

29 March 1944

The ‘Justice Minister’ Thierack gave a speech a few days ago from which one can gather that Thierack regards the judiciary to merely be a means for keeping the masses in check. That there is anything like laws to which the rulers are also answerable seems to have not yet entered the mind of this upholder of the law. Otherwise he would never have whipped up the courage to speak of orderliness and clean circumstances, while the way the law is handled here stinks to high heaven.

Niemöller is still imprisoned, and it is notorious that the permission of the Party is necessary to lodge a complaint against a party official, and as a rule this is denied. And what about everything else that is on their conscience! How they lie, denigrate, steal and murder. Hundreds, indeed perhaps thousands of poor mentally ill persons have been ‘taken care of’ in cold-blood and this murdering excused as a measure of war, and the way in which we treated the Jews, one can think back only with horror and a burning sense of shame. Our cumulated guilt cries to be atoned, and it seems that the day of retribution is not far off.

The news from the south of the Eastern Front is alarming. The Russians have already advanced to the Prut River, and the danger of losing the Romanian oil wells is great. How can we continue with the war without being crushed and genuinely humiliated from these superior forces? The slogan proclaimed by Hitler, that absolutely no compromise is permitted and the only choice is between victory and complete ruin, appears to be turning into a dreadful truth. But woe the ‘statesmen’ who gamble in this way with the lives of a 100-million strong nation.

*translated by Paul Bowman*