

Oslo, February 26th 1949.

The prosecution of the intellectual NS members.

111243

Many of the most prominent scientist, authors and artist of Norway have been struck by the settlement of treason ( the law suit against NS members ),

KNUT HAMSUN - the greatest living author of Norway - a Nobel-price winner - 90 years old. He was arrested and kept in internment in a psychiatric clinic for 4 months and subsequently appr. 2 years in a public old people's home and deprived of the greater part of his fortune. His books have been removed from the bookstalls.

WILHELM RASMUSSEN -the most celebrated sculpter of Norway - creator of the national monument that should have been erected this year outside the Storting. It is now put away in a store, and will not be erected in this generation - as to the newspapers in Oslo. He was condemned to 3-4 years of prison. His address is today : Ilebu Prison, pr. Oslo.

DAVID MONRAD JOHANSEN, the composer, one of the greatest in north Europe. His works may not be played in this country. He was also condemned to 3 or 4 years of prison.

CHRISTIAN SINDING - a composer of world -wide fame - died during the occupation. He was after his death expelled from the Composers Union and his works are now not played in Norway.

ADOLF HOEL - polar explorer of international rank -professor in the geography of the Polar regions, organizer and leader of the Norwegian Polar exploration in the last 40 years and creator of the Governments Polar Institut. He has been in prison for one year and afterwards been obliged to report himself every day to the police. After four years of suffering (1945/49 ) his case is still under inquiry by the police.

TRYGVE GRAN : prominent aviator and polar explorer. He was the first to cross the Northsee ( in 1914 ) and was the companion to Scott on his last expedition to the Antartic. He has also been in prison for more than 1.1/2 year.

Many of our best musicians and actors have also been condemned to many years of prison and have lost their situations. As an example of the treatment of scientists may be named the following : GUNNAR HIGERTH. 47 years old, was professor of plant breeding at the Agricultural University of Norway. His scientific and practical works hade made him known all over the world.

He was member of the NS -party, but only for a short time.

N.S. policy was to strengthen the military preparedness of Norway; to further the development of our best traditions; work for social justice; safeguard of the fundamental religious truths; reintroduction of the leader principle, which our historic experience has proved to be a far better principle than the modern irresponsibility. The leader principle is not synonymous with dictatorship. Years before our country was occupied, V.Q. had warned our public that our country was highly exposed to the danger of being drawn into war by reason of our insufficient military preparedness, and our party-politics. N.S. wanted to do away with parties and to introduce a guild system, in order that the active forces of our country might be represented by their best exponents, chosen by their co-workers, as against the present political party system, which is foreign to our best traditions, and has caused a lot of harm to the true interests of Norway.

This is an absolute fact in spite of all assertions to the contrary on the part of our Law Courts and opponents. These feel in duty bound to insist on Norway being at war with Germany till May 1945, as otherwise they can not convict those who after 9.-6.-40 joined N.S.- About 90 000 of us have been indicated for high treason etc., because we were members of or had applied for membership in N.S. Such collective responsibility is otherwise unknown in our jurisprudence. In order to get all these persons convicted, special laws were enacted by our exile government, and these laws were given retroactive force, of variance with our constitution. In my own case I did not know anything about the existence of such laws till May 21 st 1945. Even if I had known about their existence, I was debarred from acting on them by reason of the Hague convention, which our country had signed. All the same I was convicted to 7 years compulsory labor. When I am here now it is

due to a medical certificate obtained in consequence of troubles contracted during 6 month's imprisonment in concentration camp under conditions unworthy of a civilized country. This characteristic is that of the highest police authority of the district where the camp was located. - This so-called "landssvik-oppgjør" - settlement of treason - has nothing to do with justice. It is a psychological reaction on the part of people who feel themselves guilty and are badly in want of scape-goats on whom to unload their own iniquities. It is the old fable about the wolf and the lamb. It has been fairly successful so far, but our universe is happily so constituted that truth will out eventually, and it is gradually dawning on more and more of our opponents. Our Constitution, of which we have justly always been so proud, has repeatedly been infringed in order to get us convicted. Practically all of those convicted have lost their civil rights. A paria-class has been created of people of whom many are of a very high standing - morally and intellectually, among these a great number of capable business leaders, who have got their business ruined by reason of the action brought against them.

When La Bastille was stormed La Fayette sent its keys to Washington, whereby the New World was called a witness to this historic act, by which it constituted itself the guardian of the liberties conquered by the Old World. You will all be aware that the persons imprisoned in La Bastille did not belong to the common people, they were principally men of the intellectual classes. The coming of spirit, security, human dignity, was what this event involved. And the whole moral and intellectual world understood this. They admired the people who, moved by a superior spirit, revenged as a personal insult, all the wrongs done to reason. From that moment reason felt itself free. There was not one thinker who did not understand that they had fought for him. This is that which gained for the Revolution the heart of Europa. The taking of the Bastille was the deliverance of the human spirit. Strong forces are busily at work trying to create a new Bastille. All friend of spiritual values should be up and doing, in order to make life still worth living for free men and women. We will not be slaves.

- 4 -

For a small nation like the norwegian this state of things is a very serious one. It has lost many of its citizens of the highest mark. Some of them cannot be replaced and in any case it is a heavy loss to our country that so many of its intellectual have been compelled to pass the rest of their life in situations where their faculties and their education cannot show to advantage, not to speak of the cruel destiny of all these unhappy men, their wives and their children. The bitterness that all of them and their relations feel against the community represents in the long run a danger to our little nation.

The same feelings naturally prevail also in other NS members, but it admits of no doubt that it is the intellectuals who have suffered most severely from the action of the community against the members of the NS party.