

= Jon Hol =

Jon Gundersen Hol (1 September 1851 ? 1941) was a Norwegian engineer and activist . He is known for his pamphlet *Rifleringen* , published in February 1884 , that resulted in his arrest for lèse majesté . In the pamphlet , he called for soldiers and civilians to arm themselves and encircle the Parliament of Norway Building , creating a " Ring of Rifles " , should the need arise . The political situation in Norway at the time was unstable , with an ongoing impeachment case against the conservative government started by political liberals . King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway supported the conservative politicians , and Hol believed that a political and military counter @-@ offensive was planned , hence the need for guarding the Parliament . The tensions between liberals and conservatives drew Hol into politics in the first place in 1880 . Before this , he was an engineer by occupation and a writer , albeit apolitical . He increased his writing after 1880 , and also involved himself in non @-@ socialist trade unions , including the unsuccessful attempt of establishing a national trade union center in Kristiania .

When the conservatives lost the Impeachment case , there was a change of government and the charges against Hol were dropped . Two years later , he received an economic compensation from the Parliament . After some quiet years in which he concentrated on engineering work , Hol returned to politics as a member of the city council of Skien , representing the local temperance movement . He stood for parliamentary election twice , without success .

= = Early life = =

Hol was born at the farm Ekornhol in Nord @-@ Odal , the son of Gunder Johnsen and Rønnaug Haakonsdatter . He began a military education in 1869 , and later conducted self @-@ studies as well as attending various schools , including the Norwegian National Academy of Craft and Art Industry . In 1876 , he married Karen Pedersdatter , a farmers ' daughter from Sør @-@ Odal and in 1878 , he was hired by the city engineering corps of Kristiania .

= = Political activism = =

= = = Background = = =

While studying , Hol became interested in journalism . He began writing for the apolitical magazine *Norsk Nationaltidende* in 1877 , but found his interest in politics growing as he observed the mounting political turmoil at the time . Liberal politicians in the Norwegian Parliament struggled to introduce the practice of calling government ministers in for questioning . Initially , this was not meant to function as a lever against individual ministers , but rather to increase debate on important issues . The executive branch of government was not elected , and the intention was to enhance a co @-@ governing with the democratically elected legislature . Also , ministers were already criticized in parliamentary debates ; if they were questioned in person they would have the chance to defend themselves . This required altering the Constitution , a move which the executive branch , led by King Oscar II of Sweden and Norway , continuously vetoed . The conservatives in Parliament also opposed this , fearing that the increasingly liberal @-@ dominated parliament would use constitutional change to check the executive branch , and thereby infringe upon the separation of powers . The first royal veto came in 1872 , after which the proposition was slightly altered , but it was vetoed again in 1874 . Two identical propositions followed , and were defeated , in 1877 and 1880 . After 1880 , the question about ministers faded into the background ; instead the disagreement centered around the King 's right to a veto in constitutional cases . According to the Constitution , the King had the right to postpone a non @-@ constitutional act three times . On the other hand , the Constitution did not mention any veto in constitutional cases . Three views became distinct : some argued that the King had no veto at all , the middle ground was held by people who would allow a postponing veto , while the government and the King claimed an absolute veto .

Allegedly , an absolute veto was in the " spirit " of 1814 and the separation of powers principle . Those who held the first view cited the principle of popular sovereignty .

Although the veto question became central , the ministers were not out of the spotlight . Since the ministers were inferior to the King within the executive branch , the King was responsible for all actions conducted by this branch ; however , the ministers were responsible for the advice given to the King when they were assembled in the Council of State . If any ministers were to dissent , according to the Constitution , they had to state this explicitly in the meeting protocol , lest they be considered in agreement and thus co @-@ responsible . The King was above the law , but the Prime Minister and his cabinet could be tried for Impeachment for advising the King to act out an unconstitutional veto . The Impeachment Court consisted of Supreme Court Justices and elected politicians from the Lagting , and as the latter group held a two @-@ thirds majority , an Impeachment trial with a fairly certain outcome could start as soon as the liberals won control over the Lagting seats through general elections .

= = = Arenas for activism = = =

Jon Hol sided with Johan Sverdrup , a liberal jurist who had become the spearhead of parliamentary opposition to the King . Hol also became involved in the workers ' society Kristiania Arbeidersamfund , which was dominated by political liberals (not socialists) at that time , as a member of the board . From 1881 , he worked on their publication Samfundet . This periodical eventually ceased publication , but was succeeded by Nordmanden in 1883 , which Hol co @-@ owned . Hol used Samfundet and Nordmanden as the main public arenas for his activism . He was also behind the rifle associations ' member magazine Norsk Skyttertidende , which had been started in 1882 and edited by David Dietrichson for a short while before Hol took over .

= = = Rifle associations and the military = = =

Hol eventually came to believe that King Oscar II and his supporters , if opposed by the Norwegian Parliament , would usurp political power with the help of the Norwegian Army . Hol based this view on two speeches given by Oscar in 1882 , one of them at the closing of the parliamentary session that year and hence before the 1882 general election . Harald Nicolai Storm Wergeland , the Commander at Akershus Fortress , located nearby the Norwegian Parliament , was known as a staunch conservative . In 1880 , he had called for Parliament to increase the military contingent in the city . The Chief of Police supported this request ; in a letter to the Ministry of Justice and the Police he stated that there was a need for preparedness regarding the political situation , as a possible pretext for " disturbances and demonstrations " . Otto Nyquist , a personal friend of the King , was instated in 1882 as commander of the battalion stationed in Kristiania . In late 1883 , Oscar suggested that the storage of bolts of rifles in depots around the country be disconnected , to prevent a situation in which uprising peasantry turned the Army 's own weapons against them . Secret talks on a coup d 'état supported by the military were held between Oscar and Christian Selmer at the Scanian castle Sofiero in 1883 , and the newspaper Morgenbladet publicly supported such a solution .

One of the means to counter this development , was the formation of semi @-@ military forces . All over the country , local rifle associations had sprung up . The first rifle association ? Centralforeningen for Udbredelse af Legemsøvelser og Vaabenbrug of 1861 ? was politically conservative , but a great number of the newer associations , especially in rural districts , supported the political liberals and radicals . They exercised as regular troops , but did not commit acts of political violence . Rather , a latent purpose was to deter a possible conflict . If conservative Commanders of the Army were to use force to subdue the parliamentary process , it was clear that rifle associations , too , could march upon Kristiania , possibly aided by " rogue " commanders such as Albert Jacobsen . Hol supported the liberal rifle associations , and helped found Kristiania Folkevæbningssamlag in his city . He also chaired Nordre Skytterlag , a local rifle association based in Nordre Aker . Apart from organizational work , he wrote several articles on the issue . In

Samfundet he wrote that a " coup d 'etat or attempt thereof " would lead to a popular uprising , where " real Norwegians " , " soldier or non @-@ soldier " alike would encircle the Parliament Building with " thousands of bayonets " to " await " and the political processes and guard the Constitution .

This activism was not compatible with his professional career , as he was a municipal employee . In this situation , Hol chose to formally leave the radical organizations , resigning as a member of the board of Kristiania Arbeidersamfund and Kristiania Folkevæbningssamlag . He thereby retained his job . However , in early 1884 he was fired by the municipality .

= = = Rifleringen = = =

In February 1884 , the Impeachment trial of Prime Minister Christian Selmer and his entire cabinet was nearing its end . One of the last actions of Selmer 's cabinet was to refuse to sanction a parliamentary money grant to the rifle association ? the liberals had won the 1882 parliamentary election in a landslide victory ? further polarizing the situation . Rumours flew that personnel of the Norwegian Army were preparing for action at Kongsvinger Fortress , some miles northeast of Kristiania .

On 6 February 1884 , Hol released a pamphlet which has come to be known as Rifleringen (The Rifle Ring) , with the subtitle Giv Akt (At attention) . Like previous writings , it called upon semi @-@ military personnel and other weapon @-@ able citizens to arm themselves and encircle the Parliament Building . This time , he did not call for the citizens to " await " the situation , but instead to " fire ! at the traitors of the Fatherland " .

The pamphlet was confiscated by the police on 8 February . The person who printed the pamphlet , Nikolai Olsen , was arrested on the same day , and the apprehension of Jon Hol followed on 10 February . He remained in custody until 26 February , and was indicted on 11 March , for lèse majesté . Bjørnstjerne Bjørnson and Lars Holst were indicted on the same charge . Upon the arrests , the newspaper Verdens Gang noted that no conservative writers had been sanctioned , despite openly calling for a coup d 'état .

In the meantime , Christian Selmer was impeached on 27 February ; his cabinet members followed one by one , the last being impeached on 1 April . On 11 March , Selmer resigned . Two acting Prime Ministers were drawn from his cabinet ; Ole Bachke from 11 to 29 March and Niels Mathias Rye from 29 March to 3 April . Then , a new cabinet led by Selmer 's former Minister of Finance Christian Homann Schweigaard was formed , but in reality it stood no chance of surviving as it faced the Liberal @-@ dominated Parliament , whose means of pressuring the executive branch had been strengthened following the Impeachment trial . In June , as Schweigaard entered his last month as Prime Minister , the King summoned mathematics professor Ole Jacob Broch to form a compromise cabinet , but this failed owing to Conservative opposition , spearheaded by up @-@ and @-@ coming politician Emil Stang . Broch gave up on 22 June , and Johan Sverdrup became Prime Minister on 26 June . In light of this change in circumstances , the case against Hol had been annulled by Royal Resolution ? earlier on 6 June .

= = = Det norske Arbeiderforbund = = =

The Conservative politicians and the King had accepted the parliamentary process without any military conflict . However , conflicts as such still existed . The country 's establishment had been shocked by a number of labor conflicts , with a street battle at Kampen in 1878 and the storming of an employer 's home at Etterstad in May 1880 , as examples of the more volatile events . In August 1884 , workers at Akers Mekaniske Verksted faced a 10 % pay cut . A debate had been held in Kristiania Arbeidersamfund on 30 July , and the meeting decided to call a strike effective as of 1 August . In addition , Jon Hol took the initiative to found a national trade union center , Det norske Arbeiderforbund . Representatives from seventeen factories elected Hol as the secretary of Det norske Arbeiderforbund . The printer Nikolai Olsen became treasurer . Among the union 's demands were normal working hours for laborers and universal suffrage . It staunchly opposed socialist ideas

, especially through the union newspaper Arbeideren . On 7 October , a new board was elected , and the first point of their manifesto was " Law @-@ abidingness ? moral conduct ? sobriety " .

Det norske Arbeiderforbund was supported by people from individual factories , but the mainly philanthropic activists were associated with the Liberal Party . However , the strike at Akers Mekaniske had been a failure , as the laborers had returned to work by on 26 August ? with a 10 % pay cut . It soon faced competition from more worker @-@ dominated trade unions , coordinated through the Fagforeningenes Centralkomite . On the political side , a Labour Party was formed in 1887 , and from it the Norwegian Confederation of Trade Unions followed in 1899 . The historical role of Det norske Arbeiderforbund , as it turned out , was to mark the transition between two kinds of trade unionism ; the one dominated by the bourgeois Liberal Party and the one dominated by the socialist Labour Party . The organization became defunct around 1890 . The publication Arbeideren was continued , and beginning in 1906 , Arbeideren was the party organ of the newly founded Labour Democrats , a non @-@ socialist labour and social reform party associated with the Liberal Party .

= = Later life = =

Hol had been fired from his municipal job on 13 February 1884 . After 1884 , he laid low for a few years , but on 26 May 1886 he was given NOK 1 @,@ 500 by the Liberal @-@ dominated Parliament as compensation for lost income . In 1887 he was again publicly employed , assisting in the construction of the Bandak @-@ Nordsjø Canal . He was hired as the city engineer of Skien in 1891 , holding this position for almost twenty @-@ five years , and later worked in Notodden , Kongsberg and Risør . From time to time he wrote technical articles on water pipes , among other subjects , in the magazine Teknisk Ukeblad .

He became active again in politics and the public sphere . He wrote for the liberal newspaper Dagbladet and the temperance magazine Folket , as well as for the local press . He also represented the temperance movement in the city council of Skien for twenty years . In 1906 he ran in the parliamentary elections in the constituency Skien , but was not elected . He has been called an independent candidate . At the time , however , he was denoted by Statistics Norway as loosely adhering to the Coalition Party with a leaning towards the Liberals . In the first round of voting , Hol was a " running mate " (deputy candidate) of former parliamentarian and government minister Hans Nilsen Hauge , who adhered to the Coalition Party with a conservative leaning . They faced Carl Stousland who represented the Liberal Party and P. R. Saltvik of the Labour Party . Stousland received 732 votes , Hauge 460 votes and Saltvik 231 votes . As a " running mate " , Hol received 511 votes . He also got 8 votes as a primary candidate . In the second round of voting , the Coalition Party dropped Hauge and propped up Hol , who now had J. A. Larsen as his running mate . Also , the Labour Party pulled out . Hol received 595 votes , but succumbed to Stousland who got 855 votes . Hauge got 2 votes , and Hol got 23 " running mate " votes .

Hol stood for election again in the 1924 parliamentary election , when the voting system had changed completely . The constituency was now Market towns of Telemark and Aust @-@ Agder counties , and it was a plural @-@ member constituency where representatives were selected from the party lists with the most votes . Hol was fielded as the second candidate on the ballot of the Radical People 's Party (Labour Democrats) , the new name of the Labour Democrats . The first candidate was A. Jørgensen , police chief of Kragerø . The Radical People 's Party fared well in Skien and Kragerø . With 1 @,@ 050 votes in Kragerø the party prevailed over the Social Democrats and Communists . With 2 @,@ 075 votes in Skien the party prevailed over Labour . However , it fared much worse in the other six cities , carried 4 @,@ 571 votes in total and lost the election in the Market towns of Telemark and Aust @-@ Agder counties .

Hol died in 1941 , and was buried on 16 May 1941 at Vestre gravlund .