

To SS-Obersturmführer Dr. Schneider or
SS-Obersturmbannführer Sievers personally!

Statement

Strictly Confidential!

Re: "Norwegian History" by Martin Gerlach

Ministerial Councillor Dr. Huhnhäuser reports that recently Professor Martin Gerlach, full professor of church history in Göttingen and current Captain in a regiment deployed here, visited him and presented the finished draft of a Norwegian history he wrote, which is soon to be published by the Hanseatic Publishing Firm of Hamburg with the approval of the Propaganda Ministry (!! Granted without any contact with Norwegian offices !!) in a run of 10,000 pieces. This history has been written from a positively Christian perspective, as would be expected from a church historian. Ministerial Councillor Dr. Huhnhäuser has considerable concerns about several passages of the book, particularly concerning the depiction of Olav the Holy and the assessment of the Christianization of Norway. In a discussion between Huhnhäuser and Gerlach, he declared decisively that he would never make any adjustments to the depiction in these points, as it stemmed from his most holy convictions.

Huhnhäuser called Gerlach's attention to the consequences his behavior could entail under the circumstances. The Reichskommissar has just recently highlighted the heavy burden of the ominous connection that Quisling has with the Church and with Christianity. In such a moment, the first German-written history of Norway cannot embrace so utterly and completely this view of Quisling. Moreover, as the book meets a certain need, it will certainly sell well – no matter what the quality. It will be heavily bought by both Germans and Norwegians, as in Norway everyone is convinced that only controlled literature exists in the Reich and that nobody is allowed to write anything without the approval of the official leadership, and so Gerlach's book will doubtless be perceived as the official German view of Norwegian history.

I encouraged Huhnhäuser in the view that nothing should be left unattempted in the prevention of the book's publication in its current form. I strongly advised him to immediately make contact with the Literature Department of the SD. The following was agreed upon:

1. Huhnhäuser will provide me with a second proof of the entire book wrap so that I have the opportunity to form my own detailed impression of the account.
2. Huhnhäuser will lead the Norwegian printer of the book, known to him, to delay the printing based on the claim of technical issues.
3. A meeting will take place as soon as possible between Huhnhäuser, the Literature Official of the SD and myself, after which I will have the opportunity to work through the book. More can be decided at this meeting.

After going through the first third of the 350 pages of the book, the work of Professor Gerlach can be characterized as follows:

- a) It constitutes Norwegian history in the narrowest national socialist sense. It falls in line completely with the tradition of Norwegian historical narrative since 1905. Any placement of Norwegian development into a greater Germanic context is missing, even missing in treatments of the ancient Germanic and Viking eras.
- b) It is a political history in a narrow sense of the word. It is stuffed with names and dates. Nowhere is the attempt made to broaden it into an ethnic history. The inserted overviews of "the culture of ... the age" predominately address religious phenomena.
- c) The author is strongly tied to Christianity. When he tries, as far as he is able, to do justice to the Germanic era and its religious environment, his judgment and even more his concepts clearly come from a Christian historical perspective.

Oslo, on 10/17/42

Schwalm

SS-Hauptsturmführer