

Oslo, September 1956.

GERHARDSSEN, EINAR HENRY

Prime Minister.

Mr. Gerhardsen was born May 10, 1897, in Oslo. After elementary school he was a messenger boy from 1907 to 1915, was employed in the road maintenance service of the Municipality of Oslo 1915-22, was Secretary of the Norwegian Municipal Workers' Union 1922-23, Secretary of the Norwegian Labour Party 1923-26 and of the Oslo Labour Party 1926-36. From 1936 to 1940 and again from 1945 he was Secretary and Vice-Chairman of the Norwegian Labour Party.

Mr. Gerhardsen was a member of the City Council of Oslo from 1932; he was Deputy Mayor 1938-40, was elected Mayor in 1940 and served in the same capacity again for a few weeks in 1945.

In 1920 Mr. Gerhardsen was Chairman of the Oslo Labour Society, from 1921 a member of the Central Committee of the Labour Party and from 1919 to 1926 a member of the Central Committee of the Labour Youth Movement, where he served one term as Vice-Chairman and one as Chairman. He was a member of the Board of the Oslo Transport Service 1926-45 and Chairman of the Road Workers' Branch of the Labour Party in 1949. In 1929-30 he spent six months in Germany and Austria on a scholarship.

Mr. Gerhardsen was deprived of office as acting Chairman of the Labour Party by the Germans in June 1940 and as Mayor in August 1940. He was arrested and sent to Grini concentration camp in September 1941, where he remained until January 1942. In April that same year he was sent to Sachsenhausen concentration camp in Germany, but came back to Grini in September 1944 and remained there for the remainder of the war.

In 1945 Mr. Gerhardsen was elected to the Storting. He was Prime Minister from June 1945 to November 1951. From 1951 he served as President of the Storting and leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party. In January 1955 he again became Prime Minister.