

Excerpt of the Minutes

50th Meeting of the Committee on Budgets, 13 July 1950, pp. 15-16

Rep. Bausch (CDU): It is good that we are all discussing an array of questions. In these long deliberations we have repeatedly criticized the style and approach of the construction plans. We also carried out surveys and it's likely been the consensus view of the budget committee, that in all circumstances expenses should be avoided, which are not at present time appropriate. We have found that in accordance with this permission, carried out through the committee, the construction of, for example, a tennis court has been approved. I am of the opinion that there is no room for constructing tennis courts. We have well seen, that in one house all of the doors were ripped out and replaced with cherry-wood, which are very expensive. These doors are of course very beautiful and no one there will say they do not like them. But if these doors have thus far done their job - and they have done just that, and they have very distinguished people living there, to which the doors suffice - then it is surely not necessary to tear them out and install cherry-wood doors. One could list a whole bunch of things, which have rightly been objected to by the public and which we are not going to be able to tolerate.

We have also noted that in one of the garden projects, we were content to reconstruct the paths, but leave the entire garden as it was. In another garden, the costs were much higher in order to redesign the entire garden. We do not have the money today for all these things. We cannot possibly represent these to the public and we have to urgently ask that such incidents be avoided in the future. We are coming into the most impossible situation. We cannot convince the people that such things are necessary. And they aren't necessary. We must have a simple and modest style. We must avoid any megalomania. We have to completely distance ourselves from the manners with which money was spent in the Third Reich and structures were rendered and we have to find a line, which corresponds to our situation and, if I may say, to our present world situation.