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When you meet my friends here today I wish to say that all of us feel that we are running a great risk. We are in fact living behind an iron curtain, which can not be denied.

Nevertheless, we are taking the risk to speak with you. If anyone should be arrested after this meeting, you will hear from us. But please do not publish any names if you should find it right to mention any of our facts in your papers.

You meet here today the type of men who since 1945 are accused of being "traitors" or more correctly: men who are accused of having forsaken their country during the German occupation - because we were members of a legal political party: National Samling. Through laws given in London by our Government - but unknown to us in Norway until autumn 1945, this party was declared to be illegal.

We are called "nazistz". I assure you, we have spiritually nothing whatever in common with the German Nazi Organization. Our main object was to build up our military organisation in order to be able to defend our country. Just on this question the N. S. party came in hard conflict with the labour party.

The labour party and the Government had to find a "SCAPE-GOAT" for all their political blunders from 1932 up to 1940. They had neglected our defence to an unbelievable extent. Their emblem was: "The Broken Gun". Such a sign was worn even by a member of the 1939/Government - Mr. Monsen who was in charge of the war office.

When the Labour Party was in a minority their leading members were opposed to military training. Our present Prime Minister, Mr. Gerhardsen, was one of the hardest "NUTS" in this agitation.

The Labour Party is today conducted by the same men, who in the years after 1930 accepted financial help from Russia for their unnational agitation. This fact was denied in the Storting (our Parliament), but the excuse was that this financial help was not received from the Russian Government, but from the Komintern. For such financial help even Trygve Lie has given receipt - according

to official Stortings documents.

The "scape goat" was easily found. The members of the legal political party : National Samling - were all treated as traitors, and the men who escaped to England in 1940 after having neglected our defence for years - returned as heroes.

Men like Knut Hamsun, Erling Bjørnson, David Monrad Johansen (our most famous composer) and thousands of our most prominent farmers, industrial and shipping men -- have been thrown into prison and concentration camps and forced to hard labour - just because they have been members of a legal political party.

Their farms, factories and business have been unscrupulously administrated by Lawyers and hundreds of million kroners have been wasted in a way not to be described. Farms, factories and business , which during peacetime had a good surplus have been brought to ruin during the years after 1945.

Personally I had a mountain farm (about 20.000 acres). I had planned to build up a large sheep farm and had bought valuable breeding sheep. In the autumn 1945 these valuable sheep were killed - and the whole plan wasted.

My friends here can give you still more drastic examples of how the authorities have acted to ruin our country in hatred of all men who were just as good patriots as the others but had one aim and that was to make our dear country better and richer.

I could give you hundreds of examples which would show you the destructive political blunders which have been the logical result of the attempt to obtain a scape-goat, in order that the people should forget the real traitors, who were in action in our country up to 1940. The same men who in 1932 were Moska minded and who today ask for Marshall-help.

I am not exaggerating when I say that at least 250.000 of my country men directly or indirectly are under press of the so called " rettsoppgjør" that is: the law suits against people who have been members of the legal political party: National Samling, or firms who have been induced by our legal authorities to do business with the Germans.

The great and powerful firms such as Norsk Hydro and Borregaard who gave the Germans the most valuable

assistance have not been attacked. But the small men and firms have been punished.

Just as Hitler made all Jews collectively responsible for what some Jews may have done, the Norwegian Authorities have made every member of National Samling responsible for the faults of the leaders of the party. We must admit that several members of the party were criminals or undertook actions for which they can be reproached, but the overwhelming members of the party were good patriots and honest men.

According to our old laws no man can be punished for another man's crime, but the Norwegian Government made new laws in London. These laws were not known in Norway during the occupation. According to these laws the Government has established the right to punish the N.S. members and collaborators with the Germans. If someone tried to become a member of N.S. and the following day recalled his application - he has been punished. One well known gentleman got 3 years imprisonment for such "treacherous" action.

These men protest against being stamped as "Nazi-minded." They have been fighting for the rights of mankind - for a true democracy. They have not been standing with one leg in both camps. They are the people you can rely upon.

As an example to show that we live behind an iron curtain I may mention that it has been impossible for me to get the Oslo Newspapers to insert an advertisement for my book: "Utrolig men sant" ("Not to believe"). The Oslo newspapers have rejected to take articles from our best solicitors and barristers (not members of N.S.) which attack the law suits against the N.S. members.

Furthermore I may mention: During a discussion in the Liberal Student Society I frankly stated the fact that we live behind an iron curtain (October 1948). A few days later I was arrested for 16 days.

Our famous Bishop Berggrav, who in 1940 challenged the young Norwegians not to resist the Germans, prohibited in 1945 N. S. people to raise a monument on the graves of deceased people, who had been members of National Samling. This prohibition has been in force up till the end of January 1949

I may mention that the program of the four political parties in Norway in 1945 was more or less the same programme which National Samling had set forth in 1933. 4.

According to the budgets the very "settlement of treason" has up to this day cost about 200 million kroner, without having brought the end within reach. It surely has to be expensive to maintain uncountable "investigators" in the treason offices - and departements, uncountable special prosecutors and extra judges in lots of special courts of "Justice" with the organisations required therefore.

It is expensive to confine ten-thousands in concentration camps, even in the summer of 1948, about 20 to 25 such camps decorate our fatherland, all richly provided with guardians and administration, mostly much poorer with food for the prisoners. In one instance 300 - 350 guardians are watching about 450 prisoners.

And yet these expences are the lesser. Even today summer 1948, one has to count with ab. 20.000 unemployed NS members. If the daily worth of production per man is estimated at kroner 40, which is very low as an average, one arrives at a figure of lost production (the final standard of value) of about 800 million kroner for the first three years.

To this must be added that many of the NS folks have not got, and will not for years get jobs where they are able to render their best. Thousands of the most capable are still unemployed, many waiting for the "sentence", they are so to say suspended in midair with regard to income, employment and future.

All NS-folks in leading positions, as industrial managers and the like, are today without employment. And they were not a few. In 1942 on a meeting 220 NS industrials met together.

Norway must deem herself fortunate if she can get through with a sum of 2 billion kroner before the madness has been somewhat cured.

Considering an American workman gets ab. 50-60 kr. a day, whereas a Norwegian makes ab. 20 - 25 kroner according to the price index in our country, the fact would be that the amount, in proportion to the number of inhabitants in USA compared with Norway would foot up to ab. fifteen billion dollars for the first three years.

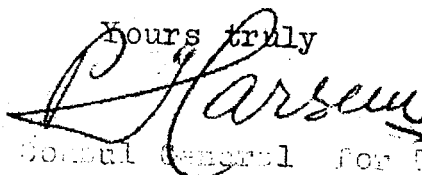
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The problem today in Norway is to find a way to stop the madness of having a controversy between 1/4 million "scape-goats" and the rest of the nation - just in order to cover those responsible people who were the real traitors. In fact this problem is of far greater importance than the Marshall plan.

No country can in the long run live on help from others. It must help itself. The power of harmony is the only power that can save the country from ruin. Today a controversy is going on that is of far greater importance than you can imagine.

Hatred and punishment against ten thousands of women and men who do not feel any guilt will bring our country to ruin whatever the Marshall can achieve.

Yours truly



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