

To SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider

Or SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers personally!

Statement

Strictly Confidential!

Re: Meeting with Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser on 10/13/1942

Huhnhäuser was informed by me in a properly cautious manner that his plan for a unified centralization of the independent scientific institutions in Norway could not be accepted by Amt VI and the Ahnenerbe as long as it engaged the Kaiser Wilhelm Society as the force behind the connection between Germany and Norway and the leading institution in Norwegian scientific work, that is, the engagement of this organization in the area of cultural science must be rejected.

Huhnhäuser was quite distraught over this. He explained that he could not understand why, if the Reichsführer-SS had such concerns against the Kaiser Wilhelm Society, this had not resulted in a complete reorganization of the leadership. After 9 years of national socialist revolution, this could have happened gradually.

Huhnhäuser wanted to hear nothing of a division of managerial responsibility, as this would deal his plan a heavy blow from the outset. The takeover of the entire responsibility for all scientific branches by the "Ahnenerbe" I could not promise him from our side, rather I indicated to him that the rejection of such a request was certain.

If the realization of his plan is not possible in the ways he has laid out in his proposal, he must – he explained – plan on carrying out these things directly through his ministry. He would then solicit through the Reich Science Ministry a German college teacher for each individual branch. The ministry could then choose such men as are unimpeachable national socialists.

It became clear that this proposal by Huhnhäuser was not initially intended very seriously and sprang more from a certain disappointment and frustration. I proposed that Huhnhäuser pursue the initiative anyway through further meetings with the interested comrades of the SD, himself and me, so that all possibilities and methods were once again explored. I had encountered in Berlin general agreement to the proposal that one must first clarify this opportunity here in Norway and that it could not be determined through a one-sided decision in Berlin. A conclusion which was incidentally also reached by SS-Sturmbannführer von Löw of the RSHA.

Through the discussion which was carried out in the usual affectionate and comradely form, the following became clear for our work:

- 1) The Reichskommissariat and Special Ministerial Councilor Dr. Huhnhäuser have in every sense been ahead of us in thought and action. We cannot catch up with the 2 ½ year headstart that Huhnhäuser has with his slowly built office. He has the entire force of the Reichskommissariat clearly and undivided behind him and enjoys a reputation which it would take others years of work to build up, thanks to his business-like methods of working and his knowledge of Norwegians and Norwegian mentality, as well as his skills. In addition, he has connections to the German state apparatus as well as the Norwegian. All of

his measures are accordingly positively assessed by Norwegians. Through the setup of his office and the representation of the Reichskommissariat, these measures and expressions of will and plans possess a great degree of respectability and authority among Norwegians, who have no concept of the meaning of the work of the party and the work of the SS and more than this is also unlikely unless necessary in consideration of the often necessary opposition on the German side between state and party.

In addition, Huhnhäuser has, due to his behavior, the support of those in circles not belonging to the NS members and who are ready to collaborate with Germany. In his role as leader of the Reichskommissariat, he has decisive influence on the work of the Germany Academy, which clearly operates on his initiative. He also directs the entire work of the German-Norwegian Society of Klaus Hansen, whom he advises and inspires. Huhnhäuser is therefore absolutely closely tied to the circle of people in question related to Norwegian Intelligence. It is on these grounds that he supports his certainty in advocating his proposal for the centralization of Norwegian science, against which there is general no serious argument (other than the Kaiser Wilhelm Society). His position has become even stronger following his integration as SS-Führer in the SD.

2.) On the other hand – and this means creating an illusionary image of our work situation so that it cannot be clearly understood – our work can initially not be known. The unmistakable dilettantism, which adheres to so many branches of SS work (from its initial development, of course) impedes the creation of a functioning apparatus that is representative, independent, and on par with this state apparatus. Already the fact that we are starting two years too late and therefore have no connections at our disposal puts us in the background, as all those individuals who might be considered for our work have long since been in close contact with the Reichskommissariat and a move across to us is completely impossible. And so Huhnhäuser has now engineered, simply by virtue of his rights as Reichskommissariat, the transfer to Oslo of Rector Saxlund, who had also been viewed as a prospect for our work. Saxlund will soon receive a new position here and it is from now on absolutely precluded that this man could be harnessed for our work, as he naturally must have much different confidence related to the apparatus of the Reichskommissariat and cannot simply be taken away from this apparatus.

Furthermore the above mentioned applies to all issues. It will take months as well as require the exclusive focus of the “Ahnenerbe” representative on this issue merely to build a modest apparatus which could be shown. This will most likely not be possible due to the fundamental impossibility of adapting the scientific work and the position that the representative of the Ahnenerbe has officially acquired.

3.) As Huhnhäuser has already expressed in this meeting, his department of the Reichskommissariat would become superfluous if the cultural work is truly going to be henceforth within the domain of the Higher SS and Polizeiführer, as per the Führer order and the guidelines of the SS-Main Office. It is thereby implied that the Reichskommissariat and Huhnhäuser, who sees in this a lifelong mission to which he would like to dedicate himself his remaining powers, understand the work of the Ahnenerbe, set to begin now, as competition. We can absolutely not afford this, as whenever the going gets rough we would be defeated in every dispute. This clearly raises the question – and there is no point in leaving it unanswered for whatever reasons – if a special agency of the “Ahnenerbe” is at all necessary here and if it is not appropriate to join this agency with the department of Huhnhäuser at the Reichskommissariat. Certainly in this case Huhnhäuser would require a person responsible for these

questions, if he even wants, with his current load, to take on such an additional assignment. Probably he will not consider it at all necessary, as he is of the belief that these interests could also be represented by the Reichskommissariat alone. Furthermore, the question must be answered whether the Higher SS and Polizeiführer would agree to such a solution. In all likelihood, there would then be excluded the implementation of scientific work, as far as it concerns the mission of the Schutzstaffel, in the area of the G.F.L.

Oslo, 10/17/42

Schwalm

SS-Hauptsturmführer