdner Bank?

A. RASCHE was not opposed to increasing the influence of the Nazi Party in the Dresdner Bank but he told me that he and his associates who were working in the interests of the Nazi Party already were in control of the Dresdner Bank. GOETZ and RASCHE and LUER of the Dresdner Bank told me that they were all working in the interests of the Nazi Party in their direction of the Dresdner Bank and so it was quite unnecessary to bring in inexperienced men.

Q. Did you ever have any reason to doubt that RASCHE, LUER and GOETZ in their direction of the Dresdner Bank were working in the interests of the Nazi Party?

A. No. I had no doubt.

Q. Do you know RASCHE very well?

A. I know him quite well.

Q. He was very active in those years?

A. Yes, and he is named as a well known banker.

Q. How did the Martin Bormann Banking Committee happen to be formed?

A. How it was formed - I do not know. I heard it first when that Committee ... I did not know the reasons and nobody told me anything about it.

Q. That will be all for this afternoon.

(Interrogation closed at 1600)

Jane Overington
JANE OVERINGTON - REPORTER

FOSTER ADAMS - INTERROGATOR

Institut für Zeitgeschichte - Archiv