

Am L 121

Sept 5, 1945

No. 1599.

To the U.S. Military Government Württemberg/Baden,
Attention Lt. Col. Torb e y,
S t u t t g a r t

Re: Dismissal of Officials
of the Direction of the Land-Interior

3 Enclosures:

In my report of August 7th, 1945 No. I 244 of the whole staff of about 270 persons under the authority of the Direction of the Land - Interior were marked out as being indispensable for continuing the most urgent work of the central administration. In spite of this the U.S. Military Government has now given directions to the effect that all of them are to be dismissed (see decrees of August 21st, 30th, 31st, and 31st, 1945, APO 758). Concerning Schäfer, Wilderer, Haberstroh, Dr. Göbel, and Ziegler I appealed to General EISENHOWER for a decision of the individual case by my petitions of August 27th and 29th, No. 549 and 564. I feel obliged to do now the same with regard to the other officials because without them it is getting positively impossible to continue the work of lawful administration in an orderly way, not even moderately so. Moreover, I must expressly point out that most of these officials are bitterly wronged by the dismissal, this being in great part clearly proved by their special statements in the action-sheets, explaining why they were members of the party or active in its organizations.

I may be permitted to add the following details:

My reporter in personnel matters, Dr. Kouch, at present, has not only no longer a higher official who could act as his substitute and take over some of his work of the many-sided chancery direction, but he must now also do without the officials of the superior service. Persons who could replace them are not available and will not be found anywhere in the near future. Walter, Kibler, and Zeiner act as specialists for the leader of the personnel department. Anyone with an insight into their domains of activity and their particular tasks will recognize their indispensability. Besides, these men have, up to now, done most valuable services in the purification of the staff owing to their extensive knowledge of the personnel. Alone for this reason their services will be required in future. The tasks in the domain of these three officials cannot possibly be mastered without special training and an experience of many years. Walter has been with the Ministry of the Interior since 1919 and masters the intricate legal side of all subjects in connection with officials, salaries and tariffs better than anyone else. His activities are so extensive that he cannot miss the co-operation of the expert Zeiner who has worked with him these 12 years and is able to substitute him in case of illness. Kibler has been with the Ministry of the Interior since 1928. He disposes of an extensive knowledge of the personnel and due to his many years' activities is thoroughly acquainted with the many-sided work of the chancery direction. These three officials are not Nazis by conviction, and the leader of the personnel department will vouch for this statement. Walter has never made a secret of his anti-nazistic feelings and was known as

"Anti-nazist" among the officials of the Ministry of the Interior. He even ventured so far with his critical observations as to be warned by good-intentioned persons. It would be an injustice to treat this man in the same way as e.g. a real, convinced and fanatic adherent to the NSDAP on whom, too, nothing but dismissal can be inflicted, Walter having, during the many years of nazistic domination, avoided to take over even the most unimportant activity in its interest and, in consequence, was not promoted. A comparison with Gustav Geiger will show how unjust the dismissal of Walter must appear, the former having not only been a member of the party, but also having plaid a very active part in its work. On account of this he even obtained a distinction, moreover, was promoted to the group of academicians under the Nazi Regime. If the US. Military Government, with good right, hesitates to dismiss this man on account of his indispensability and for the reason that, on principle, he was opposed to the Nazis, it is only just to say that this should still more apply to the case of Walter. Furthermore, it would be difficult to understand that the US. Military Government in the case of Regierungsinspektor Beck should overlook the fact that he was a party member and "Rottenführer" (foreman) in the NSKK, whereas it objects to Walter merely on account of his only formal party membership, even characterizing him without reason as active Nazi, and asks for his dismissal. It cannot be left unsaid that a merely schematic proceeding in the purification of staff officials is an unbearable injustice which, as a consequence, must cause the break-down of the whole administration.

As for Kubler and Zeiner I cannot but repeat my assertion

that they were in no way infected by nazistic ideas. Kubler as well as Zeiner are Christians of action. They both suffered severely by the persecution of the Christian churches through National Socialism. It would mean that they were to be punished for having remained true to their convictions.

The dismissal of all these officials means - and this cannot be pointed out too clearly - a paralization of the administration to a very high degree. Surely this cannot be the intention of the US. Military Government because, else, chaotic conditions in the administration would be the final result from which the whole people would have to suffer. Therefore, I must urgently request you to allow that the dismissed officials, since they can no longer be officials, for the time being may at least be occupied as employees with the proviso of a recall, at any time possible, and on condition of a blameless conduct. Should the US. Military Government decline to do this, I would find myself in a position which could be mastered no longer.

DIRECTOR OF THE LAND

Wrich