

Swiss Communist Party

John Saunter ~ New Year, New Phase

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Our Swiss people are calm and hardly aware of their condition. It is true that thus far there has been no party based on a revolutionary line to inculcate the principal elements of Marxism and make the people understand that their indifference could only lead them into the deepest pit.

It is because our bourgeoisie are afraid that they deal severely with our activists and try to eliminate them. A true Communist Party, a revolutionary party determined to fight to the end, could not possibly please the bourgeoisie. Far from it. Our task is to arouse the class consciousness of our people and to denounce those who pretend to be defending them but, who actually, are cooperating with capitalism. They speak of parties which call themselves leftist, and of trade unions, most of whose leaders are vulgar renegades. The false Communists have usurped the name of Lenin for their own personal profit, deluding the people and making believe that their organization is somehow honest. Our role is not to divide the workers but to organize and unite them. And we are the first to join with the Swiss Labor Party, if certain tasks require our doing so, while we maintain our complete administrative autonomy.

We were recently in the situation where we fraternally collaborated with the comrades of the Swiss Labor Party, at Vevey, and everything went very well. This year municipal elections will also be held. Our Party, conscious of its real strength and possibilities, will, under one form or another, most likely present some candidates. But it would be wrong to do it alone, and we think that collaboration with the Swiss Labor Party is called for in the interest of both parties. We are sure, even if we make only a little headway, we would get better results than the Grippa followers did in Belgium, who had focused their demagogic propaganda not on the parties of the Right but against the orthodox, pro-Moscow, Communist Party.

The result was significant, and so was the reaction of the workers: the followers of Grippa elected one incumbent whereas the other Communists, if I am not mistaken, elected 140 candidates, almost twice as many as in the preceding elections. Grippa had said that it would be a principal test, and that it was, indeed. And those who had financed that election campaign had no reason to be proud. Were they well enough informed, or did they believe what Grippa said?

To come back to our Party, we say that we will get along without foreign funds, nevertheless we have to accomplish certain things and our goal before us, and that's what counts. Let us repeat: Falsehood is the religion of slaves and masters, truth is the god of free men. We will be no one's slaves. Only in independence and freedom can man form his opinions and tell the truth.

The dissolution of the Swiss Labor Party, however, is not our goal. Our express duty is to demand of its chiefs to renounce their nonchalance, their Khrushchevian revisionism, and their doing away with the class struggle. Make way for the young, one often says. For 20 years, the same people have been at the head of the Party which was a revolutionary party at the time of renowned comrade Leon Nicole, who did have the respect of the workers, and who risked his skin. Despite some errors he did commit, Leon Nicole remains an example for us, an example of a sincere, honest, consistent fighter. Those who fraudulently and dishonestly dismiss him do not matter. How many workers are there at the head of the Swiss Labor Party? How many young people? Of the paid party officials, some are weary, the others sterile. There are the other party members who could and should act to overthrow the routine, the amorphism, the cessation of struggle. We know many comrades still in the Labor Party who would like nothing better than to see their reformist and revisionist party change its views and gain a position that envisages organizing the class struggle and eliminating the traitors who, at the head of the trade unions, are shamefully collaborating with the capitalists. Our Party is not yet strong enough to shoulder the struggle by itself. It knows that only a union of all progressive and honest forces will be able to change our capitalist society into a socialist society. And we do mean all progressive forces without regard to religion, region or persons.

And if the Swiss Labor Party comes up with an interesting proposal, our comrades will say: We will be with them, on their side, to contribute to a victory which, rather than a party victory, should be a victory of the working people.