

Essen, 11 March 1948

Affidavit

We have been cautioned that we would render ourselves subject to punishment if we were to make a false affidavit.

We declare in lieu of oath that our statements are true and were made to be presented as evidence before the American Military Tribunal No. III, in the Palace of Justice, Nuernberg, Germany.

We state, in lieu of oath, the following:

All of us were department directors and/or group heads (Gruppenvorstand) in the former Department AK of Krupp in Essen, and in this capacity we have worked together for years with our former superior, Professor Dr. Erich Mueller.

We are therefore in a position to give reliable information about Dr. Mueller's political attitude and conduct, in which connection we wish to remark that none of us were Nazi party members.

As far as we heard, Dr. Mueller was a party member since 1 May 1933. He himself hardly ever spoke about it. He wore the party emblem but rarely, and for quite some time not at all. Dr. Mueller lived only for his work and he devoted all his time from early morning until late at night to take care of his department business.

Dr. Mueller never cared whether we or other employees were Nazi party members, for in his estimation only the business qualifications of the various fellow workers were of account. In political discussions, if there were any at all, he was always extremely cautious.

We ascribe this to the informer and denouncement system set up by the NSDAP. How wise Dr. Mueller's caution proved to be was shown when one of his group chiefs, Herr Pfretzschner, was denounced to the Gestapo during the war for allegedly making defeatist remarks for they put him in jail where he finally died, before the conclusion of his trial.

Dr. Mueller also never acted in a political capacity at personnel meetings and affairs. If he did speak on such occasions he did it in a purely realistic and unpolitical manner, by enlarging about general topics, such as comradeship, efficient collaboration, etc. Very much different were the speeches of the official plant leader, who then spoke in the customary manner as prescribed by the party, in the

We had the impression that Dr. Mueller, ~~beginning~~, judged as favorable the war prospects, although we cannot remember any definite expressions to this effect. Later on he became even more taciturn, but during the last war year one could notice, in spite of his great caution and reticence, how he was consumed by the burning worry about the outcome of the war.

After the first meetings with Adolf Hitler, Dr. Mueller reported to us his surprise about the great technical interest displayed by the Fuehrer concerning heavy artillery. Soon, however, Dr. Mueller became silent also concerning this point, and he hardly mentioned it any more when he was called to Hitler. Subsequently, these receptions stopped entirely.

Those of us who were his closest executive co-workers never

thought of Dr. Mueller as an advocate of political Nazi ideology, or that he at any time wanted to operate his department on Nazi lines and even less that he, due to his party membership, aspired to or gained any advantages which were not the fruit of his work.

We know Professor Dr. Mueller only as an untiring construction engineer, and we also always considered his meetings with Hitler only in this light and not as testimony showing proof of political confidence.

Signed Georg Grassmann
signed Karl Dührberg
signed Georg Hayn
signed Ludwig Schön
signed Paul Krüger
signed Maximilian Gorkke
signed Erich Wölfert
signed Karl Ebesker
signed Franz Böminghaus
signed Heinrich Egen.

Number 683
of the Document Roll for 1948

I herewith certify the foregoing
signatures appended before me, of Messrs.

Georg Grassmann,

Essen, Heidohang 38

Karl Dührberg,

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Georg Hayn,

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Franz Böminghaus, Essen, Am Domhof 19 A. 034051 AAC
Heinrich Egon, Milte, Kr.Warendorf (21a) Velsen 20a
AJ 426607

Essen, 31 March 1948

Stamp: Dr. Walter Ballas, Notary Public in Essen.

(Signed) Dr. Rust.
Attorney-at-Law
Officially appointed deputy of
Dr. W. Ballas, Notary Public in Essen.

Costs:

Value: RM 3000.—

Fee according to Articles 144, 26, 39, of RKO RM 4.—

3% Turn-over tax

—12

RM 4.12

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The Deputy of the Notary Public: Signed Dr. Rust

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