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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

(5 - 11 January 1960)

(38th of the series)

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SUMMARY OF THE CZECHOSLOVAK PROVINCIAL PRESS

Source Coverage : 5 - 11 January 1960

This report is based on selected issues of provincial Czechoslovak newspapers published during the period 5 - 11 January 1960. The statements within brackets are those of the researcher.

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Source Abbreviations

C = Ciel (Zilina)	P = Pochoden (Hradec Kralove)
JP = Jihoceska Pravda (Budejovice)	Pra = Pravda (Plzen)
NP = Nase Pravda (Gottwaldov)	Pru = Pruboj (Usti nad Labem)
NS = Nova Svoboda (Ostrava)	R = Rovnost (Brno)
VN = Vychodoslovenske Noviny (Kosice)	

PART I. THE GOVERNMENT

(See PART III, Economic Information)

PART II. THE COMMUNIST PARTY

Indoctrination and Propaganda

In one week, 27,200 people in the city of Plzen saw the documentary film "Khrushchev in America". Because of this great interest, it will be held over for another week. (P, 7 Jan 60, p 1)

The first Czechoslovak performance of Lorraine Hansberry's play "A Raisin in the Sun", about a Chicago Negro family, is to take place in Ostrava 9 January 1960. It was extremely successful in the US, which is quite out of the ordinary since the author "is a Negro woman who won public praise in spite of racial prejudices". (NS, 7 Jan 60, p 2)

National Guardian, the American weekly, published a report by its correspondent, Anna BAUER, entitled "New Towns Symbolize Industrial Growth of Czechoslovakia". The author, who recently visited this country, describes industrial development, especially in the Ostrava basin. She remarks that "the visitor is strongly impressed". (R, 10 Jan 60, p 3)

∟The Ostrava daily quotes from the West German paper "Westdeutsche Tageblatt" which advocates closing down the Radio Free Europe network which broadcasts to the Communist-ruled countries from the German Federal Republic. The German paper calls it "a tool in the hands of emigre agents" engaged in broadcasting code messages. (NS, 5 Jan 60, p 2)∟

∟A strongly critical two-column commentary on the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitism in "Western" Germany puts the blame almost exclusively on the Adenauer government. It claims that these occurrences are a logical product of "German militarism" and the capitalist order in West Germany. (R, 10 Jan 60, p 2)∟

Since the 15th anniversary of the Soviet armies' liberation of Czechoslovakia is rapidly approaching, we believe that each and every Budejovice Kraj citizen should make a pledge to work above and beyond his normal duties. Each working hour freely given feeds the wide river of our massive collective effort. Moreover, it is proof of a true belief in the Socialist construction of our country. (JP, 7 Jan 60, p 1)

By May 1959, a total of 1,500 new members of the Soviet-Czechoslovak Friendship Society were to have been enrolled in Svitavy Okres, Brno Kraj. However, by the end of 1959, 1,600 members had been enrolled and the list is still growing. (R, 10 Jan, p 1)

Party Membership, Dues, Activities

Party activities and political education are most unsatisfactory in the "Sfinx" state enterprise in the capital city of Ceske Budejovice Kraj. Consequently, production is lagging. According to a report by a member of the plant's KSC organization, the slackening of Party activities can be traced to the following reasons : 1) There is overconfidence and a feeling of self-satisfaction among Party members. 2) Although changes were made in the leadership of the organization, as well as in the leadership of the trade union and youth groups, the suspended functionaries still have influence within these groups and various intrigues have come into play, weakening the organizations and undermining their activities. 3) Party decisions have either been ignored or bypassed by some members of the plant's management; in some cases, Party criticism was rejected or not even discussed. Thus, Party members were not on the best of terms with the management.

The report stressed the necessity of changes both within the plant organizations and in the attitude of the management. The "cult of the individual" must come to an end. (JP, 9 Jan 60, p 2)

"Party schooling" in Ceske Budejovice Kraj in the past suffered from a formalistic approach to practical tasks and from a lack of discipline. Attendance at the various courses was low, actual results of studies meager, and the lack of active participation in seminars and discussions almost complete. In almost every okres of the kraj there were some

organizations which did not even bother to introduce Party schooling. All this shows, among other things, that Party schooling in itself is not enough. Wider popularization and dissemination of Marxist teaching is to be launched, especially in the villages. These courses should be more closely related to the practical tasks facing us in agriculture. In view of the forthcoming Third Five-Year Plan, a lot is also to be done in the factories. It will be the task of the annual Party plenary sessions to evaluate past experiences with Party schooling, and with ideological instruction in general, and to improve on the results in the future. (JP, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

In Brno Kraj, for the 1959-1960 period, Party schooling shows considerable improvement. A total of 5,048 groups have been organized, as well as 453 evening courses of various types. In addition, 8,663 students attend specialized seminars and 4,222 comrades are active in lecturers' groups attached to the Party okres organizations. Although 78.1 percent of those attending are Party members or candidates, the number of non-members attending various political courses is also growing - a total of 39,000 non-members take courses in political education.

These figures prove that all theories to the effect that there is no interest in Party schooling, that members are "tired out" by years of political education, and so forth, are incorrect. On the contrary, the figures can serve as proof of the "growing attractiveness and authority of our Party organizations".

But even though the situation in the cities and plants is satisfactory, Party schooling and political education in the village organizations show "serious shortcomings". By October 1959, only half of the courses planned had actually started; it was only by the end of the year that most of them were under way. Too few non-members are included, and the same is true of members and officers of agricultural co-operatives, People's Councils, and other mass organizations.

The Politburo of the KSC kraj committee directs all okres and regional Party committees to pay full attention to the organization of courses in political education, especially in the villages. (R, 5 Jan 60, pp 1-2)

Enlistment of JZD members as Party candidates was stepped up in Novy Bydzov Okres, Hradec Kralove Kraj, during 1959.

In 1958, only 54 cooperative farmers were accepted as candidates, but in 1959 the number was 115, of a total of 340 candidates, and 40 of the 115 are under 35 years of age. (P, 7 Jan 60, p 2)

Cooperative farming in Zilina Kraj is lagging behind the rest of the Republic. Although the land now in the cooperative system amounts to 85 percent of all arable land in Czechoslovakia, in Zilina Kraj only 50 percent of the land is under collective care.

This state of affairs is reflected in over-all agricultural production results. The only solution is to switch from small private farming to Socialist agricultural production. In order to propagate the advantages of cooperative farming meaningfully, the kraj committee has dispatched some 200 agitators to the villages. They will help local Party functionaries in political persuasion designed to speed up the growth of new cooperatives in the kraj. (C, 10 Jan 60, p 1)

As in all other krajs, in Gottwaldov Kraj, too, preparations for the annual Party membership plenary sessions are in full swing. Comrades will have to evaluate Party activities of the past year and plan for the next in all the works, plants and agricultural cooperatives Party organizations. Practical issues, such as the introduction of a second shift, are often in the forefront of interest. (NP, 9 Jan 60, p 2)

PART III. ECONOMIC INFORMATION

Goals, Output, Wages, Plan Fulfillment

The new year, which is, incidentally, the last year of the current Five-Year Plan, started well in the Ostrava-Karvina coal basin. In five days of the first week of 1960, miners produced 1,810 tons of coal above norms stipulated in the new, upgraded plan. The "Ceskoslovensky Pionyr" mine decided to better the Soviet 1958 record of monthly mechanized coal hauling - 33,517 tons. (NS, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

As of 1 January 1960, some 16,045 additional workers are

to be paid in accordance with the new wage structure. And, in addition, 21,286 employees in the Hradec Kralove Kraj consumer industry are already enjoying the benefits of the new system. Workers in the chemical industry of the kraj are now all covered by it. (P, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

The working people of Ceske Budejovice Kraj fulfilled the kraj's 1959 plan of land amelioration by 101.75 percent. A total of 4,000 hectares of land were redeemed and made arable. (JP, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

There are too many accidents on construction sites and they are causing considerable economic losses in Brno Kraj. In nine months of 1959, a total of 24,783 shifts were lost because of accidents and mishaps on construction sites. In 1960, it will be the task of everybody concerned to reduce the number of shifts lost through accidents by at least 2,000. (R, 6 Jan 60, p 1)

Plzen Kraj citizens have pledged to give a total of 180,000 shifts in voluntary land amelioration brigade work before early May 1960, to celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Soviet Army's liberation of Czechoslovakia in a fitting manner. (Pra, 5 Jan 60, p 1)

The first "experimental" apartment house built entirely of prefabricated materials is nearing completion in Hradec Kralove, the kraj capital. However, a number of state enterprises which have failed to deliver necessary parts or materials on time are holding things up. They are : the "Kovona" enterprise in Karvina, Ostrava Kraj, which failed to deliver "B-3" partitions, the "Slovenske Armaturky" in Myjava, Slovakia, which failed to deliver 24 batteries [sic] for bathrooms, the "Fatra" in Napajedla, Brno Kraj, which did not deliver adhesive wallpaper, the "Branecke Zelezarny" in Trebechovice, which failed to supply key-hole iron parts, the "Romeslnicke Potreby" in Hradec Kralove and in Prague which did not send pads to put under the flooring, and the "Ligna" in Prague, which also failed to deliver wallpaper. Several other parts needed to finish the staircase are also unavailable. (P, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

Transportation and Communications

A new railway goods yard was opened on 3 January 1960 in Velke Kapusany, Kosice Kraj, Eastern Slovakia, on the Soviet-Czechoslovak border. In the presence of a number of Soviet and Czechoslovak officials, they were put into operation with the arrival of the first Soviet train carrying goods from the USSR. The new yards had to be constructed since the other railway point - "the largest Czechoslovak land port" - in Cierna nad Tisou, which up to now received all freight trains from the USSR, can no longer handle the increasing amount of goods and the number of incoming wide-track Soviet trains. (VN, 5 Jan 60, p 1)

The first two of a group of Soviet turbojet transport planes, the "Ilyushin 18" landed in Prague. They were bought in the USSR and will serve as "commuter expresses" on domestic and international flights. Each plane seats 80 persons. (NS, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

Thirteen Brno Kraj branches of the "CSAD" - Czechoslovak Bus and Truck Transportation - decided to introduce two shifts in order to fulfill the new 1960 goals for goods and passenger auto transport. (R, 10 Jan 60, p 1)

A new, 100-kilowatt television relay station is currently under construction near Krasov, on borderline between Plzen and Karlovy Vary Krajs; it will serve viewers in both krajs. (Pra, 9 Jan 60, p 2)

There were some 11,059 more television sets bought in 1959 in Usti nad Labem Kraj, increasing the total sets in the area to a record high of 46,019. Toplice Okres leads with 6,409, just ahead of Chomutov Okres with 5,101 sets. (Pru, 9 Jan 60, p 1)

PART IV. SOCIOLOGICAL ITEMS

Church and Religion

A new installment of "Church and Science", the series published regularly in the Ceske Budejovice Kraj Party paper, this time takes up the origin and development of the Catholic

Church. The entire history of the Church proves that it is, and always has been, a tool in the hands of landowners, gentry, and capitalists, used to facilitate exploitation of the working masses. "Fear of God" had to be propagated so that obedience, unquestionable and eternal, could be secured. (JP, 9 Jan 60, p 2)

Can religion bring happiness to a newly married couple ? Is a church wedding of any true moral or sentimental value ? Certainly not. On the contrary, notions of this kind are mere remnants of bourgeois thinking and have no relation to the present. On the other hand, happiness and satisfaction in family life can be derived from love and care practised by all members of the family and through realization of the fact that newlyweds, who eventually will become parents, take part in the glorious Socialist construction that will bring undreamt-of happiness and a bright future for their children. (C, 10 Jan 60, p 8)

Youth Problems

A group of young boys in Hlucin, Moravska Ostrava Kraj, - all of them between 14 and 15 years old - read a few westerns, formed a group of Black Bills and Bloody Joes, and started to terrorize the neighborhood. Eventually police had to intervene. Parents are rather negligent, as certainly those were who let their boys read such rubbish. (NS, 7 Jan 60, p 2)

Two divorces recently were on the agenda of an Usti nad Labem court. In both cases, the married couples were in their early twenties and, in both cases, had lived together, all told, for about a week. The husbands had had to leave for military duty and the wives, who had found other friends, did not want to live with them once they returned home. The courts did not approve divorce proceedings [sic]. Another tragedy of early immature teenage marriages ! (Pru, 7 Jan 60, p 3)

Housing

Why build a family house on a private basis when cooperative apartments are cheaper and credits can be readily obtained from the state ? Still too many people are mistrustful and have various misgivings about cooperative housing.

Some of them, for example, are uncertain as to whether their children or relatives may inherit a cooperative apartment, although the statutes clearly stipulate that this is so. Others worry about what would happen if they are transferred to another town, and so forth.

Let's look at the facts : Individual private construction of a small family house costs about 90,000 koruny. However, when built cooperatively, the cost will be less and only 40 percent of this sum will be needed in cash. The cost of a two-room apartment in a cooperative house, fully equipped, is about 65,000 koruny. Of this sum, only 26,000 koruny - i.e. 40 percent - must be paid in cash in the form of a share in the cooperative. If this is not readily available, the State Savings Bank will advance a loan of 8,000 - 10,000 koruny for five years at 4 percent interest. The state will pay 22,000 koruny for each cooperative apartment built; this is a subsidy and need not to be returned by the cooperative member.

Can anybody build an apartment for himself on a private basis for 26,000 koruny ? Certainly not. Therefore, citizens of Zilina Kraj who are in need of an apartment - register with the local Peoples' Council as another future member of a cooperative. (C, 10 Jan 60, p 4)

In the twelve months of 1959, 1,091 apartments were completed and turned over to tenants in Hradec Kralove Kraj, 10 apartments over the number planned. Late or irregular deliveries of various things needed to complete the apartments caused most of the delays. (P, 7 Jan 60, p 1)

Miscellaneous

The army was called in to help out with the entertainment at a New Year's Eve party in Kyskovice, Usti nad Labem Kraj. An army unit did come to entertain and it was a "disaster". The various acts were hastily concocted, the microphone broke down and could not be repaired, people lost interest in the program, and a number of youngsters shouted insulting remarks. Some acts could not even be brought to a conclusion. A bad example of how to bring culture to a village.

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