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Activities of Giovanni Gronchi, within the Partito Democratica Cristiano (FDC) NO. OF PAGES 2

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SOURCE

- In a recent discussion, Giovanni Gronchi, President of the Chamber of Deputies, revealed his point of view on developments within the Partito Democratica Cristiano (F.C) with regard to labor union disputes and changes taking place in the high levels of the police.
- 2. Gronchi, denied recent information from various sources to the effect that he had suffered any rebuff in the Associazione Cristiana Lavoratori Italiani (ACLI) Congress. He stated that, on the contrary, he actually had been received very warmly at the Congress, and that he was satisfied with the outcome which had resulted in the adoption, essentially, of the program that he had suggested. Further, he indicated that he had been invited to attend a meeting at Bologna, early in October, of FDC labor leaders to draw up the details of the ACLI program.
- Gronchi confirmed that there is every intention on his part to bring to a head latent conflicts which have existed within the IDC, chiefly those arising out of the bureaucratic control exercised over the whole Party by present members of the Executive Committee. At the National Committee meeting, held early in September, at Grottaferrata, Gronchi had not won his point for an early Party congress, but had succeeded in securing approval for the holding of a pre-congress meeting, some time in the early winter. At the pre-congress meeting, Gronchi indicated that there would be an attempt to change the constitution of the Party, in order to break the rigid hold by the Central Party Directorate, on the rank and file of the Party.

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- Gronchi confirmed remors mentioned to him that he g to publish a daily newspaper, probably by the end of October. dependent information indicated the probable title of the newspaper as La Liberta, the press as that of Orso, in Rome.)
- 5. Cronchi stated that he expected results within the Party to become apparent by spring when the Party congress would be held.

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- Gronchi stated that the views of Luigi Gedda, Director of the Comitati Civici of Azione Cattolica were, in many respects, very close to those of his own. Gronchi further added that Gedda had placed his own organization at his (Gronchi's) disposition on all views which both held in common. Gronchi agreed that the implications of this policy within the Party would mean (a) the cutting of its ties with the large industrialist and proprietor groups with which it had been associated during and after the elections, and (b) a consequent reduction in the amount of funds at its disposition, and, further, that politically this would mean that rightist groups which had been ground-out during the last elections would again reappear on the political scene.
- 7. The FDC, he agreed, probably would decline in number of votes, in the future. He declared, however, that it would not decline in effectiveness, because, as demonstrated by the present situation, even an overwhelming political majority is not a definitive factor in the actual composition of the government, which continues to rest upon an alliance with, and participation in, the government by other parties.
- 8. Actually, Gronohi stated, it has gained the PDC little to have an overwhelming majority when, in practice, it is necessary to base the formation of their government upon a coalition policy in which the majority party finds it necessary to place elements of other parties in positions of such importance as the Ministry of War and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- 9. Gronchi continued that he does not feel personally that the FDC will hold political control for the five-year period contemplated by the constitution, that is, until 1952. He stated that, if the international scene does not break, one can expect serious political developments by the summer or fall of 1949.
- 10. Gronchi stated categorically that the present Communist objective is to bring about an enlargement of the government in which they will participate with the PDC. Gronchi described Alcide De Gasperi as a true Giolittian. He stated that De Gasperi talks as little as possible, that he never opposes anyone, and that in cases where three or more of his colleagues are in disagreement, he always avoids a pronouncement and resorts to a delaying technique.
- In reply to a query, Gronchi stated that following the last talk with source, during which the question of the Ministry of Interior had been reviewed, he personally had interested himself in the question of the substitution of the chief of police and had backed up Mario Scelba forcefully in this action. Gronchi spoke so firmly that he gave the impression that he actually had played an important part in bringing about Luigi Ferrarri's substitution. Fronchi added, however, that he was beginning to have a number of doubts with respect to Scelba, who, he felt, had become interested in his work as a policeman rather than as a Minister.

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