

## German's Ministry of Justice Judge Dr. Ernst Janning's confession from *Judgment at Nuremberg*

Your Honor, I was content to sit silent during this trial..... It is not easy to tell the truth. But if there is to be any salvation for Germany, we who know our guilt must admit it, whatever the pain and humiliation.

I had reached my verdict on the Feldenstein case before I ever came into the courtroom. I would have found him guilty, whatever the evidence. It was not a trial at all. It was a sacrificial ritual in which Feldenstein, the Jew, was the helpless victim....I am aware. I am aware! My counsel would have you believe we were *not* aware of the concentration camps. *Not* aware? Where were we? Where were we when Hitler began shrieking his hate in Reichstag? Where were we when our neighbors were being dragged out in the middle of the night to Dachau?! Where were we when every village in Germany has a railroad terminal where cattle cars were filled with children being carried out to their extermination! Where were we when they cried out in the night to us. Were we deaf, dumb, blind?.... My counsel says we were not aware of the extermination of the millions. He would give you the excuse we were only aware of the extermination of the hundreds. Does that make us any the less guilty? Maybe we didn't know the details. But if we didn't know, it was because we didn't *want* to know...

I am going to tell them the truth. I am going to tell them the truth if the whole world conspires against it. I am going to tell them the truth about their Ministry of Justice. Werner Lammpe, an old man who cries into his Bible now, an old man who profited by stealing the property of every man he sent to a concentration camp. Friedrich Hofstetter, the 'good German' who knew how to take orders, who sent men before him to be sterilized like so many digits. ...And Ernst Janning, worse than any of them because he knew what they were, and he went along with them. Ernst Janning - who made his life excrement, because he walked with them!