

Affidavit.

*Before Commission
8 June 48
Trans. pp. 11254-11286*

I,

Dr. Ing. Hans LEYERS,

born at Duesseldorf on 5 March 1896, residing at Duesseldorf-Bonrath, Rogerstr. 3

after having been cautioned that by making a false affidavit I render myself liable to punishment hereby declare that my statement is true and was made in order to be submitted as evidence to the American Military Tribunal No. III at Nuremberg.

From the middle of 1940 until the fall of 1943 I was department chief for the Procurement of Arms in the Ordnance Office of the OKH. In this capacity I came into close contact with Prof. Dr. Erich MUELLER by reason of the latter's activity as chairman of the Armament Committee and, from the spring of 1942 on, of the Armament Commission (Waffenkommission).

I took part in almost all of the important meetings of both of these committees and I am therefore qualified to give the following statements:

The Armament Committee issued - to conform to the situation in regard to the already existing Armament Committee - from the so-called working communities, which represented regional associations of similar armament enterprises and which carried out their work under the guidance of the competent armament inspectorates.

As far as I remember, Prof. MUELLER was appointed in the spring of summer of 1940 by the Ministry TODT to head the management of such a working community for heavy guns. In the course of 1940 the working committees were for the most part integrated into the so-called Armament Committee whose direction TODT entrusted to Dr. MUELLER. The interests of the Wehrmacht and in particular of the ordnance offices were looked after by the calling-in of

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competent Wehrmacht Referenten, among them I was also included. From my connection with Dr. MUELLER I know, that he was not particularly interested in such activity because it periodically took him away from his work of developing new weapons at KRUPP's, around which work, naturally, his main interest was centered.

To be sure, the years of 1940 and 1941, where the work of developing and manufacturing arms was carried out under one direction, did not offer any particular problems in regard to the activities of the committee. The activity in the main consisted of supervising current development work at the armament firms, of giving advice on new arms to be developed, of eliminating as far as possible the difficulties arising in the process of manufacturing by the mutual aid of the industrial enterprises and of keeping statistics on the monthly output.

This all changed after the great losses of equipment which took place in the East in the winter of 1941/42. In connection with it it was intended that more and more use should be made of the committee on the part of TODT to apply strict controls to the production, if need be by direct intervention with industry.

Among other things the proposed group production advanced by SAUR would have the result that the machines and equipment of the plants would be torn apart, taken away from them and reassembled in a foreign plant. Prof. Dr. MUELLER showed little inclination to take these measures because he evidently held the well-founded opinion that in consequence thereof the economic interests of industry would be prejudiced to an unbearable extent. As an employee of a private enterprise he considered himself bound to withhold his cooperation in applying this compulsory measure and therefore placed himself in open opposition to "TODT", his successor SPIER and

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the chief of the technical offices, SAUR. This finally led to his resignation from the chairmanship of the Armament Committee in the spring of 1942 and to his replacement in office. As result of Dr. MUELLER's retirement from the committee in March or April 1942 he had had no share whatsoever in the more and more noticeable influence which was being increasingly brought to bear on manufacturing thereafter and which influence, as evidenced by SPEER's decree of 6 May 1942, was exerted by means of direct orders. Thus he had no share either in the carrying out of the compulsory production program of the Ministry in connection with the enforced employment of the means of production and manpower.

In my opinion Dr. MUELLER's appointment as chairman of the Armament Commission (Waffenkommission) after his retirement from the Armament Committee took place because his experience in developing new arms was held to be indispensable.

This activity in the Armament Commission had nothing to do with the question of manufacturing arms, as may be unmistakably seen from SPEER's decree of 25 April 1942 concerning the establishment of the Armament Commission and was limited to the proper field of developing new arms.

Duesseldorf-Benrath, 29 April 1948.

(signed) Dr. Hans LEYERS.

Document Roll: No. 500/1948

I hereby certify that the foregoing signature of Dr. Ing. Hans LEYERS, at Duesseldorf-Benrath, Rognerstrasse 3 was sworn to and signed before me.

Duesseldorf-Benrath, 30 April 1948

(Seal)

(signed) Dr. GORENEN
(Dr. GORENEN)