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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK
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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAL PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage: 3-9 March 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 3 - 9 March 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

Source Abbreviations

C	= <u>Ciel</u> (Zilina)	P	= <u>Pochoden</u> (Hradec Kra-
HNK	= <u>Hlas Nitrianskeho Kraja</u>		love)
	(Nitra)	Pra	= <u>Pravda</u> (Plzen)
JP	= <u>Jihoceska Pravda</u> (bude-	Pru	= <u>Pruboj</u> (Usti nad Labem)
	jovice)	R	= <u>Rovnost</u> (Brno)
NP	= <u>Nase Pravda</u> (Gottwaldov)	VN	= <u>Vychodoslovenske Novi-</u>
NS	= <u>Nova Svoboda</u> (Ostrava)		ny (Kosice)

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PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

Implementation of Government Policy on a Regional and Local Level

[See Part III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION.]

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

The story of German bases in Spain shows how untrue it was to assert that NATO would be able to keep check of the West German militarism. Adenauer's regime has clearly grown too big for NATO to control, and we can see how dangerous are arms in the hands of the West German militarists. (HNK, 5 Mar 60, p 2)

United States policy appears to be seeking a new formula for its old German policy. For instance, there is talk of a new plan to conduct a plebiscite in both parts of Germany on whether the peace treaty should be concluded with both German states or a unified Germany. But this plan again brings up the idea of some sort of elections - which provides for no viable way, as democratic liberties in West Germany have been drastically curtailed. Under the conditions prevailing in West Germany, any election would be a mere farce. (NS, 4 Mar 60, p 3)

The 12th anniversary of the working people's victory over the domestic and foreign bourgeoisie [i.e., the coup d'etat in 1948] was marked in Zilina by an evening of proletarian poetry. The program was a militant apotheosis of the struggle against exploiters. (C, 6 Mar 60, p 5)

Last Sunday [28 February 1960] "Agitation Week" was launched in Ceske Budejovice Kraj. Hundreds of agitators visited families in towns and villages to discuss the political situation in the world, the production tasks in agriculture and industry, and fulfillment of the citizens' pledges in honor of the 15th anniversary of Czechoslovakia's liberation.

For instance, in one district in Ceske Budejovice 42 agitators visited 92 families. They obtained additional pledges

representing 310 hours of work, and 200 of those hours will be put in by 28 Gypsy families, ten of which decided to join the Czechoslovak-Soviet Friendship Association. (JP, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

As elsewhere, March is "Book Month" in Plzen Kraj, where people read avidly. A total of 1,900,000 books were lent in kraj in 1959. And one has to keep in mind other figures as well. For example, Prague can boast of more bookshops than New York, a city with eight times the population.

Not that all readers in Plzen Kraj are truly cultured people. There are some who will attempt to persuade you that "this Brom... Bromfeld or whatever his name is, you know, the one who wrote that novel about the rains... how great, how sophisticated..." and they will persuade you to read the book. Well, these are individuals who went around with such recommendations last year and the year before... maybe they even read it themselves.

Let us remember this March that books are not sweet confectionary, a matter of fashion, and a sign of good taste. Books are man-made miracles given to man to make his life happier. (Pra, 5 Mar 60, p 2)

Max ZIMMERING, a proletarian writer and poet from the DR, delivered a lecture on his work at the Department of Philosophy, Masaryk University, Brno. (R, 6 Mar 60, p 1)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

Party organizations in Ostrava Kraj have accepted a total of 727 new candidates for membership since the beginning of 1960. Of this number, 515 are workers and 74 members of agricultural cooperatives; 333 of the new candidates are 26 years of age or younger. (NS, 4 Mar 60, p 2)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

The "Tatra" automobile plant in Koprivnice, Ostrava Kraj, faces high production tasks under the Third Five-Year Plan: 1960 output is to increase by 15 percent over 1959, and during the Third Five-Year Plan gradually to 175 percent above the 1959 output. This will require gradual automatization of

all production facilities. (NS, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

The CC CPCS directives for the Third Five-Year Plan provide eliminating the disproportion between production and consumption of industrial timber by 1970. This means, in essence, reducing the amount of timber removed from our woods.

In Ostrava Kraj, during 1960, 15 percent more trees will be felled for timber than the number of trees reaching maturity. Most of the savings in consumption of timber must be obtained in the Ostrava coal mines, where the amount of timber used in excess of the plan in 1959 was 30,000 cubic meters. (NS, 4 Mar 60, p 1)

The Gottwaldov "Svit" enterprise convened a conference of its basic KSC organization to discuss the enterprise's economic tasks, as well as improvement of Party work. The enterprise has now set itself a new task : to achieve first place in the world in setting the fashion in footwear. (NP, 8 Mar 60, p 1)

The Ostrava branch of the State Bank stated in its last information bulletin among other things, that : "Industrial enterprises have not yet managed to create their own resources for financing higher wage expenditures arising from the reorganization of the wage system. Allocations from the state budget continue to be made available for this purpose; in January 1960, these totalled more than 7,000,000 koruny for Ostrava Kraj, which is about 52 koruny for each worker."

While this proves that the result of the reorganization was higher wages, the effectiveness of investments and labor productivity lagged behind. In January 1960, only 62 percent of Ostrava enterprises met the targets in gross output (this failure was caused mainly by the metallurgical industries and coal mines); but only 52 percent of these enterprises maintained the planned advance of productivity rate over the growth of wages. (NS, 5 Mar 60, p 1)

According to Jiri LUKAVSKY, secretary of the KSC Plzen Kraj Committee, the revised production directives for the Third Five-Year Plan, issued by the CC CPCS, call for a major effort on the part of Plzen Kraj industries. The problem here is that the kraj has only limited possibilities to acquire additional labor forces. Wherever such reserves may still exist, they are already earmarked for new local industries. This is the case in Tachov and Stribro Okreses.

The only feasible solution is to increase labor productivity significantly. The "Leninovy Zavody" works in Plzen already have made plans to cover the growth in production up to 80-90 percent through increased labor productivity.

Planning from year to year is of utmost importance. It does not make sense to build new production halls and then to transfer old and obsolete machinery into them. Also, too much industrial building is still going on throughout the kraj, while machine investments lag behind. (Pra, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

The Brno Kraj Union of Nationalized Building Enterprises failed to fulfill the January, 1960 production plan. Not one of the six enterprises in the Union met the plan. Most of the managers and workers responsible for these failures promised to make up the losses in the first quarter of the year. However, some of the enterprises had not even managed by March to secure pledges in this respect. And at least one of them did not even tackle the problem. Such an attitude endangers the entire building industry of the kraj. (R, 6 Mar 60, p 1)

The pre-heating furnace for the new continuous rolling passage in the "NHKG" plant in Kuncice, Ostrava Kraj, was fired for the first time on 7 March 1960. The furnace is completely automatic; Ingots are transported by magnetic cranes and inserted at 12-second intervals. Some 600 tons of machine equipment and 2,500 tons of building material went into its construction. The completion of the furnace is an important step in erecting the complete installation within the deadline set by the government. (NS, 8 Mar 60, p 1)

During 1959, the average cost per ton of coal extracted in the Ostrava coal mines was 2.6 percent higher than planned, which resulted in a loss of 70,000,000 koruny. Now, during 1960, the miners face the task of knocking off at least one percent of the cost in honor of the 15th anniversary of the country's liberation. Last Monday, this task was discussed by the Politburo of the KSC kraj committee, and steps are now being taken in the individual mines to effect the pledged saving. (NS, 4 Mar 60, p 1)

On 3 March 1960, the Politburo of the Plzen Kraj KSC met in an extraordinary session devoted entirely to agriculture. It was found that although all state farms and a large majority of cooperative farms of the kraj have pledged to overfulfill their production quotas in the jubilee year of 1960, too many farms considered this pledge a mere formality. There is a tendency now to decrease the pledges made in the second

part of 1959, the poor harvest serving as the general excuse. This tendency has to be fought mercilessly.

The meeting coined a new slogan: "Two cubic meters of manure for each hectare of agricultural land!" This means that starting in 1960, the newly established Zapadocesky [West Bohemian] Kraj is to provide each year a total of 1,000,000 cubic meters of manure.

Such a target can be reached only with the help of the entire population of the kraj.

Corn remains the "agricultural product of Socialist mass production", the meeting noted, and is at the top of the list for 1960 spring sowing.

Deliveries to the state are not satisfactory. Although Plzen Kraj ranked among the best in the state in 1959, this year it is the last on the list. The kraj owes some 6,500,000 eggs, and a similar situation exists in the deliveries of milk. (Pra, 5 Mar 60, pp 1-2)

At present, there are 80 agricultural cooperatives (JZD) in Ceske Budejovice Kraj which originated by mergers of what used to be 207 cooperatives. The purpose of mergers is to create further preconditions for specialization in production, and to reduce production costs per unit of manpower. Furthermore, in merged cooperatives it is possible to place Communists correctly, in charge of the most important sectors. (JP, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Church and Religion

What are the basic and irreconcilable contradictions between science and religion? Basically, science is a materialistic conception of the world, its origin, development, and final goals. Religion is basically idealistic in its concept of the non-materialistic, spiritual basis of the world - God, Allah, Buddha. Science recognizes the iron law of continuous progress, which religion denies. Science is progressive, religion reactionary and static. Science helps progress, religion deters it. Science proves all men equal. Religion

wants man to kneel down in front of a metaphysical God. (Pra, 5 Mar 60, p 2)

The People's Astronomical Observatory in Ostrava had a successful year in 1959 in terms of its activities. In addition to guiding thousands of visitors through the observatory, personnel arranged 275 outside lectures dealing with Soviet cosmic rockets, the latest views of the universe, and the materialistic concept of the universe. They have thus contributed to atheistic education. (NS, 9 Mar 60, p 2)

Various forms of soothsaying, spiritualism, and prophesying are widespread in capitalist countries, supposedly proving the existence of after-life. In the United States alone, people spend about \$ 125 million each year hoping to find out what awaits them in the capitalist jungle.

Unscientific prophecies, reliance on so-called superior beings, and fate - these were the methods by which the ruling classes for centuries held the working people under their yoke in order to exploit them better. But when the working people wanted to change their class fate, they had to abandon faith in these illusions and, under the leadership of the Communist Party, overthrow the bourgeois exploiters. The Socialist society which they are building is guided by Marxism-Leninism which makes it possible for the working people to foresee scientifically future events and to move in the direction of world progress. (HNK, 5 Mar 60, p 2)

Youth Activities

The main subject of discussion at the constituent conference of the Hradec Kralove local committee of the KSC was Communist education, primarily that of young people. One of the permanent tasks of political persuasion work, not only in schools but also among parents, mass organizations, the CSM and elsewhere, is to ensure that young people consciously select trades or professions most needed by the national economy.

Although there has been improvement in youth work, thanks to implementation of the principle of putting the CSM under direct Party guidance, all is not yet well. For instance, the circuit theater, where there is a CSM organization with ten members, sent a letter to the CSM okres committee asking it to arrange a trip abroad for 40 people. The explanation of the request was that such a trip was necessary to win in-

fluence for the CSM organization, which otherwise would have none.

With the expansion of the local engineering industries under the Third Five-Year Plan, the population of the city of Hradec Kralove is expected to increase by 15- to 20,000 by 1965. The local committee of the Party, unanimously elected by the delegates at the Sunday meeting, will supervise all Party branches in the city : 214 in the plants, 23 in the schools, and 14 street branches. (P, 3 Mar 60, p 2)

Social Deficiencies

Ever more houses, that were privately owned until recently, are changing hands in Usti nad Labem Kraj and are being taken over into "Socialist care"; that is, into the care of those who live in them. In Zatec, Usti nad Labem Kraj, another apartment house was recently taken over by the tenants, headed by Comrade B. MASTAK. (Pru, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

Instead of 507 apartments which were to be completed in Ostrava Kraj in February 1960, according to the plan, only 379 were made available to tenants. (NS, 9 Mar 60, p 2)

The housing problem in Usti nad Labem Kraj is to be solved not only by building new houses, but also through proper maintenance of older houses and apartments. In this respect, however, results are less than encouraging. Superintendents put all the blame squarely on okres building organizations or on local house maintenance offices. In turn, both these outfits blame their own incompetence on the lack of labor, of materials, or else simply state that "small repairs are not worth their effort".

Well, so far as labor shortages are concerned, the facts are that in our kraj there is a shortage of 190 men - a small fraction of the total number of workers employed by the house maintenance offices [total not given]. The shortage does, however, hit the two most important groups : bricklayers and roof repairmen.

But there is also an extremely bad organization of work in many an okres building organization. Employees sent out to make repairs have to wait for instructions and material, work has to be suspended for months at a time because of the lack of necessary material. One must really ask what all the directors and their administrative officials are doing all

the time ? At other sites, material is brought to the actual site and then stays there in heaps, sometimes for years before work is started.

The quality of repair work is often shoddy, and it will continue to be so unless proper control is established and until superintendents refuse to take over such faulty work. And, above all, it is up to the tenants to make the smaller repairs themselves, in cooperation with the superintendent's office, which is to supply the necessary tools and materials. (Pru, 3 Mar 60, p 1)

There are nearly 40 housing cooperatives in Ostrava Kraj. Although the National Committees made a great effort to encourage the foundation of cooperatives, in many cases they have done little more than that. For instance, cooperative members received hardly any help in securing architectural designs. The Kraj Institute for Project Designs is too busy with work on state construction; however, a reserve that may still be utilized lies in the spare time of its employees, who could help.

Another bottleneck is in the administrative procedures : It was found that if all rules are adhered to, it would take about 49 weeks from preparing the investment task to securing approval of the project.

The shortage of materials has been hampering the progress of cooperative housing construction. It is necessary to provide for supplies in the plan set forth by the Kraj Planning Commission, particularly since we expect more cooperatives to be established and their members to engage in self-help. For instance, the cooperative in Naves asked for 3.5 tons of steel for reinforced concrete work, but received only 1 ton; when it asked for 16 bathtubs, only 13 were allocated, and so on - without explanation as to why the full quantities could not be supplied or where the rest might be obtained. Here the National Committees can help - by arranging for production above the plan, giving advice as to the availability of materials from demolished buildings, or making possible the production of certain materials from waste. But they should not be deaf to the cooperatives' requests for aid. (NS, 9 Mar 60, p 1)

There are still many incorrect views about cooperative housing construction. The most commonly heard is : "Why should I assume responsibility for building, take out a loan, and spend years paying it back, when others - some-

times with higher salaries - already have got, or will get apartments in state housing construction for nothing?" This view is often voiced with a certain measure of irritation.

What are the facts? Apartments from state housing construction are to be allocated on a priority basis to persons employed in places where they are highly important for the development of our economy, and to persons who will not hesitate to move to another place if they should be needed elsewhere. Furthermore, families with many children or with reduced earning opportunities are considered. These apartments are for rent - not "for nothing".

But state housing construction will not be able to satisfy all applicants. That's where cooperative housing construction comes in, to make it possible for persons who are willing to engage in self-help and who have their own savings to have apartments of their own at the earliest possible time. There is no need to pose the question "Why should I join a cooperative?" as implying an injustice.

There are, to be sure, shortcomings in cooperative housing construction. Members are often at a loss to explain why the architectural designs are priced so high when the units are all standardized in a few existing types. For instance, the design for a unit with four apartments, Type T-13, costs 6,000 to 7,000 koruny. These charges are correct according to the state price list - but nevertheless, they are too high. There is no reason why some help could not be obtained by organizing employees of the design bureaus to do this work for housing cooperatives for free, in their spare time, as some of them have already done. (C, 6 Mar 60, p 4)

As of now, there are 23 housing cooperatives with 773 members in Ceske Budejovice Kraj. Some of them are contending with a number of problems. For instance, the cooperative formed by employees of the "Motor", "Iгла", and "Sfinx" factories in Ceske Budejovice began to build 12 dwelling units in May 1959. Despite all the difficulties in obtaining materials, and sometimes also brigade help, they did complete a good deal of work before the end of the year.

Their success encouraged 25 new members to join, and the agreement was to start construction of 32 new housing units. But nothing has moved since. The local National Committee failed to make sure of the requisite documentation and acquisition of sites. Members wanted to turn over construc-

tion work to the "Pozemni Stavby" (Ground Construction) enterprise [apparently without result].

The people who wanted to offer their own work to help in solving a national task are by now embittered. Similar troubles exist in other cooperatives in Ceske Budejovice. Members know that there are, and will remain, difficulties in the supply of various materials such as roof tiles, etc., but they expect others to offer good will and the help they are entitled to get. (JP, 3 Mar 60, p 2)

At present, there is a file of nearly 4,000 applicants for connection to the power supply lines. Installation work has been slowed down because of a shortage of materials, especially conductors. In the last few days help came from the GDR in the form of 60 tons of pure aluminum conductors. In the immediate future, only group connections - where the length of the connection is 150 meters or less - will be carried out. Longer connections, or connections to summer cottages, will be postponed until later time. (NS, 9 Mar 60, p 1)

Local services in Usti nad Labem Kraj are a constant source of irritation to the population. Troubles range from hairdressers who refuse to work on the heads of ladies who did not make a previous, personal appointment (appointments by telephone are not accepted), to lavatory pipes that are clogged for months on end. In this latter case the superintendents of the apartment house thus plagued, Comrades KUDR and RYBAR, in Teplice, simply drew up a picture of the "Good Soldier Schweik" bearing the caption: "Hold it citizens!". A similar situation arose in Duchcov.

These things cannot go on. Let's remember that criticism voiced by the public does not limit itself to the building and maintenance organizations, but goes much further and deeper... (Pru, 3 Mar 60, p 2)

Currently there are 54,900 telephone subscribers in Brno Kraj. This number is to be increased by 1965 to 92,700. More than half of these will be in the city of Brno. A new automatic switchboard will be in operation by 1961 in the same city, while another one is planned for the Third Five-Year Plan. Eventually there will be one telephone subscriber per 100 citizens.

During the Third Five-Year Plan, 45,000 more people in the kraj will also be able to listen to wired radio. Postal

services, too, will be greatly improved. An additional television transmitter is currently built at the Mount Kojal Brno site. This second transmitter is to serve as reserve, emergency equipment. Brno Kraj will be served by the end of 1960 by a radio transmitter using ultra-short waves for better reception. (R, 5 Mar 60, p 4)

Smuggling was a thriving business for the poor people in the Orava and Kysuca area, Zilina Kraj, during the bourgeois republic. Today, smuggling is strictly organized by speculators, but unfortunately carried out by a number of working people. They do not work, make a great deal of money, build new houses for themselves. From Poland they bring into our country scarves, sweaters and, until recently chewing gum. The demand seems great, for some of the sweaters and scarves can be seen as far away as in Bratislava. It is the smugglers' "merit" that our people sometimes complain that they cannot obtain zippers and similar items [which the smugglers presumably offer]. Just recently organs of public security apprehended a woman in Trstena who engaged in smuggling, although she had opportunity to work. In her home, police found large numbers of cashmere scarves, plastic handbags, and neck chains with a cross, in a total value of 35,000 koruny. On the black market, the value would have been at least twice as much.

It has also happened that smugglers criticized border guards for their inhumanity in opening fire. However, the smugglers do not like to obey orders to halt. Our law to protect the frontiers is strict and applies to all who violate them, including smugglers. (C, 6 Mar 60, p 11)

A Hradec Kralove driver who was employed for a time in the Tatra Mountains was fascinated not only by the mountain air but by the kerchiefs and cashmere scarves worn by local women. His business man's heart immediately embraced the vision of bringing them in large quantities to his home town, at a good profit, of course. Soon the business contact was made, and parcels started coming from the Tatra Mountains to Hradec Kralove with the merchandise - insured parcels containing money going the other way. Business was good. So were the profits: A wool kerchief acquired for 160 koruny was sold for 250, and so on. But the merchandise was smuggled in from Poland, and the driver will be told in the People's Court what the total value of his business was. Let us hope that the cashmere scarves cost him a lot. (P, 3 Mar 60, p 5)

[From a reader's letter:] Much effort is being made to

advertise non-alcoholic drinks, but in Havirov, the large residential development for young families, they are unavailable. The stores get bottled mineral water only once a month, and sometimes only once in two or three months, and the supply lasts no longer than two weeks. (NS, 9 Mar 60, p 3)

In 1959, the okres National Committees in Ceske Budejovice Kraj dealt with 615 cases of misdemeanors caused by alcohol. These included 151 persons employed by restaurant enterprises and 464 citizens who committed culpable deeds while under the influence of alcohol. Thus, the situation has not improved much, although the sale of hard liquor decreased from 1,402,200 liters in 1957 to 475,300 liters by the third quarter of 1959. With its population over 500,000, Ceske Budejovice Kraj registered 1,275 habitual alcoholics two years ago; in 1958, 125 alcoholics went through the anti-alcohol station in the city, and in 1959 there were 150. (JP, 8 Mar 60, p 3)

Over the last few months, the number of cases before the People's Courts in Gottwaldov Kraj decreased markedly: in the second half of 1959, their number was 36 percent fewer than in the comparable period of 1958. This was because of the work of disciplinary commissions in plants and penal commissions of the National Committees. Also, the first Comrade Courts began to be active during the past few weeks. Between August 1959 and the end of January 1960, these social organizations have dealt with a total of 447 offenses in the kraj, of which in 78 cases with the assistance of public security organs.

At present, there are 23 Comrade Courts in the kraj, of which six are in Gottwaldov, four each in Valasske Mezirici and Straznice, and the rest in other places. Now the task is to prepare conditions for establishing further Comrade Courts where they do not yet exist. This requires intensification of the educational work of the Party building toward a higher degree of socialist consciousness and sense of responsibility toward the collective. (NP, 5 Mar 60, p 3)

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