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Das mehrsprachige Webportal publiziert fortlaufend Informationen zur historisch-politischen Bildung in Schulen, Gedenkstätten und anderen Einrichtungen zur Geschichte des 20. Jahrhunderts. Schwerpunkte bilden der Nationalsozialismus, der Zweite Weltkrieg sowie die Folgegeschichte in den Ländern Europas bis zu den politischen Umbrüchen 1989.

Dabei nimmt es Bildungsangebote in den Fokus, die einen Gegenwartsbezug der Geschichte herausstellen und bietet einen Erfahrungsaustausch über historisch-politische Bildung in Europa an.

News from the Reich.

Excerpt from the secret reports of the security service of the SS

Continuing complaints about the poor quality of generic soap and detergents as well as shortages of fine soap.

Reports have arrived from Augsburg, Braunschweig, Dessau, Dresden, Leipzig, Neustettin, Tilsit and Thorn, of widespread public complaints about the substantial decline in the quality of soap and detergents. Above all, the generic soap, which was quite usable at the beginning of the war, has changed for the worse. Fellow Germans have been saying that this soap must be made up of nothing but clay and sand by now, which often leads to comparisons with soap from the First World War, which was just as bad. Often generic soap arrives at the market when newly made, and therefore gets used up exceptionally fast. In general, consumers state that, considering its present low quality, it is impossible for one piece of generic soap to last a whole month. There are also isolated complaints about the decreasing quality of generic shaving soap, which produces relatively little foam and so doesn't last the specified [ration] period either.

According to the reports, the populace is also very unhappy with their detergents. It is very

difficult to wash laundry thoroughly. Furthermore, the detergent powder is very harsh, resulting in the premature wear and tear of laundry. Similarly, it is often mentioned that detergent for fine washables, which is still advertised, has not been available at all for many months. Businesses receive such small quantities that it is impossible to take care of the public's needs even on a small scale.

According to our reports, complaints about the supply of fine soap are especially heated. In many instances, it is impossible for businesses to supply the fine soap quota on children's [ration] cards. At times, there are very unpleasant scenes in shops when mothers of small children fight over the last available pieces of fine soap. While the mothers do not understand why there is such a shortage of fine soap, businesses also criticize the quantities delivered, which are not correlated with the number of ration coupons distributed. For these reasons, specialists believe that the public mood necessitates better coordination between the amount of fine soap available and the number of ration coupons distributed. It is essential that the medical community be instructed only to write medical certificates to prescribe fine soap in the most urgent cases. We have heard from sources in economics offices that some members of the medical community have been overly generous in this respect.

In contrast to these reports of shortages of fine soap, there is one report from Leipzig that the populace there is, at the moment, fully supplied."

In: Heinz Boberach, ed., "Meldungen aus dem Reich 1938-1945: Die geheimen Berichte des Sicherheitsdienstes der SS.", [News from the Reich 1938-1945: The Secret Reports of the Security Service of the SS.], Herrsching, 1984, vol. 8.