

News Chronicle, thursday, march 3, 1960
the world at midnight

NAZI PURGE

Adenauer moves on big clean up
from George Vine

Bonn, Wednesday. The Nazi past of leading men in the German civil service and judiciary is being investigated.

This was announced yesterday by the German Foreign Minister, Herr von Brentano, in a letter to Jewish authorities. "Their further employment has become questionable as a result of new, incriminating evidence received," he told the B'nai Brith organisation of New York.

No names

Some of the new evidence, he disclosed, has come from Communist East Germany. This is the first admission by a responsible Minister, that a purge of high-placed former Nazis is contemplated by the Government. The authorities in Bonn refused to name any of the officials concerned, on the ground the investigation is sub judice; nor would they state how many are involved.

It is known that about 100 lawyers employed in the legal departments, some of them as minor judges, are involved. In the case of Dr. Hans Globke, whose name is frequently mentioned as an ex-Nazi, there have been recently attempts to defend his role in the Third Reich - on the ground that he was ordered by the Vatican to collaborate with the Nazis to try to minimize the sufferings of the Jews.

The cases of the judges were brought to light by **the young West Berlin Socialist Student Herr Reinhard Strecker, who started a one-man-campaign against what he called unredeemed Nazi justice.**

Herr Strecker shocked the public with an exhibition of death sentences passed by Nazi People's Courts. To spur the authorities into taking action he personally took out summonses against 43 of the judges and public attorneys, charging them with "defeating the ends of justice" and three with manslaughter. Herr von Brentano also promised in his letter that thorough measures will be carried out for the better enlightenment of German youth about the Nazis. He asks for understanding and confidence in the German Government.

Complaint

He complains that many of the critics were not so much concerned with anti-Semitism as with defaming Western Germany. He thanks the Jewish Conference in Amsterdam for putting on record their view that the German

people were genuinely shocked at recent anti-Jewish incidents and were not merely pretending in order to impress people abroad