

Interrogation of WALTHER FUNK
By Mr. Sackett
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Witness described the outbreak against the Jews which took place on 8, 9 and 10 November 1938. He states that about two months prior thereto, Goebbels had approached him and advised him that it was necessary to formulate a program and certain laws for the elimination of the Jews from German economic life. He states he had no warning of the Jewish outbreaks commencing 8 November but that they started concurrently with a speech made by Goebbels in Munich at one of the party anniversaries and at which he was not present. He states that there was every indication that the incident was planned in advance although he knew nothing about it.

Witness advises that about 9 or 10 November, he called Goebbels on the telephone and protested with reference to how the Jews were being treated but that Goebbels insisted that the program against the Jews be carried out in the economic field and that although this was against his personal wishes he gave in when he learned the program was desired by Hitler. As a result of this, he supervised the drawing of the law ousting Jews from economic life and the many regulations issued pursuant thereto. Witness states he did not realize the Jewish program would be carried to the extremes which it was but admits that even after he learned of the excesses as to the Jews he did nothing to resign or remove

himself from the Reich government. He attempts to justify his continuance in office by stating that the SS took over the administration of the Jewish question and therefore it was no longer his responsibility.

Witness admits without any great reservation his knowledge of the anti-Jewish activities and tries to indicate that he now regrets very much these excesses against the Jews.

Witness stated that after thinking the matter over, he now recalls the existence of the Reich Counsel for Defense when he came into the Ministry in February 1938. He also recalls the existence on paper at least of the so-called three man college comprised of himself as Plenipotentiary for Economics, Frick as Plenipotentiary for Administration, and Keitel from the High Command. He states that on paper this group had authority to issue decree laws but he does not recall it ever having done so. He states that the Reich Defense Counsel and the Plenipotentiaries were appointed for the purpose of formulating the plans to be used in the event that war broke out but that as a practical matter they did not function in view of the fact that Goering under the Four Year Plan was charged with a similar responsibility and that Goering succeeded in controlling the program and all the policy questions. He admitted that he as Minister of Economics and his Ministry did, however, cooperate with Goering and the Four Year Plan in formulating the plans for war that would be used in the economic field in the event war broke out. He attempts, however, to pass the responsibility for this planning on to Goering as much as possible.