

Skeletons in the closet

<http://www.sdkuriren.se/expo.php?action=fullnews&id=1782>

The first party leader of the Sweden Democrats, Anders Klarström, was a former member of the nazi party "Nordiska Rikspartiet". Does this sound familiar? Yes, it sure does. How many times this has been repeated in newspaper articles, books and TV-shows during the last 13 years is hard to keep track of, not to mention how different professional anti-racists has stated the same from speaker podiums around the country.

This 13 year old "news" seems always be current and the conclusion is always the same: this party that has a former nazi among its ranks is and will always be antidemocratic and racist, unlike the established parties in the parliament. Among these there are no skeletons in the clause and they had certainly never had any "brown lice" [Swedish expression]. Is this true? No, not at all. Within (s), (c), (kd), (fp) and (m) there have been politicians that was a "brown" history, which should place them in the racist and antidemocratic category too.

On the 29 October 1930, Per Engdahl together with five like-minded started the Fascist organization "Förbundet Det Nya Sverige" [The Union The New Sweden]. One of Engdahls five partners was the student Ragnar Eriksson that later changed his name to Edenman. Edenman left Engdahls Fascist organization and made a career within the Social Democrats (s). In the mid 40-ies he was working in the governments office and 1958-1967 he was Minister of Education and Religion in the Tage Erlander-government. Edenman ended his political career as a governor in "Uppsala län". His Fascist past was well known among leading Social Democrats, but they kept their silence.

Another of Engdahls Fascists was Birgit Grabe that after marriage had the name Rodhe. She made a career within the "Folkpartiet" (fp) and was at the end of the 70-ies Minister of School in a "blue" government. The MP Per Oluf Sundman, from the Center party (c), that during the 70-ies was considered as the Center party's leading ideologist, was in his youth a member of "Svensk Socialistisk Samling [Swedish Socialist Gathering] youth movement "Nordisk Ungdom" [Nordic Youth] and also Per Engdahls organization "Svensk opposition" [Swedish Opposition].

Another of the Center party's upcoming MP, Bertil Rubin, was in his youth a member of SSS [Nazi party] youth movement. After the war Rubin was member of "Nysvenska rörelsen". Rolf Clarksson (m) from Helsingborg that was in the parliament up and till 1994, was in the 1930-ies a leader for the Nazi organization "Fosterländsk Enad Ungdom". Clarksson was greeted with "Hell" [or Heil in German] and was address with "min ledare" [My leader, or in german "Mein Führer"]. This group ["Fosterländsk Enad Ungdom"] was merged with SSS youth movement in 1942.

When KDS [Christian Democrats] was formed in the 1960-ies, the new party was infiltrated by a number of people with Nazi or Fascist backgrounds. Most of them were expelled after a while, but one remained: Folke Dahlström. He had formerly been a member of SSS where he was the publisher of the paper "Ungt Folk". Dahlströms past wasn't a secret for the KDS-leadership since he had been pointed out in the book "Nazismen i Sverige – ett varningsord" [Nazism in Sweden – a word of warning] in 1942.

How come these Nazis/Fascist are never mentioned every time the media writes something about these parties? How come it is always Anders Klarströms past that is interesting?

According to Bosse Schön, who wrote the books "Svenskarna som stred för Hitler" [The Swedes that fought for Hitler] and "Där järnkorsen växer" [Where the Iron crosses grow], there were loads of people that quickly changed parties after the German defeat at Stalingrad.

"All parties except for the Communist harbored defected Nazis and Fascists" Schön writes, who is convinced that a lot of skeletons will fall out of the clause during the coming years. Some former Nazis/Fascists ended up in the parliament, other got political assignments on lower levels. During his research Schön encountered a former volunteer in Waffen-SS that after the war made a "modest career as a part-time politician within Peoples Party (fp) and the Social Democrats (s)".

A Center party municipal politician in Ljusdal was during the 1930-ies a member of SSS [Nazi parti] and so on. With Sven-Olof Lindholms SSS existed an elite organization called "Sveaborg" that was created by Swedish Nazis in 1941.

"When Sveaborg was created was, among others, Lennart Hansson a member that later on was a local municipal politician in Skåne [the souther part of Sweden, my note]" according to Karl N Alvar Nilsson in his book "Swedish upper class and right-wing extremism during the 20th century". In Håkan Blomqvists book "Gåtan Nils Flyg och nazismen" [The Riddle Nils Flyg and Nazism] you can find the following:

"As an example is the SSS-leader and chief editor for the German-supported "Nya Dagligt Allehanda" [newspaper, my note], Gunnar Prawitz became a editorial chief within the "Näringslivets Information" [The Business World Information, an association for business owners, paper] and active in the "Högerpartiet" – today "Moderaterna" [in government today, my note] – in Stockholm. When he didn't spend time on the board of the Publicist club, Rotary...".

Why has the media never cared to dig for this information? Why is only Anders Klarström interesting?

In the case of Gunnar Prawitz, could it have anything to do with the fact that the Swedish journalists didn't want to expose that a former leader of the SSS Nazi party was a member of the Publicist board, a person that continued his Nazi activities after

the war? Gunnar Prawitz was working with "Nation Europe", the European Fascist paper that started distribution in 1951. [...] When the past of Prawitz is mentioned it is, not surprisingly, mentioned in connection with the Sweden Democrats. In the book "Extremhögern" [The extreme right] they present that in 1989 an article in "SD-Bulletinen" with the title "Svenskt och osvenskt" [Swedish and non-Swedish] was written by Gunnar Prawitz. His involvement in Moderaterna, the business world, Rotary, the Publicist club and the Church isn't mentioned with a single word in the book... Every connection, however small, to the Sweden Democrats is very interesting and everything else is ignored.

It might seem odd that former Nazis and Fascists were allowed to make a career within the democratic parties in Sweden after the war, but the fact is that many of these parties had proved that they had no problems cooperating with these groups even before the war. In the municipal elections in 1938 the Nazi party SSS had an electorate cooperation with the People Party [Folkpartiet, fp] and The Right Party [then Högerpartiet, today Moderata Samlingspartiet (m)] and got several mandates in Härnösand and Uddevalla. The Fascist "Sveriges Nationella Förbund" [Swedish National Union] took seats in cooperation with The People Party and the Right in Haparanda, Nybro and Nässjö. In Mölndal SNF took seats in cooperation with The People Party, the Right and the peasant union (today the Center party). The non-socialist parties in Sweden had apparently no problems cooperating with Nazis and Fascists, especially (fp) and (m), that today is competing of most forcefully condemning Nazism and Fascism. It's own past as partners with those groups is of course never discussed and the media is totally uninterested to report about it.

Even in the fall of 1938, when the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis had increased in severity and information of what's going on was reaching Sweden, the non-socialist camp still accepted cooperating with Nazis. This wasn't something that stopped the partnership between "liberals" and Nazis.

In numerous other places former Nazis was taking place. Ragnar Linnér, who had been a member of the crypto-Nazi socialist party as the Fascist SNF and fought as a volunteer in Waffen-SS, made a career in the Unions. In 1958 he founded "Sveriges Socionomers Riksförbund" [Swedish Social Workers National Union] and became its first chairman 1958-1961. Another SS-volunteer was Elis Höglund that 1935 was an organized Nazi in Furugårds NSAP. After the war Höglund became a syndicalist and active in SAC [an extreme left organization]. Being "syndicalist" the step to anarchist isn't far and they like to present themselves as glowing anti-Nazis, but the Brown legacy can be found in the most surprising areas. When kpml(r) [the Communist party] held its 1th May demonstration [a socialist thing] in Göteborg [Gotheburg] in 1984 they were attacked by Nazis from the "Nordiska Rikspartiet". At a trial that was held against some of these Nazis some astonishing details arised. In his book "Mot strömmen" [Against the current] the former chairman in kpml(r) Frank Baude writes:

"It was also clear [during the trial] that the attack against our demonstration the Nazis had help from youths from Moderata Samlingspartiet (m) [the Right party] and from Anarchists! [...]"

[...]

In 1988 a unified Center Party distanced itself from Sven-Olle Olsson since he took an initiative for a referendum regarding immigration to Sjöbo [city]. Just as expected Sven-Olle was accused of racism, without anyone backing up their claims or an explanation on how a referendum equals racism. No, to find examples of racism within the Center Party, Sjöbo isn't the right place to look but instead look in the party history. In the program adopted in 1933 you can read the following:

"The preservation of the Swedish people against implication of less worthy foreign racial elements is a national task [...]"

To label any criticism of Sweden's insane immigration policies as racist is no problem for the current Center Party, but their own past they hide and ignore. The media doesn't care either. Why?

Also within the Social Democrats "racial hygiene" and "racial refinement" was on the agenda and in 1921 the "Rasbiologiska institutet" [Racial biological institute] was created on initiative by the Social Democrats. The institute divided the country's population into two categories, the able-bodied and the less able-bodied individuals. The middle class and the peasants was considered to have "very large racial biological value" while criminals, tinkers and mentally handicapped was described as the "human scum". How often is this noted in Swedish media? In 1934 the book "Kris i befolkningsfrågan" [Crisis in the population] was published where the authors Gunnar and Alva Myrdal argued for imposed sterilization as a good method for "cleaning of highly incapable individuals". According to the married couple, people that were a burden to society had no clear right to have children. The couple received high ranking posts within the Social Democrats. Gunnar became Minister of Trade and Alva was a consultative cabinet minister 1967-1973.

Why has the media written close to nothing about these two Social Democratic hot-shots background [and why isn't the Social Democrats accused of being Nazi today?, my note]

[...]

"During my four years on Aftonbladet [big tabloid newspaper] 1984-1988, I asked to write about Edenmans past. But my suggestion was brushed off: - Why dig about Bosse? No, better then to let the forgotten be forgotten, a common view among journalists born in the 40-ies and part of the left movement in the 60-ies and 70-ies. They realized that if the media started investigation Swedish Nazism they would soon be in focus, they groups that wanted to transform Sweden to a red dictatorship where the "borgarpaket" [sort of slang for non-socialist that was considered evil] should be hunted. Also it was very sensitive to go after such a high-ranking Social

Democrat for a bagatelle, as it is usually referred to in these circumstances, "in their youth". For an error they made in their youth.

A totally different tone when it comes to Anders Klarström. Then there existed no such thing as "error made in their youth". Once a Nazi, always a Nazi. But this of course doesn't apply to well-renowned and well-merited Social Democrats at all. Or Social Democrats at all. Well, except for one: Anders Klarström. **The fact is that since several years Anders Klarström is a Social Democrat** [my notation, see [Wiki in Swedish](#)]. But this is never reported by the media. The fact that Sweden's "Führer" – Sven-Olof Lindholm – was from the 1970-ies and until his death in 1998 a follower of the Left Party [the former Communist party] isn't arousing any interest in the Swedish media either. But the that Anders Klarström has been a member of Nordiska Rikspartiet has been and still is a current news item for 13 years. And it will surely be so for another 13 years!

Dan Wickström

Translated by Ted Ekeröth

I have left out some parts due to the length of the text. This is marked with ... or [...]