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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
INFORMATION FROM
FOREIGN DOCUMENTS OR RADIO BROADCASTS

REPORT
CD NO.

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50X1-HUM

COUNTRY German Democratic Republic

DATE OF INFORMATION 1950

SUBJECT Political; Sociological - Education

HOW PUBLISHED Daily newspaper

DATE DIST. 6 Dec 1950

WHERE PUBLISHED St. Kholm

NO. OF PAGES 2

DATE PUBLISHED 13 Oct 1950

LANGUAGE Swedish

SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT NO.

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SOURCE Svenska Dagbladet.

THE SOVIETIZATION OF EAST GERMAN UNIVERSITIES

[This is the first of two articles written by a former Leipzig University student who was forced to flee to Western Germany.]

Berlin, October -- The fight for Leipzig University continues, the fight waged by the democratic students against the Bolshevization of the university, pursued since 1945 with increasing fanaticism.

The students in the law school, which was known as Germany's finest until the Soviet occupation, have been in the center of the fight. For 5 years the Communist regime has systematically sought to destroy this stronghold of German jurisprudence and to convert it into a Communist Party university. Within a short time, four of the most famous professors were dismissed, and one of the most democratic and least timid of the older students was arrested in an NKVD raid on "anti-Communist elements."

The faculty is a shadow of its former self. First, Professor Werner Weber, the professor of international and constitutional law, became persona non grata at the university because of his frank and courageous criticism of political developments in his lectures. He was forced to "emigrate" in great secrecy with his family.

The next victim was Professor Hans-Otto de Boor, the internationally known civil rights expert and member of the German Academy of Science, who expressed his opinion of Communist propaganda phraseology with scientific matter-of-factness. The Communist-directed faculty council announced that de Boor had to leave his professorship for reasons of health.

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Next in line was Professor Arthur Nikisch, dean of the faculty in 1949 - 1950, who, after a number of clashes with the faculty council, stood in open opposition to the government because he refused to cooperate in a resolution denouncing the sentences given certain Communist agitators in the US. He was attacked in *Taegliche Rundschau* for "objectivism" and left Leipzig. His textbook on civil trials, the first German work of this type published after 1945, was described by the chairman of the SED faculty group as "crap."

The latest attack against the old teaching staff of the university was made a couple of months ago and was directed against possibly the most frank and bitter opponent of the government, Heinrich Siber, the famous Romance language professor. When he celebrated his 80th birthday in April of this year, he was praised by the entire democratic world, in contradistinction to the treatment he was accorded by the faculty. Siber's great age, belied by his spiritual vigor, provided the opportunity for the faculty to make him "emeritus." His seminar served as a meeting place for the democratic-minded students of the law school and was, therefore, "a stronghold of reaction and bourgeois pseudo-science."

Weber's place has now been taken by a fanatic Communist, Professor Polak, one of the leaders of the SED. What he thinks of jurisprudence may be shown by a statement he made when he took over the professorship: "The appointment was purely a matter of form, as a legal faculty is of no significance whatsoever in a socialist country."

The latest curricula give the clearest picture of conditions at the university. First-year law school students follow curricula determined by the Ministry of Education for both semesters. This includes the history of Roman and German law, both courses boiled down to a 1½-hour seminar, but not one single lecture except on social-scientific and purely Marxist subjects. Thus, the goal proclaimed by the Free German Youth -- the only youth organization permitted in Eastern Germany -- is attained, namely the degradation of the law school into a subbranch of the social sciences. By the fourth and fifth semesters, Communist subjects have squeezed out the purely legal subjects to such an extent that no less than 16 hours a week are devoted to purely Marxist lectures. Whereas the student used to be able to take his degree examination after the seventh semester, it is so arranged now that he cannot pass until he has also proved himself competent in "progressive ideology." Then he has to go before a commission composed of representatives of the provincial government and the deans and chairman of the SED faculty group, etc., which questions him on his knowledge of Lenin's life, etc. This determines his possibilities of entering practice. If he fails, the career of lawyer is closed to him. He must wait a year and be re-tested. During the fourth semester there is an intermediate test slanted to favor those who are loyal to Communist principles. Although the subjects taught are civil and constitutional law, Communist pets may deliver a dissertation on the dictatorship of the proletariat.

The latest measure taken, which, in Communist eyes, is the decisive step toward the true "People's University," is the introduction of the "learn-more" movement, which has been developed into the main instrument for Communist indoctrination. Under this plan every student is assigned to a group for the collective study of Marxist literature. In order to ensure regular attendance at these colloquia, the group leaders evaluate the students and their qualifications at the end of each term to determine their eligibility to receive financial assistance.

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