

Russian protest *

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HORTEN: New tobacco sales regulations made Lars-Peter Arnesen at Solhøy Fruit and Tobacco very angry

Although it is more than ten years since Sweden's former industry minister Bjorn Rosengren called Norway the world's last Soviet state, Lars-Petter Arnesen is convinced that it is still true. Now more than ever.

"The new year's amendment, saying that we must hide our goods and will not be allowed to expose the customers for these "horrible" goods for more than 30 seconds, made that very clear. If there were any doubts anyway," said Arnesen about the business his father started as a specialty business in 1952 under the name Solhøy fruit and tobacco.

"We have a selection of 150 brands of cigarettes and about 200 other tobacco items - rolling paper, filters and more. Goods that we receive from specialty wholesalers in Oslo and Bergen, and which are not found in other shops nearby. But now we are not allowed to display these articles, so customers cannot know that we have them. Unless they are lucky enough to have found a favourite brand before new year's," he says, and straightens his fur cap.

"Since Norway is a monarchy, we have not taken up the hammer and sickle. It is more fitting with the emblem of the Russian empire pre-revolution, so that's what I have in my cap. But if it continues as now, is it just a matter of time before we are more communist than the Russians themselves."

"It is the state that controls everything here and which is putting its own citizens out of business. They control their monopoly of alcohol sales and service and earn good money from it. At the same time they do what they can to prevent us from selling goods that are legal and that my dad took trade school for commercial letters and license to sell in 1952."

"These are double standards at their worst. Therefore, it is in place with Russian signs in the store," says Lars-Petter Arnesen in Solhøy fruit and tobacco.

Link: <http://www.gjengangeren.no/nyheter/russisk-protest-1.1484422>

* (English translation)