

Statement

Re: Meeting with SS-Hauptsturmführer Falk (SD) on 10/19/42

SS-Hauptsturmführer Falk is the Literature Advisor of the SD and also is responsible for questions related to the press and film. I sought him out in the hope he would name further appropriate individuals of Norwegian intellectual life who can be considered for our work. Unfortunately, the meeting was disappointing in this respect. Falk cannot see anyone who would particularly be suited for our work, despite his broad view of the literary and artistic endeavors in present-day Norway.

He merely recommended to make a connection with Fin Halvorsen. Halvorsen has been called to the cultural council in the areas of literature and film. He was previously a theater director and is a pronouncedly ambitious man.

During the remainder of the conversation with Falk, the following points are worth mentioning:

Falk recommends for the contact person in Trondheim SS-Obersturmführer Bischof in the SD office there. Bischof studied Nordic studies and ethnology in Greifswald and possesses great personal knowledge, which is even referred to by Norwegians not located in Trondheim. Bischof tends toward certain exaggerations, but is otherwise personally reliable.

On the characteristics of Professor Gudmund Schnittler of the university here, historian by profession, Falk had the following to say:

Schnittler, who by the way has been entrusted with the depiction of the events of April 9 and is understood to be an ambitious man who should be treated with caution, has been assigned by Quisling the task of issuing a large new Norwegian lexicon, projected to be 6 volumes. When the Reichskommissariat made a careful suggestion to the publisher that a German consultant be included during the editing of the lexicon (the work on the large German lexika was referenced, which occurred with the closest possible guidance and consultation through the NSDAP and the propaganda ministry), Schnittler immediately fought hard against it and to Quisling rejected in the most unpleasant way "this German meddling", as he described it, as an outrageous imposition. The plan for the lexicon has in the meantime dramatically shrunk. As far as has been reported to Falk, there is expected now to be only one volume released.

The efforts of the circle around Lunde should be taken very seriously, as they absolutely are going in a direction directly opposed to our efforts. We together came to the following characterization of Lunde's activities, which doubtless will from now on gain ground in the newly founded cultural council and kulturthing:

In question here is a concept which this group is constantly pushing ever more forcefully to the forefront, namely the idea of "norrön". "Norrön" comes from the Old Norse "nordrönn" which in turn corresponds to the Old High German "nordroni" and essentially means "coming from the north". In Scandinavian studies, where this word has been known for a long time, it is understood to include Norwegian efforts that aim to nurture a connection to old native Norwegian traditions in opposition to foreign infiltration. In the Lunde group, however, this concept has undergone significant expansion. One can easily say that in this group the concept of "norrön" is used in all the situations in which we would say "Germanic", it is only that by now the words "norrön" and "Germanic" are not identical. When one

says “norrön” in place of German, he is propagating a deliberately isolating return to Old Norwegian and at the same time raising a front against the Other = Germanic. In political terms this constitutes an evasion in the deliberately pacifistic intellectual arena, in which Norwegian culture has lived. One can see clearly that the pax Britannica is dead, but refuses to recognize a pax germanica. The intelligentsia flees to an idyll, as long as they do not entirely give in resignedly. It is however still important to clearly recognize another feature of these efforts, namely a pseudo-political course. Pseudo-political in that it deals with absolutely unrealistic imperialism, if this paradox were allowed to be built. At the same time, the Lunde group uses the word “norrön” also for such tendencies which concern the census of all Norwegians – whether in the homeland or abroad. It would be completely false to translate “norrön” as “ethnic Norwegian” or “pan-Norwegian” (somewhat in the sense in which we say “pan-german”).

The above-mentioned tendencies underlie the work of “Noregs Ungdomslag” and “Nordmanns Forbundet” (now incidentally controlled by the NS, similar to our VDA). They are similarly effective in the attempts to bring about language renewal, which, with the theme of eradicating all foreign elements, targets for removal all German elements which penetrated Norway in part through Danish (the word Danismen is used). These efforts also include the broadening the gap between Norwegian written or literary language (Riksmål) and living Germanic languages through the inorganic inclusion of Old Norwegian language elements. It is no true popular renewal, but rather a conscious national socialist isolation, which only strengthens the efforts of 1905 through the impulses coming from the NS.

Oslo, 10/21/1942

Schwalm

SS-Hauptsturmführer