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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

(6 - 17 January 1960)

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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage: 6 - 17 January 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 6 - 17 January 1960.

The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

C	= Ciel (Zilina)	P	= Pochoden (Hradec Kra- love)
HNK	= Hlas Nitrianskeho Kraja (Nitra)	Pra	= Pravda (Plzen)
JP	= Jihoceska Pravda (Budejovice)	Pru	= Pruboj (Usti nad La- bem)
NP	= Nase Pravda (Gottwaldov)	R	= Rovnost (Brno)
NS	= Nova Svoboda (Ostrava)	VN	= Vychodoslovenske No- viny (Kosice)

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PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level

Almost 2,000 workers from Slovakia are currently undergoing extensive training in Ostrava. All of them will eventually form the nucleus of a skilled labor force for the giant Slovak iron works "Vychodoslovenske Zelezarny", now under construction. Among the trainees are several hundred young boys who are learning various trades, such as welding, casting, lathing, etc. (NS, 13 Jan 60, p 1)

Scores [sic] of young boys, the future qualified workers of the "Vychodoslovenske Zelezarny" iron works, now under construction in Slovakia, are being trained in Ostrava. All of them come from Kosice Kraj and all "are delighted with Ostrava". (VN, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

By the end of 1959, some 700,000 workers throughout Czechoslovakia were being paid in accordance with the new wage scale. Ostrava Kraj alone accounted for over 112,000 of them. Another 3,000 workers in agriculture and the construction industry are being paid according to the new scale on a trial basis. This average shows that Ostrava Kraj is slightly ahead in the switchover. There are no reasons why the entire process cannot be completed by June 1960. (NS, 12 Jan 60, p 1)

A total of 280 officials and experts in Gottwaldov Kraj who until now were employed by okres Peoples' Councils, state tractor stations (STS), or in some of the kraj's plants will soon be transferred to agricultural cooperatives. Of this total, 86 will take over the functions of JZD (Jednotne zemedelske druzstvo; unified agricultural cooperative) chairmen, 87 will function as agronomists, 66 as technicians supervising livestock, and 44 will take over duties of accountants. (NP, 12 Jan 60, p 1)

[In all the okreses of Hradec Kralove Kraj, volunteers are signing up for work on state farms and village agricultural cooperatives, in response to a Party call to work in the countryside. Many provincial papers publish lists of these volunteers. (P, 12 Jan 60, p 1)]

176 functionaries of KSC okres committees, okres

National Committees, and other okres units have already been dispatched to the villages of Brno Kraj to strengthen the agricultural cooperatives. In Znojmo Okres, negotiations are now under way with nearly 50 functionaries who are expected to take up assignments in the countryside. (R, 13 Jan 60, p 1)

The KSC okres committee and the okres National Committee of Milovsko, Ceske Budejovice Kraj, have organized a joint campaign to send about 100 cadres to the countryside on permanent assignment. Among those leaving is the deputy chief of the okres National Committee's agricultural department. He will become head of an agricultural cooperative. (JP, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

Research institutes of the Czechoslovak Academy of Sciences (CSAV) in Brno are now holding meetings at which they discuss Third Five-Year Plan tasks with Party and trade union representatives. For instance, the Laboratory for Gas Analyses in Brno will work on developing an analyzer to detect traces in materials used for the production of plastics, a task which is entrusted to Czechoslovakia in the coordinated research of the USSR and the other People's Democracies. (R, 12 Jan 60, p 4)

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

The presidium of the Union of Anti-Fascist Fighters in Usti nad Labem Kraj sent a cable to Chancellor Adenauer protesting the "resurrection of Nazism and anti-Semitism" in West Germany. (Pru, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

Anti-Semitic provocations in West Germany and the revival of the hordes of former SS men are tactical means to divert the attention of the West German people from their struggle for peaceful settlement of the German problem. How is it possible that the swastikas and anti-Semitic slogans have appeared in Western Germany, but have not passed through the Brandenburg Gate? The answer is simple: In the GDR, there are no Nazi ministers, Nazi police chiefs, Nazi judges, Nazi industrialists, Nazi teachers, or Nazi

gangsters. We must be happy there is a democratic Germany behind the Brandenburg Gate. (Pra, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

As necessary prerequisites for local fulfillment of the economic plans, the secretary of the Slovak Zilina Kraj committee, Jan KOSCELANSKY, lists the following: introduction of new techniques and technology in industry, and in agriculture as well; further development of Socialist competition; improvement of mass political work; revival of the various commissions set up at local Party branches, making them active groups once more.

On the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation, which in most okreses of Zilina Kraj will be celebrated in March and early April, a truly mass movement must be initiated. So far, mass political work in this respect has been lagging seriously and some people think that a lecture on the very eve of the celebration will be enough. However, it is necessary to discuss specific results of the building of Socialism on each work place, and to seek methods to improve these results - first of all, by organized Socialist competition. (HNK, 16 Jan 60, p 2)

Competition without proper organization and control is no competition. This was confirmed in Dolny Kubin Okres, Zilina Kraj, when fulfillment of various pledges made by cooperative farmers was verified. In several agricultural cooperatives no one was able to produce even a record of pledges; in others, the initiative came from above but nothing was done by individual members. Some cooperatives fulfilled their pledges but spontaneously, without organization or special effort. In the future, propaganda and agitation work must be improved. (C, 17 Jan 60, p 2)

The Soviet Union's decision to reduce its armed forces by 1,200,000 men is "an event of first importance for the entire world". (NS, 16 Jan 60, p 1) [A number of other provincial papers also commented on the announced cutback.]

More than 250,000 people throughout Usti nad Labem Kraj attended lectures on various phases of life in the Soviet Union during the "Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Month". (Pru, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

During 1959, 5,384 new members of the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association were recruited in Brno Kraj. At the Svitavy State Farm alone, 360 members were enrolled. There

are now 10,637 people studying the Russian language in 889 language study circles. (R, 14 Jan 60, p 4)

The okres committee of the Slovak CP in Kysucke Nove Mesto, Zilina Kraj, had an excellent idea : to convene village intelligentsia activist meetings in all communes of the okres. Although some educated people participate in public life and carry the burdens of manifold activities, many others prefer idyllic peace and avoid public duties. On 9 January 1960, about 50 members of the approximately 100-strong group of Kysucke Nove Mesto intelligentsia met at the local National Committee rooms and agreed that whoever does not actively help in realizing the country's cultural and political tasks cannot claim to be a member of the Socialist intelligentsia. They also decided that steps must be taken to engage those who are still indifferent. (C, 17 Jan 60, p 5)

During the 1959-60 year, Party schooling courses in Hradec Kralove Kraj will be attended by 76,000 students, an increase of 11,888 over the previous year. More than one-fourth of the students are non-Party members. (P, 12 Jan 60, p 2)

There are many contradictory views as to what modern jazz is. Many amateur bands have begun to practice what they call modern jazz, but adherents of the traditional Dixieland style regard this as a "white man's adulteration of the original Negro folklore". However, neither school is completely right; It was the Negro jazz composers themselves who began to avail themselves of the more complicated means of contemporary European music.

Anyone who wants to achieve success in modern jazz cannot do so without a deep study of music : Our groups who have ventured into this field must beware of "discovering America" centuries after Columbus. To a composer who is technically well versed, modern jazz opens up new and interesting fields - but unfortunately there are very few such composers in our country. [The article was written by L. DORUZKA, a lecturer of the Czechoslovak Society for Dissemination of Political and Scientific Knowledge.] (NS, 17 Jan 60, p 3)

The first 1960 performance of the Hungarian touring company in Komarno, Zilina Kraj, was a disappointment. The play, "The Impossible Wife", written by Peter Bejach of Dresden [GDR], is not a contribution to the educational mission of our theater, but a concession to the tastes of

a certain part of the public. It is a love story - but the fact that it includes discussions of the equality of women and the leads are an engineer and the directress of a factory does not make it a contemporary play. (HNK, 16 Jan 60, p 9)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

Purposeful and systematic work was necessary to ensure the Party's correct growth in Klatovy Okres, Plzen Kraj. Old functionaries often had to be persuaded to accept candidates who could not be described as "ready-made" Communists. But the further education of candidates is the most important thing in making real Communists out of them. Thus, although there were only 154 new candidates in 1957 and 349 in 1958, 441 were recruited during 1959. Workers accounted for 58.2 percent of the 1959 candidates and cooperative farmers for 28.4 percent, so it is obvious we have succeeded in strengthening the nucleus of workers and cooperative farmers in the okres Party organization. (Pra, 14 Jan 60, p 2)

Many okres KSC committees in Brno Kraj are making an exemplary effort to help local Party branches organize their annual meetings properly. Augmenting the political brigades sent to the countryside every year around this time are, for instance, the secretary and Politburo members of the KSC okres committee in Zidlochovice. Although the Party groups in a number of villages failed to develop satisfactory activities in the past - and therefore cannot now effectively help the committee in organizing annual membership meetings - the aid of experienced functionaries from the okres committees will ensure proper preparation of high-level annual meetings. (R, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

General

A total of seven new mines are to be opened during the Third Five-Year Plan in the Ostrava-Karvina coal basin. But in addition to these seven, there is the most important "Sucha Stonava" new mine, which should be in production by

1 January 1961. Construction of the other seven is to begin in the villages of Paskov, Rychaltice, Trnavka, Darkov, Staric, Stalin V and Odersky. Two more, to be called "CSM Mines", will be in full operation before the Third Five-Year Plan is over. And a number of existing mines will be modernized and new shafts opened. (NS, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

The new rolling passage in the "NHKG" plant in Kuncice, Ostrava Kraj, is now in operation on a trial basis. When completed, it will produce tubes. (NS, 17 Jan 60, p 1)

The introduction of a second shift in several Gottwaldov Kraj plants "is fully in the workers' interest". This, of course, does not mean that the problem will be solved only by hiring additional workers - a bone of contention in many a plant. A lot can be done by improving labor productivity, by the better organization and distribution of work, by discarding obsolete machinery. At the same time there must be no discrimination against those working afternoon or night shifts - canteens must provide warm meals at all hours, transportation to and from work is to be properly organized, nurseries and kindergardens must prolong their own working days. (NP, 14 Jan 60, p 3)

One way to increase labor productivity in existing machine parks is for workers to handle several machine tools simultaneously. There are moments when a machine tool works alone; if the worker carries out no manual activity (fastening a new piece, measuring) during these periods, his time is wasted. How many machine tools a worker can operate simultaneously is determined by the ratio between machine and manual time. If the machine time is twice as long as the time necessary for manual handling, the worker can - in theory - operate three machine tools of the same kind. In practice, allowing for observation and movement between machines, it would be two.

By operating two machine tools simultaneously, the worker's productivity increases 100 percent. However, adding up the wage rates for both machines cannot be the basis for the worker's reward, as this would lead to unjustifiably high earnings. For operating two machine tools there is, of course, an incentive : a wage increase of 10 to 25 percent over the earnings achieved on one machine tool. (Pra, 14 Jan, 60, p 2)

The "Slovenske Lodenice" (Slovakian Shipyards) in Komar-

no, Zilina Okres, faces a substantial increase in its output in 1960. In 1959, it completed 25 vessels of various types; this year's plan calls for 35, four of which are to be motor ships. Work will also begin this year on the prototype of a 2,000-ton motor freighter. (HNK, 16 Jan 60, p 1)

A number of Brno Kraj industrial enterprises failed to utilize their production reserves in 1959 and therefore did not repay their credits to the State Bank on time. They thus incurred 13,000,000 koruny in penalties. During 1959, Brno enterprises also paid 7,000,000 koruny for pollution of water streams, failing to unload railroad cars on time, non-compliance with economic contracts, and so on. In these ways, Brno Kraj industries have lost 20,000,000 koruny of their profits in unproductive costs. And this affects the employees as well, as the moneys for the enterprise fund and bonus fund flow from profits achieved above the plan. More thorough control by trade union organs surely could cut down on such unproductive expenses and increase the benefits for the employees. (R, 15 Jan 60, p 2)

The "Pozemni Stavby" (Ground Construction) national enterprise in Brno was the first in Czechoslovakia to use latex-concrete mortar for construction purposes. Experiments are under way to determine if this mortar has a wider usefulness. It is a mixture of cement and sand, in a one-to-three ratio, with latex added in a ratio of 30 percent to the weight of the cement. (R, 16 Jan 60, p 2)

In April 1958, the old brickyard in Moravska Nova Ves, Brno Kraj, abandoned for 18 years, resumed production. Last year [1959], with 32 employees - 11 were women and the rest mostly pensioners - it produced 2,239,000 bricks. About one million of these were used to build up the cooperative enterprise - for this is how the brickyard was constituted - , the rest were bought at retail prices by members of the cooperative for their own use. (R, 15 Jan 60, p 3)

Water supply is a chronic Ostrava problem. Streams carry all the water away to Polish territory, so that Ostrava Kraj, representing 5 percent of Czechoslovakia's territory but 70 percent of its industries (which require a large water supply and cause the greatest water pollution), must depend on rainfall. The only solution is in dams, which are being constructed gradually. The Zermanice Dam now supplies water for industrial use, mainly for the "WHKG" plant in Kuncice. The Stonavka Dam near Terlicko will be completed

next year [1961] and another dam on the Moravka River will be completed in 1964. During the Five-Year Plan, another dam will be built on the Ostravice River, near Sance. (NS, 17 Jan 60, p 2)

Transportation and Communications

For more than a month there has been a difficult situation in the Ostrava-Kuncice railroad station, caused by the increased volume of coal, ores, and other materials being shipped to the "NHKG" plant in Kuncice. In order to restore normal traffic, it is necessary that all crews ensure the speediest possible circulation of freight cars. (NS, 17 Jan 60, p 1)

The 1959 traffic toll in Brno Kraj was anything but encouraging. In the 2,478 traffic mishaps, 161 people were killed, 688 seriously injured, and another 1,202 injured less seriously. Most of the accidents took place on weekends, which indicates that most of the guilty drivers were private car owners. Since 9,633 new motor vehicles were sold in Brno Kraj during 1959, and many more applications will be filled during 1960, their owners must be given proper driving lessons. (R, 17 Jan 60, p 4)

The kraj communications administration in Plzen plans to complete reconstruction of the Plzen telephone exchange by 1961. This will make possible direct-dialing of calls to all okreses of the kraj. At the same time, the Tachov Okres exchange will be completely automatized. By 1963, Plzen Okres will have a fully automatic exchange and further okreses will have them later. (Pra, 12 Jan 60, p 3)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Social Problems

Employees of the "Jihoceske Strojirny" (South Bohemian Engineering Works) in Velesin, Ceske Budejovice Kraj, are proud of their good reputation : There have been very few cases falling within the jurisdiction of a People's Court. Order in the plant is maintained by the management and its

organs, as well as by a collective of People's Judges, who watch over the people's behavior outside of the plant.

The latter, sitting as a Comrade Court, just the other day had a case before them. Meeting in a factory office in the presence of 40 people, they tried an employee who had missed one, two, or even more shifts monthly because of drinking. The employee promised that he would stop drinking; his fellow workers pledged to keep an eye on him after working hours to keep him away from bad influences, and the chairman of the Comrade Court pronounced the sentence : a public reprimand and two days to be subtracted from his paid vacation for every shift he missed. This is indeed the correct way to safeguard labor discipline and to maintain harmony among employees - for his fellow workers look on him not as a guilty man, but as someone who needs their help. (JP, 12 Jan 60, p 3)

Housing

A number of privately owned houses in Ostrava Kraj were recently taken into collective "Socialist care" by the tenants themselves. After initial distrust, the tenants realized that their duties do not end with the payment of rent, the more so since the original owners did not take proper care of the apartment houses. The tenants themselves are now responsible for small odd jobs, various repairs, and for painting the walls. Tenants in one house in Vitkovice gave "their" house some 14,000 hours of voluntary brigade work during 1959 and saved the management some 70,000 to 80,000 koruny. The tenants were the gainers, too, for if outside help had to be called in, they would have had to wait a long time for those repairs to be actually made.

The tenants have their own "Brigade punching cards" on which brigade hours are noted. Whenever a house is taken into "Socialist care", a "Socialist pledge" is drafted. This reads, in part : "We are making this pledge in order to improve the appearance of our town and, above all, for health, cleanliness and pleasant surroundings in the vicinity of our house, for good living conditions for our children. We will take good care of all equipment, so that carrying charges for our houses can be kept at a minimum." (NS, 13 Jan 60, p 2)

In Usti nad Labem Kraj, 4,500 new apartments and 400 re-decorated apartments were turned over to tenants in 1959. A total of 15,000 citizens were able to move into these dwell-

ings. In 1960, a total of 6,000 apartments are to be constructed, in addition to six school buildings, seven kindergartens and eight nurseries. Although the over-all outlook is not too bad, there are serious delays in the preparation of building materials and cooperatives are growing only slowly. (Pru, 12 Jan 60, p 1)

In Ceske Budejovice, 32 apartment houses have already been taken over by their tenants for Socialist maintenance. In a mere six months, these tenants put in over 11,000 hours of brigade work on repairs and for 1960 they pledge another 37,212 hours. The housing administration in Ceske Budejovice plans to see that all newly built apartment houses have Socialist maintenance provided by their tenants. This will not only limit the demand on various skilled construction workers, of whom there is a shortage, but will also increase the tenants interest in the cleanliness of their buildings. (JP, 14 Jan 60, p 1)

An exhibition on "Cooperative Housing" was opened on 15 January 1960 in Zilina. Every visitor who fills out a questionnaire enters a contest in which he can win a savings account with up to 1,000 koruny on deposit - this can be used only to finance construction of a house or apartment. (C, 17 Jan 60, p 9)

Education

There are 2,925 people in Nitra Kraj studying in technical or agricultural schools after their full-time jobs. A serious shortcoming in the organization of after-work study is the lack of textbooks and absence of curricula especially suitable for adults with practical experience. The existing textbooks are designed for regular schools - i.e. for young people without practical experience. These must be eliminated. Participation of adults in further study should be encouraged, as in the future Communist society continuous education and study will be one of every man's daily needs. (HNK, 16 Jan 60, p 1)

The People's University in Brno opened its sixth semester on 1 January 1960. It offers 12 series of lectures, among which are the second part of the series on dialectical materialism, a series on the history of religions and atheism, and others on the psychological problems in the education of youth, on social education and taste, and on

"Countries of the Southern Sun", which had to be cancelled for technical reasons during the last semester. (R, 17 Jan 60, p 4)

Religion.

You don't need religion in order to have a happy family life. If the theologians assert that love is of divine origine, they lie. In early human history there was no family love, nor was there any among Indian tribes. Religion is incapable of explaining the nature and substance of love, which originated and evolved according to historical progress and social relations. In fact, married couples living in fear of divine arbitrariness which could destroy their happiness just to test them or to avenge their sins are precisely those whose life cannot be called happy and gay. Here, religious thinking is positively harmful to normal family life. (C, 17 Jan 60, p 10)

Other items

The average life expectancy in Czechoslovakia is rising. In prewar times, the average for men was 54.9 and for women 58.7 years. In 1958 it was 67.2 and 72.3 respectively. This represents a rise of 12 years for men and of 13 years for women. This development reflects not only the improved health services but also the steadily rising standard of living in the Peoples' Democracies. (NS, 12 Jan 60, p 2)

In order to facilitate retail buying, special price lists will be displayed in all Kosice Kraj food shops. Whenever changes occur in the prices of various items, the amount of the change and date of enforcement will be clearly marked. Furthermore, colors on the wrappings of various packaged items will denote three grades of quality. It is hoped that in this way unpleasant disputes between the customers and sales personnel will be avoided. (VN, 14 Jan 60, p 1)