

Interrogation of . . . . . FUNK, Walther

By . . . . . Mr. H. R. Sackett

Time . . . . . 8 November 1945, AM

Witness states that he was appointed Pres Chief of the Reich in January 1938 and in March 1938 became an Under-Secretary in the Reichs Ministry of Propaganda headed by Goebbels. Also states that in 1933 he became a Vice President of the Reichs Chamber of Culture and continued as such thereafter.

Witness states Schacht resigned as Minister of Economics because of his refusal to accept control being exercised over his Ministry by Goering as Head of the Four Year Plan. Funk accepted appointment as Minister of Economics in January 1938 in spite of such control.

Witness admits knowledge of the Reichs Defense Law of 1935 and states he was appointed plenipotentiary for Economics as successor to Schacht. Admits that under the Reichs Defense Law his Ministry concerned itself with planning for war in the economic field, but states that this was done by an Under-Secretary and that he was not active until the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich was created in August 1939. Denies recollection of the Reichs Council for Defense and states that he never heard of the "Three Man College".

Admits that the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich issued numerous decree laws between 1 September and 1 December 1939, but states that the council did not meet thereafter but passed on laws which were circulated to its members.

Witness admits responsibility for all laws passed by the cabinet or the Ministerial Council for the Defense of the Reich after he became Minister of Economics in 1938. Admits formulating and issuing decree laws eliminating Jews from the economic life of the Reich. Witness was interrogated as to a long list of discriminatory laws pertaining to Jews and admits that he knew of practically all of them and approved of those passed after he became Minister of Economics. States that he is responsible along with the other Ministers for the discrimination against the Jews reflected by these laws. Admits that the Jews were practically slaves and that he did not resign as Minister because he was afraid he might be put into a concentration camp. Admits that he held himself out to the public as approving of all the Jewish discriminatory laws although he says that in his heart he was not in favor of all of them. He approved of the procedure against the Jews because Hitler desired the same.

NOTE: Witness broke down and wept bitterly on several occasions during the interrogation as to the Jewish question. Although he admits responsibility for the Jewish discriminatory laws, he denies any participation in concentration camp activities.