

A f f i d a v i t .

I, Dr. Karl JARRES, Lord Mayor (retired) and a former Reich Minister, Muehlheim-Ruhr-Speldorf, Prinzenhoche 14, know that I shall render myself liable to punishment if I make a false affidavit. I declare upon oath that my affidavit is true and was made in order to be submitted as evidence to the Military Tribunal in Nuernberg or to other allied or German authorities or Courts.

In refutation of the erroneous ideas which prevail and have been propagated with respect to the relations between the Industrial club in Duesseldorf and HITLER and the National Socialist movement, and in order to disprove the charges which have been raised against this association in connection with HITLER's lecture on 27 January 1932, I, the then president of the association, am in the position to declare the following:

According to the status of the club, the purpose of the association was to provide a meeting and entertainment place for the members and to promote the relations between commerce, industry and science. Among other things, lectures were regularly given in the club for social entertainment, but politics were banned as a rule, because the members belonged to different Parties, and because the association was not to be turned into an arena for political debates. The subjects treated were always of an economic and generally cultural nature.

After Professor CASSEL-STOCKHOLM had spoken about the collapse of the international monetary system in October 1931, the well known Social Democratic deputy MAX COHEN-REUSS was asked in September 1931 to give a lecture so that a leftist representative of the trade unions might be heard for once, and he chose the topic: "Whither are we drifting?"

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Contrary to the customs of the association, this lecture was of a pronouncedly political and leftist nature. The advisory board of the association then suggested that a National Socialist orator should be heard also, and the names of either Gregor STRASSER or Hermann GOERING were proposed. Fritz THYSEN who was already at that time a zealous adherent of HITLER made arrangements for HITLER coming himself to give a lecture, and there was a full house, of course. As regards myself, I did not attend the lecture because I was away; otherwise I would have been present under all circumstances, because the statements of the leader of the NSDAP in whom the general interest was already centered even then, would have interested me very much; the same as the majority of the many members. The few printed documents which could still be found in the Association and which related to this lecture were unfortunately destroyed when the occupation troops came although there was no reason actually, because the tenor of this lecture was by no means aggressive or radical, and given in lengthy, even overlengthy elaborations, as was usual with HITLER, and only now and then brought new, but never revolutionary ideas. As I was told by different people then and even recently, the lecture left the listeners cold at first and roused their interest only in its later parts. Most certainly, HITLER made a strong impression on his audience with his rhetorically clever and peculiarly effective manner of speaking, but he was not convincing in general. Anyhow, the general opinion was that the lecture was very interesting on account of the personality of the orator, but that it did not make a permanent impression on the majority of the audience. Neither was there the usual joint supper with the lecturer attending, but HITLER left the club with his retinue immediately after the lecture without partaking of the hospitality of the association.

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Contrary to the usual practice, the club gave no orders for the printing and distribution of the lecture to the members because it was a political matter. Neither was the lecture of COHEN-REUSS printed by the club. HITLER's lecture was printed later by the Party and published by Messrs. Fr. EHER, Publishers, Munich, and found a large public.

The lectures which preceded HITLER's address, were given by the following: April 1932, Lord Mayor Dr. GOERDELER on "Price Control and Economy"; May 1932, the then State Secretary Professor Dr. POPITZ on "Communal Finance and Economy"; November 1932, Reich Defense Minister Dr. GESSLER on "The political problems of the Reich Reform". The same as the ex-Ambassador von HASSEL, who gave a lecture shortly afterwards, the two first-named lecturers had to suffer death by hanging in atonement of their hostility to HITLER, and Dr. GESSLER fared badly as well. These facts prove that the Industrial Club certainly was not one-sidedly pro-HITLER.

The assertion that the Industrial Club put considerable funds at the disposal of the National Socialist movement after the lecture, is pure invention. Neither then nor later, did the Club make fund available for the purposes of the National Socialist Party. Neither ~~then nor later~~ was a collection made among the members of the club in the interest of HITLER and his Party. As a matter of course, the club could not escape from the common contributions to the Winter Relief Work. The following contributions were made by the club to this relief work which was for relieving the distress in Duesseldorf:

Winter 1933/34	RM 2,000.-
Winter 1934/35	" 2,000.-
Winter 1935/36	" 2,000.-

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Winter 1936/37	RM 2,000.-
" 1937/38	" 3,300.-
" 1938/39	" 3,000.-
" 1939/40	" 3,000.-
" 1940/41	" 4,000.-
" 1941/42	" 3,500.-
" 1942/43	" 3,300.-
" 1943/44	" 2,000.-
" 1944/45	" 2,000.-

In addition, the club, a catering institute, made the following contributions to the Gift of German Economy to Adolf HITLER (Adolf HITLER-Spende der Deutschen Wirtschaft) by way of assessments through the Food-stuff Trade Association:

1933	RM 35.90
1939	" 93.72
1940	" 106.45
1941	" 111.25
1942	" 114.--

These were welfare contributions which the club made, but which cannot be considered at all as countering the National Socialist Party policy.

I do not know whether the one or the other wealthy member personally made funds available. I only know from Fritz THYSSEN's book "I paid HITLER" that he allegedly transferred 1,000,000 RM to HITLER, and beyond any doubt this must have been a great help to the Party in consideration of its precarious financial position at that time. But it is well known that THYSSEN himself broke away from HITLER after an open breach soon after, and that consequently he had to suffer and still has to suffer severely in the extreme, together with his family.

(signed): K. JARRES.

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The signature of Lord Mayor (retired) Dr. Karl
JARRES is certified herewith.

Certificate.

The authenticity of the foregoing signature of
Karl JARRES (profession, surname and Christian name)
Muehlheim/Ruhr, Prinzenhoche 14, is certified herewith.

Local Police Headquarters:

FRANK

Fee: 1.- RM.

Polizei Meister

Fee stamp

rubber stamp of the Police Headquarters of Duisburg City.

(End of Document).