

BRÆNDEKILDE – CULTURAL VILLGE

AKSEL LARSEN - POLITICIAN



Source: Wikipedia (computer coloured)

A Danish politician and an outstanding debater sticking to his vernacular tongue of Funen ('fynsk') throughout his life.

Birth and family

Aksel Larsen was born on 5 August 1897 in Karl Peter's Cottage, to Lars Larsen, a maker of wooden shoes, and his wife Ehrengott Larsen. His parents were laborers, occupying the lowest possible position in the class hierarchy of the village. In the year 1900, Aksel Larsen's father found employment at Odense Iron Foundry. His mother

and, by then, 8 siblings later moved to Odense.

Education and early life

From 1904 Aksel Larsen attended primary school in Odense; in 1907 he was offered a free place at Mølernes Skole in Odense. In 1914 he completed his secondary education with top grades. From 1914 he served his apprenticeship with Sydfyenske Railways; he promoted as railway assistant in 1917.

Youth and political commitment

In 1918 Aksel Larsen moved to Copenhagen, where he grew politically engaged, first signing up with The Social Democratic Party, and subsequently with The Communist Party. From 1925 to 1929 he studied at the Party School of the Communist Party (Moscow).

Party Leader of the Danish Communist Party (DKP)

In 1932 Aksel Larsen gained a seat as a member of the Danish Parliament. When he died in 1972, he was the member of Parliament with the 9th longest seniority.

During World War II he became interned in Denmark, and later in Germany. In 1958 he was expelled from The Communist Party due to political disagreements.

Founder and leader of The Socialist People's Party (SF)

In 1959, Aksel Larsen founded The Socialist People's Party. In 1960, he became a television darling, attracting the spotlight of the media with his broken-leg sickbed election address.

Legacy and reputation

Some characteristic personality traits of Larsen's were his zest for life and his revolt against authorities. As a 3-year-old, he cleared out, taking off on adventures of his own. As a school boy he proved himself to be very self-resilient and independent - character traits which also made themselves felt when he dropped out of his job at the railways, and when he showed opposition at the Party School in Moscow; the latter much to Mr. Stalin's disapproval. His definitive break-up with the Communist

Party was also a token of his maverick personality. Critics of Aksel Larsen, however, point to his collaboration with the Germans after being interrogated, and similarly his cooperation with the CIA during the Cold War in the 1960s. On both occasions he gave away classified pieces of information.

Aksel Larsen died on 10 January 1972 and was buried in Odense.

