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

INTERROGATION DIVISION SUMMARY

Interrogation of: LAMMERS, Heinrich

By: Lt. Colonel Gurfein, 17 October 1945 p.m.

Persons and organizations implicated, and subjects

1. LAMMERS

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- b. Secret documents (p. 6)
- c. Mefo bills (p. 4)
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- e. Hitler's appointments (p. 8)
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 - (2) Czechoslovakia
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2. SCHACHT

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3. FUNK

- a. Appointment to Reichbank Presidency (p. 4)

4. FREIHERR, von Eltz & RUEBENACH

- a. Refusal of Party decoration (p. 5)

Hans Heinrich LAMMERS, 17 October 1945 p.m.

SCHACHT - REICHSBANK

Lammers became superficially acquainted with Dr. Schacht in 1925 or 1926. They met again about 1934 when Dr. Luther resigned and Dr. Schacht became President of the Reichsbank. After that they may have met about twenty times in the next few years, including purely social engagements. Dr. Schacht wanted to resign from the Reichsbank in 1937 as he disapproved of Hitler's policies and felt the country was headed for inflation. Hitler sent Lammers to Schacht to negotiate an extension of Schacht's services. Schacht again refused to remain in office since he could no longer condone the credit policy concerning Reich credits as carried out by Hitler under pressure from Hitler through Lammers. Schacht finally agreed to remain in office one more year. There is no reason to believe that Hitler dealt with Schacht directly. Lammers knows of no conditions imposed on Schacht's acceptance of the extension of one year from 1937 - 38.

Lammers read the statements on Reich credits aloud to Hitler. They contained only three or four lines beginning, credits extended to He was never present when the credits were discussed and did not know of any direct discussions of the matter between Hitler and Schacht. Had no discussions with Pohl, Vice President of the Reichsbank.

Original documents for Hitler's signature came to Lammers (one to President of the Reichsbank, one to the Minister of Finance and one to Lammers) (p.3). Lammers knows nothing about mefo bills. Hitler ordered Lammers to arrange for the resignation of Dr. Schacht and the appointment of Funk as president of the Reichsbank. In 1937 all members of the Reich Cabinet received the so-called Golden Party Pin (p.4).

This decoration was refused by Freiherr von Eltz und Ruebenach for religious reasons. No citations were added to the Presentation. The letter of appreciation for his services from Hitler to Dr. Schacht was couched in general terms.

Lammers distributed secret Reich documents to cabinet members in line of duty but none of rearmament, as these belonged to the military department. There was nothing about rearmament in the Reich budget, only allotments for military purposes.

LAMMER'S CHIEF TASK

Was to distribute new proposed laws, to collect the opinions on them from the various ministries and to direct the normal process of legislation. He had never had a budget of the war ministry in his hands, thus could not know how much was set aside for rearmament (p.6).

Hans Heinrich LAMMERS, 17 October 1945 p.m.

The term "Reichscheftsache" was not used by Lammers' department which used "secret Reich matter". There was an element called "Chefsache" which was open only to those ministers directly concerned.

Dr. SCHACHT

Received a few letters from Lammers on the small amount of business existing between the Reichsbank and Reich Chancellery (p.7).

HITLER'S APPOINTMENTS

Were usually made by his two adjutants and on rare occasions by Bormann, Chief of the Party Chancellery. Hitler preferred to have secret meetings in his private apartment where Lammers could not see who came and went. He does not know whether Dr. Schacht remained Hitler's financial advisor after his resignation. Does not remember seeing the 1938 document of the Reichsbank to Hitler concerning inflation. Did not speak to Funk regarding the above (p.8).

REICHSBANK CREDITS

To the German Reich were limited by statute to 100 million marks. Lammers does not know whether there was a secret law, giving unlimited credit to the Reich in 1939. Credit allotments were signed by the Fuehrer and countersigned by the minister of finance. They consisted of two or three lines saying the Reichsbank is empowered etc. Then came a number of milliards. This was the system from the beginning (p.9).

THE ANSCHLUSS

Was not previously discussed to Lammers' knowledge. A surprise message ordered him to Vienna. Neither did Lammers have previous knowledge of the March into the Sudetenland, the occupation of Prague or the occupation of the demilitarized zone in 1936. At best he heard of these things a day or a few hours before they happened. He then arranged the necessary legislation.

Dr. SCHACHT

Probably saw the Fuehrer very seldom. Hitler's adjutant changed frequently. Among them were Bormann, Brueckner, Schaub, Albrecht, Wiedermann and others. Bormann's principal assistants were Friedrichs and State Secretary Klopfer (p.10).

Hans Heinrich LAMMERS, 17 October 1945 p.m.

THE JEWISH PROPERTY

Decree of November 1938, taking 20 per cent of all Jewish property in Germany, was not signed by Lammers. he had no part in any legislation regarding Jews, except the pleasant task of excepting some Jews from the general discrimination. Lammers did not co-ordinate this decree because it was not an actual law but an executorial decree. As he remembers, it was signed by the Ministers of Finance and Economics (p.11).