

= Haakon Lie =

Haakon Steen Lie ( 22 September 1905 ? 25 May 2009 ) was a Norwegian politician who served as party secretary for the Norwegian Labour Party from 1945 to 1969 . Coming from humble origins , he became involved in the labour movement at an early age , and quickly rose in the party system . After actively working for the resistance movement and the exiled government during World War II , he was elected to the second @-@ highest position in the party after the war , and his years in office were the most successful in the party 's history .

Lie is widely considered ? along with Einar Gerhardsen ? to be the architect of the post @-@ war success of the Labour Party , and of the Norwegian welfare state . At the same time , he has also been the subject of criticism for organising surveillance of Norwegian oppositionals , in particular communists . Lie remained active in Norwegian public life , even after his 100th birthday , and in 2008 he celebrated his 103rd birthday with the release of a new biography , " Slik jeg ser det nå " ( As I see it now ) .

= = Early life and education = =

Born 22 September 1905 into a family of Finnish origin in Oslo ( then named Kristiania ) , he was baptized Håkon Steen Lie . He would later change the spelling to Haakon during World War II . His father was fireman Andreas Lie ( 1870 @-@ 1942 ) and his mother was homemaker Karen Halvorsdatter Gunderud ( 1871 @-@ 1952 ) . Though he describes his childhood as a happy one , his family was poor and , until 1916 , his father had to work 120 hours a week . With his parents , two brothers , and two sisters , he grew up at his fathers fire @-@ station sharing one room and a kitchen in the St. Hanshaugen neighborhood . Lie got involved with the labour movement at the age of sixteen , in 1921 .

Here he met some of his lifelong friends and colleagues : Martin Tranmæl , Oscar Torp and Einar Gerhardsen . When the Labour Party left the Third Communist International in 1923 , and was split between the new @-@ founded Communist Party and the remaining social democrats , Lie ended up on the latter wing . The bitter strife between the two factions strongly influenced his lifelong anti @-@ communist stance .

= = = Early career = = =

After first attending Møllergata elementary school and later Ila elementary school , he graduated from Secondary school in 1925 and in 1927 , after giving up university studies , ( having attended the State School of Forestry in Kongsberg ) and a brief stint as an industrial worker , he became a forester . He was happy with this occupation , but after a bout of tuberculosis in 1927 , had to give it up as well , and started working as secretary for the party . In 1931 he was made leader of Arbeidernes Opplysningsforbund ( AOF , Workers ' Information Society ) , an institution recently created to promote education in the working class . Lie has cited the AOF as the proudest achievement of his career .

In the early 1930s he made journeys to both Germany and Russia . His experience with authoritarian states ? both fascist and communist ? helped reinforce his political outlook of a democracy / dictatorship dichotomy rather than a simple right / left one . During the Spanish Civil War in 1936 ? 39 , he helped organise aid to those fighting the fascists and , during the winter of 1936 ? 37 , he visited the country . At one point the former pacifist Lie also took flying lessons to actively participate in the conflict , but this plan was never carried out .

= = = World War II = = =

When Norway was invaded by Germany in April 1940 , Lie immediately started organising resistance , taking charge of free radio broadcasts from various locations in the country . For two months this work kept him in constant movement around Norway , and on 7 June 1940 , when King

Haakon VII and the government left the country for London , he was in Vadsø , replacing a broken transmitter . At this point further broadcasts became impossible , and Lie had to make his way south , through Finland and Sweden , to Oslo . Here he became involved in the underground labour movement , mainly through printing newspapers and spreading information .

After the German invasion of the Soviet Union in June 1941 , the occupying authority in Norway started cracking down harder on opposition . A strike over milk rations in September led to the arrest and execution of the two labour leaders Viggo Hansteen and Rolf Wickstrøm . This was followed by several high @-@ profile arrests ? among them Einar Gerhardsen ? and Lie had to flee the country . He left his house only hours before the Germans appeared to arrest him . From Sweden he made his way to the United Kingdom , where he worked as a propaganda secretary for the exiled Norwegian labour movement in London . He made two visits to the United States to gather support and financial aid , the first time he went from New York to Seattle where he held a series of lectures and radio @-@ interviews before he travelled through Canada from the west- to the east coast . The second trip was as a labour attaché with diplomatic status . While Haakon was in exile , his brother Per , who was also a labour activist , was arrested in Norway in 1942 . He was imprisoned and eventually sent to Dachau , where he died from typhoid fever in March 1945 .

= = Party secretary = =

On 20 June 1945 , Lie returned to Norway . At the national convention of the Labour Party that same year , he was elected party secretary . While Gerhardsen became chairman and prime minister , and gradually assumed his role as " Father of the Nation " ( " Landsfaderen " ) , Lie maintained party discipline and staked out the political strategy in the background . From his position at the head of the party he helped orchestrate the predominant position the party was to hold in the following years , with absolute parliamentary majorities won in the 1945 , 1949 , 1953 and 1957 elections . During the reconstruction of the post @-@ war years , he helped lead the party onto a more moderate path . Private versus public ownership of industry now became a practical , rather than an ideological question . The policy proved highly successful ; the country experienced unprecedented growth , as well as improved conditions for the working class , during his tenure .

= = = Anti @-@ communist surveillance = = =

Lie had been personally shaken by the post @-@ war Soviet suppression of the social @-@ democratic parties in Poland , Czechoslovakia and Hungary . He viewed Yugoslavia leader Josip Broz Tito as the " Martin Luther of communism " after Tito had openly defied the Soviet Union by chiselling out the Third Way . When the Soviets initiated a blockade of Yugoslavia following the Tito ? Stalin split , Lie organized humanitarian aid @-@ shipments from Norway . Another concern was that the Pro @-@ Moscow Norwegian Communist Party ( NKP ) had was gaining support among leftist voters , with opinion polls showing an increase to 15 @.@ 4 % . As he put it : " It was voting based upon the myth of the Soviet Union as the land of peace and socialism - a myth which had to be broken down " . It was during this period that Lie , with support from the trade union center set up significant and wide @-@ ranging surveillance of Norwegian communists , ( a practice later deemed illegal by a government committee , the Lund commission ) .

Lie himself defended his hard @-@ line tactics , claiming communism had represented a threat to democracy as well as the party , famously exclaiming " The Labour Party is no damn Sunday school ! ( Norwegian : Arbeiderpartiet er faen ingen søndagsskole ! ) " . There were also external events that aided his cause . The Marshall Plan accepted in 1947 and the Norwegian membership in NATO from 1949 drew the nation closer to the United States . Meanwhile , the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968 demonstrated the threat represented by the Soviet Union . Yet Lie was stronger in his support of the United States , and more fierce in his anti @-@ communism , than most within the Labour party .

In 1961 , a left @-@ wing splinter group who was previously centred around the party newspaper " Orientering " decided to break off and form a new party known as Socialist People 's Party ( SF ) .

They were later to deny the Labour Party a majority in the 1961 elections as well as to bring down the third cabinet Gerhardsen as a result of the Kings Bay Affair .

= = = Feud with Gerhardsen = = =

Meanwhile , the relationship between Lie and Gerhardsen grew cooler . Gerhardsen was becoming far more amenable to the Soviets in part due to the influence of his wife , Werna , who was highly sympathetic to the Soviet Union ( some even claiming she was a KGB informant ) . Gerhardsen had grown more and more frustrated at Lie 's hard @-@ line tactics against communists and perceived Soviet sympathisers , as well as his attempts to stifle foreign policy debate within the Central Committee . Lie on his part grew embittered over what he perceived was the Gerhardsen @-@ couple protecting key leftists , such as Trygve Bull . According to Bull , Lie and Gerhardsen hardly spoke to each other after 1957 .

At the national party convention of 1967 Gerhardsen openly attacked Lie , to which Lie reportedly responded by threatening to " break " Gerhardsen " like a louse " ( " Jeg skal knekke deg som en lus " ) . Gerhardsen later regretted the attack , and later sent Lie a letter of apology - to which the latter never replied . Lie resigned as party secretary in 1969 , and Gerhardsen retired from active politics the same year . At was not until 1985 , at the behest of former defence minister Jens Christian Hauge , that the pair officially reconciled .

= = Later life = =

Lie remained active as a public commentator and in politics after his retirement from party politics , and even after his centenary . He led the losing campaign for Norwegian membership in the EEC in the early 1970s , and in 2000 he led a battle to prevent the privatisation of the national oil company Statoil . His preferred method of staying updated on current international events was through weekly readings of The Economist .

Influenced by the support he experienced from Jewish labour leaders in the United States , he was a supporter of the state of Israel , though he is highly critical of the Israeli government 's current treatment of the Palestinians and to the settlement of the West Bank .

Lie initiated Operation donor funds for construction of Israeli settlement called " Moshav Norge " ( Change to Yanuv ) in memory of 28 children crashes in Hurum air disaster .

He wrote several books , among them the controversial memoir ... slik jeg ser det ( " ... the way I see it " , 1975 ) , in which he strongly attacked Gerhardsen . He also wrote a two @-@ volume biography of his mentor Martin Tranmæl , Et bål av vilje and Veiviseren ( " A Beacon of Resolve " , 1988 and " The Pathfinder " , 1991 ) . In his latest book , released in 2008 at 103 years of age , being traditionally a strong proponent of cooperation with the United States , he called for enhanced security cooperation between the Nordic countries and argued Norway should buy the Swedish JAS Gripen aircraft instead of the US @-@ made Joint Strike Fighter .

In 1970 , after retiring as party secretary , he acquired a patch of woodland where he could resume his passion for forestry . For many years he spent his winters in the US state of Florida , but eventually moved back permanently to Norway .

Lie died on 25 May 2009 , aged 103 , after a long illness . He had been hospitalised six months earlier . Friends of Israel in the Norwegian Labour Movement ( Norwegian : Venner av Israel i Norsk Arbeiderbevegelse ) , planted a forest to his memory in Israel .

= = Personal life = =

Lie was married twice ? first in 1929 to Ragnhild Halvorsen ( 1905 @-@ 91 ) a companion from the labour youth movement . They divorced in 1951 because when he was in America he met Minnie Dockerman , who would be his future wife , thereby creating a scandal . He married Minnie Dockerman in 1952 ( 1912 ? 99 ) . He left three daughters , two ; Gro ( 1932- ) and Turid ( 1938- ) by his first wife and one ; Karen ( 1952 ) by the second wife . In addition he left five grandchildren as

well as six great @-@ grandchildren .