

TESTIMONY OF HANS HEINRICH LAMMERS

Taken by Lt. Col. Thomas Hinkel

53.035

Born May 27, 1879- Lublinitz- two daughters.

Was chief of Secretarial dept. of the Reichministry. State secretary, and then Minister

Was link between Fuehrer and all Reich ministers. Really depended on what the Fuehrer demanded, whether he wanted me to be the link between him and the ministers or whether he wanted to get in touch with the ministers personally. I want to point out that the question of high foreign policy did not go thru me but was dealt with directly with the Fuehrer and his ministers.

Had Hitler any difference of opinion between the different ministers it was my job to coordinate both of them just as the Fuehrer wanted me to and then bring the finished material to Hitler.

My signature was the last one after all the ministers had signed, but I want to point out that I was only the link and my signature told that I had questioned and talked to all ministers concerned. My signature not actually necessary to legalize any law or document.

Up to 1939 I was Ministerial Rat in Ministry of Interior. 1933 Hitler wanted an expert on state and administration law in the Reichchancellery and it was then that he asked for me to serve for this purpose. I wasn't chief then because von Hindenburg still lived and he was chief, After his death Hitler made me chief because I had so many things to do.

1937 State Secretary Funk was elected minister he pointed out that I am far older than he is I should also have the title of Minister. My duties, among others, were the coordination of all the administration of the Reich.

Except in 1933 and 1934 I only saw Hitler once in a few weeks about different matters.

Joined Nazi Party 1932. Then I was Referent for administrative law in Berlin.

1922 was present at a speech of Hitlers. Did not see him till 1933. Hitler spoke to me perhaps for five minutes just to ask me whether I wanted to accept this new position or not. Because it meant a promotion, I accepted.

Personally I did not know Hindenburg, but on occasion had seen him. After I was appointed secretary I had a long conversation with him. He asked me about my life history and expressed satisfaction that he had chosen me for the job.

I never had to swear to any of the Nazi principles. Perhaps I would have sworn had I been asked.

In my opinion, Hindenburg at first did not like the idea of Hitler becoming the Reichchancellor, but he got used to it very, very quickly.

I helped Hitle more than Hindenburg and often asked him to go to Hindenburg and have discussuins and conferences with him as he was very reluctant himself to do that. I did that because I wanted to see Hitler and Hindenburg get along well together. And I even saw that after Hitler had actually talked to Hindenburg that he remedied little things and withdrew things that he had wanted before.

I made a rather nodding acquaintance with Dr. Schaught sometime in 1924 or 1925. Next time I saw him was 1933. Before he became pres. of Reichsbank I had no close relations with him. Was at Hantsberg, but don't remember speaking to him.

Personally, I took no part in the seizure of power by the Nazis.

I became leader of the Reichchancellery Jan. 30, 1933.

I believe the Lanzpolizei was taken over by the Reich in 1934.

I only had a conference with Dr. Schacht from the moment he contemplated retiring from presidency of Reichsbank. At that time Schacht gave me his reason as being the fact that he wanted to avoid inflation, and wanted me to tell this to Hitler. I did not know any more about the armament than any other German who saw it from the outside. Did not participate in its finance.

Graf Schwerin Kresigk Finance Minister at that time.

I might have met, casually, Dr. Schacht, once. Principally I saw him after he became Minister of National Economy and President of the Reichsbank. Before that, I repeat that I happened to meet him very casually.

When I said that I had spoken to Schacht three times, it may be four or five times, that was in connection with his contemplated resignation as Pres.

With Funk I was always on friendly terms. He was under my authority as head of the press. I never discussed with him any problems connected with armament. That was a matter which did not concern me. It is quite possible that now and then, on the occasion of some social gatherings, I may have touched this or that subject with him.

I recall attending a conference in Sept., 1939, at which Berhmann, Dr. Conti and Dr. Bouhler, among others, were present. The conference concerned euthenasia, or mercy killing. Main person was Dr. Conti. Berhmann was there. Hitler called the meeting. Hitler had gone into the subject of discarding in some way or manner those elements which were useless to the community, such as insane people. Dr. Conti represented the point of view that this should be done but only in cases incurable. I sided with this. I thought that if this should be carried out, there should be a law. I established a law in reference to this. Went into the matter from a legal point of view and drafted a law. Included all measures of precaution which had to be taken in such a grave step. Provided an observation of one year at least. Without exception, those were to be excluded from such measures who had been wounded in the war or discharged of their official obligations- also those who had old age insanity. Cases to be decided upon were to be brought before a board composed largely of physicians and one jurist. If the party were to be killed, this should have been decided by the board and then a special doctor was to carry out this measure and he was not a member of the board. If the doctors wanted the patients observed for six months, this was done. If he thought the death should not be carried out, he had the right to apply to a second board.

While I was busy drafting up that law, I learned that Hitler, who had entrusted Dr. Conti with that task, had withdrawn it about two or three weeks later. Nevertheless, I kept on working with my project because I thought the matter would come up again, which it did April, 1940. Then Reichsleiter Bouhler called on me and claimed that Hitler had entrusted him to this task. Then and there I discussed with Bouhler my draft of law. He neither accepted nor refused this draft and went himself to Hitler to report. Then I went to see Hitler. He said he didn't want such a project-thought it would cause too great a sensation.

I didn't agree with him, thinking the law would make the thing more palatable to public opinion, to the church and to opinion abroad. This was so because a project of law surrounded the thing with all legal guarantees and dealt only with the very serious cases. I don't remember whether Hitler specially declined my project of law or whether he simply said "Leave it as it is", but that law was never passed.

Hitler gave full power to Bouhler. My part in this affair was thus ended. My project was turned down and I had nothing further to do with it. I was in principle opposed to it; even that it be done during the war, and to its being done without any law. No law was ever passed to my knowledge, as such a law would have been published. It was simply written power which Hitler gave to Bouhler.

As far as I can remember, Dr. Conti said "I consider this plan as possible of execution, but it should be confined only to the most serious cases". It occurred to me that he was referring to the insane who could no longer be put to bed. Hitler argued that it concerned about 200,000 people and thus a certain number of lodgings would be released, about 30 thousand nurses and such other considerations. It is a fact that a number of people were executed under this euthanasia programme. I don't know the number of people put to death, but I simply know that Bormann, but strength of power received, had proceeded to such action. At Hadamar not only Germans were executed but Russians, Poles and Czechs and other people were subjected to this "mercy-killing"? Within a State there are certain things you carry out in a legal way and other things you don't carry out in a legal way, simply as an administrative measure. I can say the law was indispensable, but I could not have my conception carried out.

The first time Hitler made an utterance to the effect that military action might be taken against Russia was in Spring 1941. He made

a remark to the effect that a strong concentration of troops was taking place in Russia and that we might get involved into some military action against Russia. Hitler said "I would like to have a man who knows the political situation of the populations in Russia well, who could be useful to us in case we occupy the territories there. I would like to have Rosenberg". Hitler called Rosenberg, but I don't think I was present at the conference. Rosenberg then called me to tell me that he had made preparations for a civil administration which might possibly become necessary for Russia. As already stated, I did not take part in a single conference of a military nature. I didn't recommend Rosenberg to Hitler. In fact, I had certain objections to this connection. The order of Hitler was binding to me but I didn't propose any person. Hitler himself designated Rosenberg as the person he wished to appoint.

The propaganda had to be provided for Russia and the Ministry of Propaganda had to take part in it. There arose the first differences of opinion. The Propaganda Ministry wanted to carry out propaganda in Russia and the Ministry for the East wanted to carry out such propaganda. There was the Ministry of the Interior; the 4-Year Plan Administration; Ministry of Transportation, and in fact all the ministries.

A committee called the Reich Council for Defense was created at the outbreak of war with Poland. There was some sort of a commission before that in 1935 that dealt with the national defense. It was composed, as far as I can remember, of the War Minister and the Minister of National Economy; probably the Minister of the Interior and a representative of the 4-Year Plan. It was kept secret. No order was published. This body was created shortly after the creation of the law for compulsory military training, isn't that right? It must have been later.

Do you recall when Rosenberg's Einstazstabe first began to seize the furniture and household effects of people living in occupied territor-