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Education

1. The key institution of the Bolsheviks in the field of education is the teachers' seminary, where pupils are trained in the ways of Communism. Three or four years ago it was easy to be admitted into the teachers' seminary; now it is very difficult. Students who are a bit more wealthy than proletarians are not admitted. When one student wanted to enter the seminary, the local administration in his community submitted an unfavorable character reference on him to the seminary officials, stating that he was the son of bourgeois parents who owned 19 hectares of land. He did not pass the admission procedure.
2. Nearly all students of the teachers' seminary are Komsomol members. There may be still a few anti-Communists in the upper classes, but they also are members of the Komsomol. They have to join, because this is a requisite for all who want to become teachers. Seminary students are forbidden to go to church. If observed doing so, they are dismissed from school. In addition, such students receive references which would not permit them to continue their studies elsewhere, since one must have good recommendations if one wants to change schools.
3. Among the subjects taught in the gymnasium are the statutes of the Komsomol and the history of the VKP(b) (Communist Party). Pupils are orderly, seem to listen with attention, and ask various questions. Visitors from the rayon Party committee are delighted during their visits to see how fine the education is. However, when there is an examination in class and it develops that the pupils do not remember anything, they are shouted at and threatened. Most often they use the excuse that they have no books. The teacher then asks who wants to order books and most of them say that they have no money.

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4. Books mainly used are on two subjects: collectivization in Russia and the war with the Germans. After this are books on Stalin and Lenin, VKE(b) history, speeches of Stalin given before elections, etc. Of Russian classics, Maxim Gorky's Mother (volumes one and two), Tolstoi's War and Peace (five volumes), the prose of Pushkin, and the works of Turgenev are mainly used. Included as required reading in the teaching plan of the gymnasiums are Fakelta Velena (Broken-up Turf), Zuvedra (The Sea Gull), Tylusis Donas (The Quiet Don), Kaip Grudinas Plienas (How Steel Does Harden). The book Jaunoji Gvardija (The Young Guard), which every pupil must read, tells of fights of a Komsomol group with the Germans in the Donbas area, how they are betrayed by a Komsomol girl and are shot to death.
5. There are several books about America, too, including Stai, Amerika (This is America) and Geltonojo Velnia Miestas (The Town of the Yellow Devil). There are several authors of books on America, including Maxim Gorky, Mayakovskiy, and others who, as it is indicated in the books, have been in the U.S.A. Whenever anyone in Lithuania sees books like these, he can tell what is in them without even reading them. If the Bolsheviks write about some non-Soviet country abroad, it is obvious that the book deals with the exploitation of people, hardship, hunger, and racial persecution. Such a book describes how the people of that country wait for the Soviet Union to rescue them from capitalist serfdom. Such is the tone of this subject used in the gymnasium, in lectures, and in books. An example is the book Tokerio Gauja (The Tokar Gang), which describes a businessman who, for the sake of his business, even kills people.
6. In accordance with a certain plan, students must subscribe to newspapers through the school. The teacher announces that, according to the schedule, a certain class has to subscribe to a certain number of issues of Tiesa (Lithuanian Pravda), Komjaunimo Tiesa (Komsomol Pravda), Valstieciu Laikrastis (farmers' newspaper), monthly journals, etc. Those who want to subscribe are asked to raise their hands. Usually, the whole class is silent, and no hands are raised. At first the teacher tries to get agreement by talking nicely; then he starts shouting and threatening. No one cares, since all pupils know that the school administration has to fulfill a certain subscription plan for papers anyway. If a pupil is individually threatened, he may give the excuse that his father already subscribes to three papers through his office and that they do not need any more. Various offices also have newspaper subscription plans. If the teacher does not achieve results, he may send a boy home to bring back money for a subscription. The boy concerned may go and come back after some time with the news that he could not find anyone at home. On one occasion, a pupil in the fourth grade was sent home three consecutive times for money. Each time he came back saying there was no one at home. Finally, the teacher went to the pupil's house in person and found the mother there. The result was that the student had to subscribe to the paper. Such incidents happen in all classes at all schools, and the procedure is repeated every three months.
7. One week each year there is a systematic sale of books. During this week, offices, gymnasiums, and other schools are forced to buy books. The class teacher, knowing the pupils, usually selects for them inexpensive books, from 1 to 2 rubles in prices. After such book distribution weeks, Bolshevik papers triumphantly report the thousands of volumes bought. It is possible for gymnasium students to avoid being involved in newspaper subscription and book sales, but it is nearly impossible for employees of offices to do so.
8. Gymnasium students of the last seven or eight grades do agitation work before election campaigns. They go to all people on a certain street, agitate among them to go and place their votes, explain the voting procedure, and outline the biographies of the candidates. The students are ordered to do this work. If they want to continue their studies at high school, there is no other choice. If they fail to do it, the fact appears on their final references. A sample notation would be: "Pupil is disobedient. When ordered to participate in election agitation work, he did not do it." Such a reference would close all paths to further learning.

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9. Students sometimes try to enter schools with falsified papers. They even forge seals perfectly by the hard-boiled egg technique. The sale of school certificates, generally by the secretaries in gymnasium offices, has become a custom.

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Culture

10. The Russians have taken out of circulation all crime novels, travel books, and, in general, all older books written by capitalist writers. Giving as an excuse the fact that they are describing the terrible exploitation of the working masses in America, authors produce books which actually are crime novels, even though such books are forbidden. It seems that the authors write them with pleasure, having become tired of writing about collectivization and the heroism of the Russians.
11. The Houses of Culture have libraries, newspapers, magazines, and domino and chess sets. Attached to the Houses are folk-dance groups and choirs. On election days and Russian festivals, these dance groups and choirs travel from one voting place to another and perform.
12. Movies in Lithuania have become part of the general propaganda plan. Films mostly show life on kolkhozy or episodes in the war against the Germans. Back in 1948 and 1949 there were still American movies like "Nugaletasis Armijos Kapitonas" (Captain of a Defeated Army), "Dvideidis-zaidimas" (Double-play), "Zenklas Zoro" (The Sign of Zoro), etc. Parts of the films were cut in an effort to give each movie the task of proving again how the Americans are exploiting the working people. People used to go in masses to American movies.
13. Films are in the Russian language, which Lithuanian people do not understand; therefore, they make their own comments. Most of the new foreign films now come from Czechoslovakia and Hungary. In 1951 the film "Under the Rule of the Dollar" could be seen. In this there appears a man who has won several million dollars which he wants to distribute among the poor. All the other millionaires, however, protest and they declare the man insane. Movies are shown not only in towns but also in kolkhozy. Each week special cars go into the country to show movies. Russian films which pupils of gymnasiums and other schools and office employees are forced to attend include: "Jaunoji Gvardija" (The Young Guard); "Akademikas Pavlovas" (Academist Pavlov); "Berlyne Zlugimas" (The Fall of Berlin), a colored film; "Susitikimas prie Elbes" (Meeting on the Elbe); etc.
14. Theater groups are in the major towns, but they also visit smaller places on tour. There is a permanent theater group at Panevezys. One of the plays is named "Uz Antro Fronto" (Behind the Second Front). It shows a German concentration camp with its inmates and tells how a Russian woman and an American woman escape from it. The American woman then takes the Russian woman to the U.S.A., where she has her put in an American concentration camp where Russian officers are already being kept. Another play is called "Balsas Amerikos" (The Voice of America), which shows how American gangsters hire a captain to kill one of his colleagues. The plot does not succeed and the gangster is killed. This is the way Americans are painted, with the aim of causing the people to be frightened of meeting Americans.

Partisan Activities

15. In 1947 there was a public trial of four partisans in the Panevezys theater. This was the only public trial of partisans people ever saw. The whole theater was guarded outside and inside by militia. Two of the partisans were sentenced to 25 years in prison, there being no death penalty at that time, one to 20 years, and the fourth to 10 years. One of them was only 17 years old.

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16. On the Kalkhozy, the new Michurin corn seed produced curious grass, more similar to weeds than to corn. Even so, this "corn" had to be given to the State as a contribution.

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