

The Netherlands Information Bureau
A Government Agency of the Netherlands

Blokzijl denies guilt

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THE HAGUE, September 11 (Aneta)--Max Blokzijl, radio spokesman for the Nazi regime in Holland, stared at the large portrait of Queen Wilhelmina which hung above the head of A.L.M. van Berkel, the President of the Special Court hearing the cases of traitors, and heard the Prosecutor, J. Zaaijer, demand that he pay with his life for collaborating with the Nazis.

Overhead in the room in Princess Juliana's Kneuterdijk Palace where he once worked, Blokzijl stared at the ceiling where a large imitation clock hung with the hands set symbolically at five past twelve and heard the Prosecutor denounce him as "perfidious, barefaced and thoroughly mean."

(Blokzijl in his radio speeches used to warn the Dutch to submit to the Nazis before twelve o'clock symbolically his zero hour.)

The Prosecutor in his opening address recalled the nature of the propaganda which Blokzijl poured into the ears of Holland's people and added "I get a feeling of nausea that a Hollander addressed his own people in such a crafty humiliating manner. There are many forms of propaganda--that of the Nazi Party was ridiculous--but what Blokzijl did was something else--it was a thousand times worse for he knew the feelings and fears of our people, the spiritual distress they were experiencing..."

Looking thin and pale but self possessed, Blokzijl answered the questions put to him after the formal indictment was read. The President of the court first asked if he were guilty as accused. He denied his guilt and denied the authorship of the booklet "Burning Issues". He explained that the collection had been edited by the editor of the newspaper "Nationaal Dagblad" and consisted of excerpts from his radio talks which were supplied to the press by the Nazi Information Bureau.

He emphasized that the book contained statements which he had never uttered. He also denied propagandizing for cooperation with Germany asserting that National Socialism and Germany were two utterly dissimilar conceptions.

He admitted that he had agitated against the Netherlands Government in London and explained that he had done this because he considered such a government abroad unconstitutional. He said further that he had never fought the allied cause but had only combatted those spiritual tendencies in allied countries which he considered wrong.

At this point, the President, van Berkel, asked the other members of the tribunal, Professor J.C. van Oven; Dr. H. Burgersdijk, Major General H.C.G. van Lawick, and Lieutenant General P.W. Best, to listen to

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to recordings of some of Blokzijl's speeches. These completely contradicted Blokzijl's statements in court.

The President asked how he could square his actions against his own country with his conscience and Blokzijl replied that he never had the impression that he was serving Holland's enemies.

When pressed, he admitted that the German invader was the enemy but when Germany was apparently winning the war he thought that the moment had come for reconciling the Netherlands people with their conquerors. It was, he thought, the best way especially as he considered a National Socialist Government, the finest the country could have.

In response to other questions, Blokzijl declared that he had heard about the Nazi atrocities but understood that these had been perpetrated by sadistic guards and that when the war was over Hitler would have punished those responsible for the outrages. He was only concerned with propaganda ideas for the leaders of the Nazi movement.

At the end of the hearing court was adjourned and sentence will be pronounced September 25.

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