With further reference to the displacement

SUBJECT: of Jews and other persons from public office
and from the professions, and with respect to
Party influence being exercised on business.

THE HONORABLE

THE SECRETARY OF STATE,

WASHINGTON.

SIR:

I have the honor to refer to my despatches No.
1196 of March 21, 1205 of March 25, 1210 of March 28,
1214 of March 31, 1216 of April 3 and 1222 of April 7
with reference to the displacement from public office
and the disbarment from the professions of Jews and
of persons opposed to the National Socialist movement,
and with reference to certain aspects of the economic pro-
gram of the present Government of Germany. I now have
in this despatch to transmit various items of interest
in connection with this general program.

Supplementing what has been said in previous
despatches concerning the displacement of Jews in the
Universities, I now have to report that Professor Dr.
Bonn, one of the most famous economists of Germany
and who is well known in the United States, has been
indirectly forced to resign as the Rector of the
Handels-Hochschule.
The continued intervention of the Party in business and business organizations is brought out by an item in the "Berliner Tageblatt" of April 9, morning issue, to the effect that as a result of a conference between the governing board of the Cologne Chamber of Commerce and a representative of the National Socialist Party, the members of the board will resign and new elections will be held. According to this item several men in the confidence of the National Socialist Party will be assigned to sit with the governing board of the Chamber. As the Department is aware, this same step has already taken place in the governing board of the Reichsverband der Deutschen Industrie which is the principal organization of German industry. Similar steps it is understood are being taken in Chambers of Commerce throughout the country. As has already been reported, men in the confidence of the National Socialist Party have already been attached to the governing boards of leading German industries and I am now able to state that authenticated information is reaching us that this process is steadily continuing in the larger industries.

As reported in my despatch No. 1251 of April 10 to the effect that a dual Government is existing in Germany, the extra-legal or Party Government is making itself steadily and ever more widely felt in industry. Organizations connected with the National Socialist movement and leaders in the various cities are taking direct action in business and even with the constitutional
and legal authorities, and this in certain cases is causing embarrassment to the Party leaders. In the "Berliner Tageblatt" of April 11, morning issue, there appears a "Wolf Telegraphen Buero" notice to this effect: "It is forbidden to persons belonging to the S.A. and the S.S., to members of the N.S.B.O., to political leaders and other members of the National Socialist Party, to interfere on their own account in the inner affairs of the German Ministry of Finance or to demand that removals be made or to effect them themselves. If such action is considered as essential, it is indispensable to communicate first with the State Secretary in the Reichs Finance Ministry, Mr. Reinhardt, in Berlin." This order is sufficient indication in itself that individual Party leaders and organizations have been taking direct action in various sections of Germany in giving orders to business and demanding and effecting the removal of officers of the Government without authority from any central source.

As an indication of the progress which is being made in the removal from office of Jews and of persons not in sympathy with the National Socialist movement, there is given the following brief resume of an article in the "Vossische Zeitung" of April 10, night issue, as it illustrates the extent of the removals in particular sections. The article briefly says that after the numerous leaves of absence and discharges in the Bezirksverwaltung Kreuzberg, Professors Dr. Schnack and

Dr. Mayer
Dr. Mayer and the business director of the Huseland Hospital, Dr. Bleichroeder, have been given leave of absence. In the Urban Hospital, eleven more physicians have been separated from the staff. Twenty-five out of thirty-four physicians of the Welfare Organization of the Bezirk Kreuzberg have been released. In the Bezirk Prenzlauerberg, out of one hundred thirty officials, nineteen have remained in office. Out of one hundred fifty-four officials of the Welfare Commission, eighteen continue their duties.

A marked change has taken place in the situation with regard to Jewish lawyers who are allowed to continue to practice. According to articles appearing in the "Berliner Tageblatt" and other Berlin newspapers, it was the original intention that no Jewish Lawyers should be allowed to practice at the Berlin Bar. The reorganized board of governors of the Berlin Bar Association later issued a statement by Dr. Neubert, its chairman, after a meeting, of which the following is a brief resume.

A special commission is working day and night to despatch applications which have been sent in by lawyers desiring a card of identity to enable them to practice in the courts. Those attorneys concerning whom there was no question, received certificates immediately. As it was endeavored to admit Jewish lawyers in proportion to the general population, only a total of thirty-five Jewish lawyers were admitted to the Berlin Bar. Of about 3400 lawyers in Berlin prior to March 5, the total number of Jewish lawyers has been estimated at 2500 so that at the most
most from 900 to 1000 lawyers will be able to submit a certificate proving their German origin. He stated that the choice of the Jewish colleagues caused great difficulty. He based our selection on the fact that the German people had a debt of gratitude to pay to certain of our colleagues, namely in those cases where Jewish lawyers defended their adopted country. It was not possible to take consideration of all war veterans. We therefore took into consideration those war veterans who had excelled at the front and got their bones shot to pieces. Mr. Neubert, however, pointed out that this plan of the Bar Association was already superseded as the Minister of Justice had retained for himself the right to admit more Jewish lawyers. He announced that a list of the lawyers admitted to practice would be published very shortly in the newspapers.

The list of lawyers admitted to practice at the Berlin Bar was published in the newspapers of April 9 and contained approximately 1000 names, and of the approximately 2500 Jewish lawyers in Berlin only some 36 appeared in the list. It will be noted that this list was made up by the Bar Association in Berlin on the basis of its own action. The Berlin newspapers of April 10 and April 11 carry the new law promulgated by the German Government, setting forth the regulations which are to govern the admission of lawyers to practice. This carries with it a great surprise, as according to its provisions the newspapers now estimate that from 1200 to 1430 of the 2500 Jewish lawyers in the city will be permitted to practice. That this action of the Government will cause considerable chagrin and disappointment is fairly clear and it is not improbable that when the lists of Jewish lawyers admitted to practice
practice will be finally issued in legal form, the number will not be as large as 12 to 1400 in Berlin. The foregoing circumstances have been recited as they show that the refusal to permit Jews to practice before the courts was not based entirely on racial grounds and that the desires of the non-Jewish lawyers in this respect were considerably beyond the intentions of the Government. While there is this real prejudice against the Jews, the movement against Jewish lawyers and doctors and artists was not entirely based on racial grounds and there was unquestionably a desire for the non-Jewish professional people to get into their hands the profitable business which their Jewish colleagues had built up. If the comment of the newspapers on the new law and their estimate that 12 to 1400 out of 2500 Jewish lawyers in Berlin will be allowed to practice is correct, it indicates a very sudden and a very real change on the part of the Government and of the Party in the treatment to be accorded to Jews. It is not improbable that the reaction of public opinion abroad which has slowly but surely got to the leaders of the Party, may be influencing their action in this respect. If more favorable action is to be taken with respect to lawyers, it may indicate also a more favorable treatment of physicians and other professional people. In a letter which Dr. Goebbels, the Minister of Propaganda has addressed to Mr. Furtwaengler, the well-known orchestra director in Berlin, he indicates
that a less drastic attitude against Jewish artists is to begin. This may be an indication of less radical action against the Jews.

That a reaction is setting in against the wholesale elimination of Jews, from within Germany itself, is becoming evident. Owing to the censorship of the press and correspondence and the fear of people to say in conversation what they really feel, the German people have since March 5 been practically mute with respect to the action of the Government except in the form of fulsome praise and unqualified approval. A reaction is setting in. In a previous despatch I have informed the Department that Professor Sauerbruch who is generally considered the leading surgeon of Germany, refused to obey the orders of the National Socialist Betriebszelle in his hospital to dismiss two of his Jewish assistants, saying that before he would do so he would leave the country. He was permitted to retain them as his departure would have published to the world his disapproval of what was going on in Germany. I am now informed on what seems good authority, that Professor Sauerbruch has nevertheless decided that he will leave Germany shortly and establish himself in Zurich. His outstanding position and international reputation enables him to take this attitude without fear of consequences. I am informed that he contemplates taking this step to indicate his disapproval as a good German, of what
has been passing in the country since March 5.

The complete elimination of Jewish artists from the theatre, the film, the opera and concert circles has shocked public opinion in reasonable circles in Germany as much as in the outside world, and musical director Furtwaengler who is considered by all Germans as the outstanding representative of musical culture in Germany at this time, has felt himself strong enough to make a statement. In the Berlin papers of April 11 (Berliner Tageblatt, morning issue), there appears a letter which Furtwaengler addressed to Dr. Goebbels as Minister of Propaganda and Public Education. In this letter in guarded but no uncertain terms, Furtwaengler states that as an artist he must call attention to the disastrous effect upon art in general and upon musical art in particular in Germany, of such discrimination against artists merely on the ground that they are Jews. He emphasizes particularly "that it must clearly be said openly that men like Bruno Walter, Otto Klemperer, Reinhardt and others, must in the future be able to express themselves artistically in Germany as in the past". He states further: "In this sense I appeal to you in the name of German art; that certain things will not continue to be done, which perhaps already have done irreparable harm".

In the same newspaper there is published a long letter of Dr. Goebbels which is quite characteristic of him. He says: "It is your right to feel yourself an
an artist and to see things only from an artistic point of view. But that is no reason why one should look at the whole of the development in Germany in an unpolitical way. Politics too is an art, perhaps the highest and the most comprehensive that there is; and we who are determining the modern German politics feel that in doing this we are artists who have the responsible duty out of the raw material of the masses, to build a people." After continuing in this characteristic way for some time, he says: "Nevertheless I am of the opinion that for every real artist there must be given an unhindered and free field in our country".

I am sending with the original of this despatch a copy of this clipping from the "Tageblatt" as it is characteristic of the style of Dr. Goebbels. It is not possible before the departure of the pouch to send a translation of the article.

The foregoing has been quoted as it shows that already a change has taken place in the attitude of leaders such as Dr. Goebbels towards Jewish artists.

With respect to the general situation, Consul Geist had a conversation with a former editor of one of the Berlin newspapers who has been removed since March 5. In this conversation he stated to Mr. Geist that the Reichswehr regards the military aspects of the National Socialists with very real disdain and that an endeavor to incorporate the S.A. or the S.S. in the Reichswehr in the capacity of officers and

privates,
privates, will meet with strong resistance. He said that the straw which would break the camel’s back in this respect would be the demand that the Reichswehr give the Fascist salute. He said that the majority of the officers of the Reichswehr are German nationalists and by no means Fascists; that the Reichswehr is conservative and cool and considers itself above the Party enthusiasm which the National Socialists manifest. He also went on to say that the same situation exists with reference to the regular police who feel themselves much humiliated by the National Socialists assigning to them the so-called "Hilfspolizei". The regular police have gone through years of training and have a really very fine "esprit de corps" and look upon these Hilfspolizei as upstarts and very much resent the role that has been assigned to them as Hilfspolizei of the regular police.

I should like to correct the statement made in my despatch No. 1222 of April 7 that Judge David of the Supreme Court had actually been forced off the bench. This is only partially correct. Judge David was forced to resign but afterwards his resignation was not accepted, undoubtedly because of the unfavorable public opinion which the action aroused. It is not likely, however, that he will be able to continue his duties on the court.

Respectfully yours,

George S. Messersmith,
American Consul General.

Enclosures:
Enclosures:
Translation from "Berliner Tageblatt";
"Vossische Zeitung", April 10, 1933;
"Berliner Tageblatt" April 11, 1933;
"Berliner Tageblatt" April 9, 1933;
"Berliner Tageblatt" April 11, 1933.