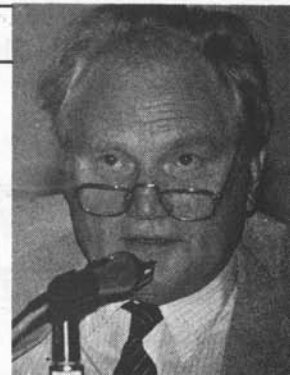


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Interview: Lennart Hane

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## Sweden is becoming the model for a new police state

*Lennart Hane is an internationally known attorney from Stockholm, an authority on the comparative legal systems of the Soviet Union, Czechoslovakia, East Germany, and Nazi Germany. He has been engaged in a 14-year fight to reverse what he sees as the conversion of Sweden, using legal statutes and carefully-drafted legislation, into a totalitarian police state. The reader should find it useful to note that Mr. Hane's descriptions coincide with the period (1969-1976 and 1982-present) when Socialist International Prime Minister Olof Palme held office. Mr. Hane is the author of numerous books, including The Third World War: Soviet Conquest of Sweden by Legal Means, which is as yet unpublished because of blacklisting inside Sweden. His 1980 Confiscation of Our Children was cited in a recent exposé by Der Spiegel of Sweden's "Kinder-Gulag." Mr. Hane was interviewed by William Engdahl during the July 4 founding conference of the Schiller Institute in Arlington, Virginia.*

**EIR:** Mr. Hane, how did you first get involved in this fight against the direction the Swedish legal code is taking?

**Hane:** It started in 1969. I observed that the Swedish media propaganda then changed in a pro-communistic direction. At first I thought this no danger because the people had the common sense to think. But in January 1970 a legislative proposal was introduced into the Riksdag [Swedish Parliament] by the Social Democrats to change the existing procedure in order to give citizens free legal aid attorneys. At the same time they proposed a new bureaucracy—a State Judicial Board—a kind of new central authority over all lawyers and judges. They then claimed that this so-called reform was built on the fact that the poor have no chance to get good lawyers. I knew that this justification was a lie, that their real objective was to create this new power to control the legal profession, to make them dependent upon the state for jobs, money. I then started to study what was going on because this frightened me.

Meanwhile, very extensive propaganda went out to convince the Swedish population that our legal system and our court system were so very old and built only to favor the rich.

The press also began to attack judges, saying that they came from the “wrong social group”—middle class or academics. Our minister of justice at that time, Lennart Geijer, was going around the country criticizing judges and lawyers.

This law was a prototypical model. The government promises the people something they do not need, and the reality is instead that the government gets a new unlimited power in a certain area of law. This is the model for practically all the approximately 20,000 new laws in Sweden since 1970.

The latest one is a proposal by the government to fight so-called “Economic Crimes.” This is a sociological term, not at all convenient as a legal definition but very useful for its backers. “Economic crime” as defined in the new laws encompasses practically everything, especially regarding entrepreneurs or self-employed businessmen. If, for example, they do something wrong in their books, accounting, or tax payments, then this is considered very serious. The government has thus changed the attention of the entire population. There was a recent case where a man was robbed of \$60,000 at knife-point in his own home. The police caught the robber, who got two years in prison. The fellow who was robbed got three years in prison because he should have revealed where the money came from. The state regards this new crime as more serious than armed robbery.

Today the government is introducing a new law according to which auditors and lawyers are to be called “advisers” to businessmen. The government argues that the problem of stopping so-called economic crimes is so great that it is necessary to attack the ones who advise the businessmen—their auditors and lawyers.

The proposed law says that the government can temporarily prohibit lawyers from practicing their profession, *until* a court has given its final verdict in a trial. The lawyer so attacked cannot defend himself against this “interim prohibition.” Within, say, a typical six-month trial, I could be ruined, lose my office, practice, etc. And the “crime”? If the advice I give a client is not even criminal according to the existing law, *but it is otillboerlig*—inappropriate—this then

becomes the basis for criminal proceedings against the lawyer. *Otillboerlig* is an intentionally vague blanket term, often used in the new field of consumer-rights law, which can cover practically anything.

Also, under the new law, the government could arrange to have an "informer" or false client visit the lawyer and then charge that the lawyer advised him to do such and such. In reality, this would not be so, but the lawyer has the total burden to prove this to the judge. The result is to cause the legal profession to leave the practice of law, to go to prison, or to become agents for the state.

During the Middle Ages, we had "witch trials." An accused witch had to prove she was not a witch, impossible, of course, under the terms given her. She was put into a river. If she drowned, she was not a witch. If she did not drown, she was a witch and burned for it. . . . It is the same with the laws for economic crimes.

The model is exactly the same in each area. It only varies in the use of the word which is the "general term" for the specific law. The state has taken these new regulations and created new bureaucratic committees and new advisory groups with the right to determine when and how to use these new laws, even outside the juridical system, to permit or to punish according to some very vaguely defined situation.

Those in Parliament have no chance to follow or to control the process because it is going ahead so rapidly. One legislative proposal, for example, could have a text together with an investigative report and official discussion totaling 200-1,000 pages. This gives the Parliament member who would want to control the process no chance to do so effectively.

The government also has developed a special technique when it wants to gain passage of an especially dangerous new law, a three-step technique:

- 1) Heavy propaganda: open a door to something which gives the State new power, but not unlimited power.

- 2) Launch a media and other propaganda offensive to say that the new rule in Step 1 has not really solved any problem, but only shaped new ones—a kind of "self-criticism." The upshot here is to give the State broader powers than in Step 1.

- 3) Then the advocates of the new law refer to Step 2, saying that it wasn't so dangerous after all, and declare that they need more power. They argue that there is really no danger of abuse as cases will be heard by a judge. . . .

This three-step process is the form of the attack on private property ownership in Sweden. Previously, we had laws for expropriation of inadequately maintained buildings. The State could buy it. A court set a fair value. This law worked. We had an enormous and effective control over landlords. Now,

under a new law, a court can demand a specified maintenance be carried out without taking into account the owner's account of the condition of the house, but only "subjective feelings of tenants." Then, the State can jail the owner for three months if he has not given the State the money to rebuild the building. This law is an exact copy of a law in East Germany under which the State took over ownership of all housing. This is called "social functionalism"—the legal owner becomes owner in name only.

**EIR:** You have been interviewed in *Der Spiegel* and elsewhere on what has been termed the Swedish "Kinder-Gulag," referring to Stalin's notorious Gulag Archipelago for children. Why do you refer to Swedish legal conditions as based on the Soviet model?

**Hane:** The total State power over the family in Sweden via these new laws is similar to the Soviet model in two ways:

- 1) Use of this "general clause";

- 2) A representative for the State has the right to lay out standards for the private family in both positive and negative directions.

For example, you have no right to educate your child in "an extreme-religious direction." The next step is to say that all religious behavior is "extreme." As well, affirmatively, "You have to educate your own child to behave in X manner." If *not*, the social authorities have the right immediately, by police force, to take the child from its own home for a so-called investigation. In other words, the process starts by taking the child rather than with an investigation. Then the State accuses the parents in abstract terms, vague words rather than specific description. For example, the State accuses in 60-80% of child cases today that "the relationship is not good," or "you do not give your child enough (or even too much) love," and so on.

Parents can be accused under the new laws of "symbiosis." This is supposed to mean a too-close relationship especially between child and mother. The term was stolen from botany, from plant growth. The psychologist or social worker becomes the real judge in the case.

When, in the late 1960s the "Marxists" took over the sociology and social work faculties in the universities in Sweden, at first I could not understand what great interest it had for them. But now I see that it was very clever because the State has to pay for a totalitarian army of social workers. And this "army" destroys the traditional State arrangement. I had a witness testify in a court trial. She had been hired by the State to help out a mother three days a week with her young child. She in fact was a "Trojan Horse," a spy in the house who accused that the mother loved her boy "not in a correct way," because she said that the mother, when she played with her child did *not* play on *his* conditions, but on her own. This is very simply the Marxist ideology of the

social worker imposed on the family by the State.

New laws in taxation are special targets for the government today. We have such high taxes that we have developed a classic confiscatory taxation system. We have many laws against tax fraud. If you do not commit a crime deliberately, but only do not understand the complex tax law, you can still go to prison. . . .

There is also another important law, the *Mitbestimmung* law in German, or employee self-determination. *Mitbestimmung* is another sociological, rather than legal, word. Under this law employees can come into the office of the president of the company and accuse him of misuse of funds if he sees, for example, your magazine on his desk. The law also controls politicians, including in Parliament. Their staff can demand the "right to have influence in their decisions." I think this law is a copy of the Soviet system of "rolling controls"—everybody watches everybody.

**EIR:** Who is behind this legal transformation in Sweden?

**Hane:** I think it is the Soviet Union, the Soviet Embassy in Sweden, and the KGB. I think that [Prime Minister] Palme is a "jumping jack," a demagogue. He himself is not intelligent enough for this. He only talks and shouts invective. One of the more intelligent is Karl Lidbom, a close friend of Palme. Lidbom is currently ambassador to Paris, a former trade minister who was involved behind-the-scenes in all these new laws as a consultative force. We have in Sweden a name for these new, awful laws. We refer to them with the invective, "Lidbommir," Lidbom's Work. . . .

Previously in Sweden we had clear lines between political power and private areas. Political power was defined clearly and was strongly limited to the field of civil rights under the courts. Now, this is taken away, and political power has entered many new fields formerly protected from political influence, to the extent that it reaches practically every individual life and situation. This is a very big difference between Sweden and the United States that I can see. One freedom that you have is that of giving money to an association, with a tax deduction, so that the person can have institutional guarantees to protect his rights. This is not possible in Sweden. The Swedish people have been disarmed by taxation.

**EIR:** Where will you take the fight next?

**Hane:** I will fight to spread information regarding the situation in Sweden to make other nations aware of the danger of this method. If others publicize these conditions outside Sweden, it can influence the situation inside Sweden. We must also find new methods to force discussion of this enormous power of the media, and how to regulate it. I have watched your news on the TV every morning. It is very good . . . if you like the Soviet system of propaganda. Very effective. They know how to ask leading questions, use innuendo. This television media is a very effective form of political power which is not recognized as political power. And that is the tragedy.

## The geopolitics of conservative neutralism

by Edith Vitali

In Germany, an alarming phenomenon is spreading which various political analysts are commonly referring to as "conservative neutralism." Not only old Nazis such as SS-Maj. Gen. Otto-Ernst Remer, who achieved dubious fame for having arrested the leaders of the July 20, 1944 coup attempt against Hitler, are involved. Today Remer heads a movement, called "The Bismarck Germans," whose manifesto is openly calling for an alliance between Germany and Russia, against the "evil" West.

It's unlikely, because of Remer's Brown past, that the "Bismarck Germans" will ever become a mass movement. But recently, West German Defense Minister Manfred Wörner wittingly or unwittingly adopted one of the key demands in the Bismarck Germans' manifesto: Wörner, a self-proclaimed lover of Fyodor Dostoevsky's blood-and-soil-novels, called for the creation of a German-Soviet Youth Exchange program.

Remer's group is only part of a whole spectrum of "conservative neutralists" looking toward the East to rediscover "German identity." The same ferment is rampant in the so-called student dueling societies and inside the established conservative parties. "It's only a question of time until these people organize themselves in a new party," a political observer in Munich recently said.

He pointed out that at any "conservative" meeting or conference these days, somebody will always get up and describe West Germany as an "American colony" not worth defending. "We never bothered to ask the Soviet Union under which conditions she would agree to German reunification. Now is the time to do so," these people will argue.

The leading light of this German "New Right" is the "respectable" Erlangen historian Hellmut Diwald whose latest book, *Courage for History*, is tormenting the German reader with such sophistries as: "Shouldn't an East German communist be closer to your heart than an American democrat? Above all, he's German, too."

The phenomenon of "conservative neutralism" is spreading on *both* sides of the Atlantic. The unifying feature is the belief in the cult of geopolitics.

Franz Kadell, a French-born German professor living in Washington, D.C., put out a special report called *Europe:*