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NINTH PLENUM SPEECH OF STANISLAW KRUPA  
ON AGRICULTURE, MINING, AND INDUSTRY IN KIELCE WOJEWODZTWO, POLAND

Nowe Drogi  
Warsaw, Oct 1953

[The following report of Stanislaw Krupa, First Secretary of the Kielce Wojewodztwo Committee of the PZPR, was given at the Ninth Plenum of the KC PZPR (Central Committee of the Polish United Workers' Party), held in Warsaw on 29-30 October 1953.

The report was given at the plenum as an amplification of the featured report of Premier Boleslaw Bierut, "Task of Party in Struggle to Raise Standard of Living of Workers in Current Phase of Building Socialism." An English-language translation of Bierut's report is available in the PAP (Polish Press Agency) release of 6 November 1953, pages 1-44.]

We must admit that up to now our party organizations have shown little interest in raising yields and expanding livestock breeding on individual peasant farms.

It appears that there are large latent reserves on the small individual peasant farms of Kielce Wojewodztwo which have not yet been exploited because we have neglected our job.

Why does Kielce Wojewodztwo produce smaller crops although its soil is as good as the soil in other wojewodztwos? -- because the land has been divided into diminutive farms. These small farms cannot properly organize production; they tend toward the production of spike grains; they do not cultivate the soil properly; they use damaged seed; and they neglect proper storage of manure and use of fertilizer. Production is also reduced by not sowing at the proper time and neglecting to cultivate.

Productivity is low because we have not yet educated the peasant farmer in modern farming methods. About 40 percent of the peasants still sow by hand, plow at the wrong time, do not turn under the manure when it is spread, do not cultivate, and do not fight weeds and pests.

Poor soils in forested areas, which take in about 226 villages, are another reason for low yields per hectare. These lands are good only for afforestation and the people should be encouraged to resettle in the western areas.

All these reasons, plus neglect in mobilizing the peasantry, slowed up agricultural production despite the great possibilities for development. To speed up crop production, we must show the village by means of films, lectures, training, and popularization of the achievements of the producers cooperatives and shockworkers that the level of farm management can be raised.

We must supply the peasant farms with more machines. To eliminate sowing by hand in Kielce Wojewodztwo entirely, we would need about 4,000 drills or planters. Because the supply of drills is very small at present, many peasant farmers do not wait for them but do their sowing by hand, especially in the spring. An increase in the supply of drills and planters will permit row planting, economiz- on seed, and improve crops.

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To achieve the planned increase in yield of one quintal per hectare, we must increase by at least 30 percent the present allotment of fertilizer for our wojewodztwo and supply the village with hand dusters, tools, etc.

The supply of combustion engines and electric motors is inadequate, resulting in idleness of threshing machines, delays in threshing, and losses. The system of neighborly assistance, which has been disregarded almost entirely, must be developed in our wojewodztwo, especially on the 30,000 farms which have no horses.

Increased plant production will enable a quantitative and qualitative increase in livestock breeding. Inadequate fodder bases have hampered the achievement of the prewar level in cattle in our wojewodztwo. Speculators have taken advantage of the shortage of meat on the market by selling a major part of the young animals at exorbitant prices. In many instances, kulak farmers have purposely reduced the number of cattle below the prewar level.

Lack of fodder has produced poor cattle and low milk yields. The average weight of many cows and milk yields are most unsatisfactory. If we increase the fodder bases, we can increase cattle production, improve the quality, and increase milk yields. To achieve this however, we must increase credits for purchase of breeding stock in our wojewodztwo, and also increase the total subsidies to support cattle raising.

At present the powiat presidiums of people's councils have about 1,000 applications for loans for purchasing cows from peasants who have no cows.

The unfavorable fodder situation in Kielce Wojewodztwo is the result of low yields of fodder crops, small post-harvest crops, and low productivity of meadows and pastures. The 9-percent increase achieved in fodder cultivation is not enough. Production of fodder seed has been left to fate. Up to now, we have not directed the production of fodder seed nor its proper distribution. We have now shown enough interest in the cultivation of corn and in the expansion of lupine cultivation. The latter could form the main fodder supply in the sandy soil areas. By raising fodder production alone, we could increase the cattle population by 15 percent. To speed up agricultural production, especially in fodder crops, we must increase the budget allocations in Kielce Wojewodztwo for the regulation of rivers and improvement of meadows and pastures.

Electrification of villages is one form of state aid to the rural areas. Kielce Wojewodztwo shows marked improvement in this respect. Up to 1939, only 1.3 percent of the villages were electrified; at present the percentage is 15. Nevertheless, we should increase investment outlays for electrification by at least 50 percent; we should organize an enterprise for the electrification of agriculture in Kielce Wojewodztwo, and at the same time assure an increased supply of materials. The peasants have already suggested that they might help finance the electrification of some villages.

Let us now turn our attention to producers cooperatives.

Despite the fact that Kielce Wojewodztwo has lagged behind others in the organization of producers cooperatives, we have made definite progress as compared with other years. The wojewodztwo organized 155 cooperatives during 1952 and 1953, and only 26 in the preceding 3 year period. In 26 cooperatives which have been operating 2 years, production is satisfactory. As is the case throughout the country, per-hectare yields are higher in producers cooperatives than on individual peasant farms. Milk yields have increased in our producers cooperatives and the cattle population has also increased, although the quality of cattle is about the same as on individual peasant farms.


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Many cooperatives still lack work organization, discipline, and good management. We have not yet overcome the exclusiveness of old cooperatives and their animosity toward the rest of the village. That is the reason for the small gains in party membership in many producers cooperatives. The responsibility for this state of affairs can be ascribed to weak political work with the masses by the party members and members of the cooperatives. It is also due to a lack of political, technical, and organizational aid from the state MTS, and ineffective work of the gmina and powiat people's councils. These weaknesses are especially apparent in the 40 newly organized cooperatives which have not yet become well established. After organizing the cooperatives, we did not give them political support, we did not work with the village or with the cooperatives themselves. We often treated the plowing of joint holdings as a purely technical matter, forgetting that it was also a political problem. This criminal negligence and inadequate political work in the cooperatives has increased the class enemy's pressure on the cooperatives.

The wojewodztwo committee is responsible for this state of affairs because it did not assist the cooperatives and the organizing committees at the proper time. In many instances, the principle of free will was violated in organizing new cooperatives, as in the case of Opatow. Much favoritism was shown to kulaks and many were placed in administrative position in cooperatives. This was later eliminated. Many cooperatives had been organized at any price by taking in members who had no interest in agriculture such as former merchants, small shopkeepers, and administrative workers. Obviously there is lack of basic party organization in many villages and haphazard, unsystematic work with the individual peasant farmer. We must greatly increase our efforts in the coming months.

Now let me say a few words on industrial matters.

We all know that Kielce Wojewodztwo is being transformed from a purely agricultural wojewodztwo to an industrial-agricultural wojewodztwo. Proper organization of industrial raw material resources is a basic condition for the development of the national economy. I am referring especially to the exploitation of ore resources in our wojewodztwo. Assays of these deposits have not yet been completed but the sections already examined indicate large reserves of valuable ore.

We have ore mines in operation at the moment but the extraction from these mines has not been large. Although extraction is expected to increase 25 percent in 1953, it is not enough compared with the available resources and capabilities. The recent plans provide for a six-fold increase in extraction in 1955. This can be achieved by modernizing the present mines and opening new ones.

Up to now, we have not exploited the possibilities of by-products. Experience of the Kielce Metal Products Plants (Zakłady Wyrobów Metalowych) shows that the production of consumer goods could be very easily developed by utilizing scrap. These same possibilities exist in the Ostrowiec Metallurgical Plant (Huta Ostrowiec), where the expansion of certain divisions could greatly increase production of consumer goods.

One of our greatest weaknesses in party work is that we have not organized candidate groups in half the villages of the wojewodztwo. The increase in party membership is not adequate. It is true that we had favorable results in the spring and summer drives. The party is not properly organized in many factories, which means that the most important divisions have no basic party organization. The drive for party membership greatly diminished in the fall months, and our work with party activists is not adequate.

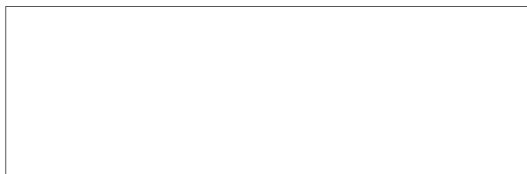


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We have excellent activists in Kielce Wojewodztwo who have much experience in party work but we have not worked with them systematically and consistently. Although we did raise the level of party work in the wojewodztwo in 1953, there are still serious shortcomings which should become our chief interest in the near future.

The party organizations, the party activists, and the people's councils must work assiduously to carry out Comrade Bierut's program.

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