

Czechoslovakia's Last Sign Of Freedom Faces Abolition In Election of Parliament

By DeWITT MacKENZIE
AP Foreign Affairs Analyst

The Communist steam-roller will thunder across prostrate Czechoslovakia again tomorrow, leveling off most of the remaining signs of her democracy.

To be sure, democracy still will remain hidden within the sturdy hearts of the vast majority of the little Republic's citizens, for you cannot crush the spirit with a steam-roller. But the visible emblems of freedom will have been ground to dust.

More specifically, a general election is to be held in Czechoslovakia to elect a new parliament. This represents a further consolidation of the Red conquest—a purge of remaining opposition.

The election will follow the Russian single ticket system. Under this scheme there are no opposition candidates, but merely a single ticket containing the names of candidates hand-picked by the Communist-dominated regime. The only way a voter can register disapproval is to cast a white blank ballot which can be seen by election officials, so that there is no secrecy.

Communists and fellow travelers have been busy drumming it into the voters that casting a blank white ballot would be like treason. It might be added that it also would be like sticking one's head in a lion's mouth—an operation which could do no good and would be mighty dangerous.

Resistance Still Alive

If that were the end of the story it would indeed be sad, but there's more to it. Yesterday some 30 fugitive members of the Czechoslovak parliament, and other political leaders, held a conference in London. In effect they constituted a refugee parliament, although they didn't claim that designation. These foes of Bolshevism went on record as declaring that the present Communist-dominated government of Czechoslovakia is illegal. The same is true of the draft constitution.

The refugee "parliament" will continue to function. The indications are that its members plan to organize Czechoslovak resistance around the globe for liberation of their country.

That is highly significant. It is the organization of a resistance which one day will strike for freedom. It speaks for millions of Czechs who cannot speak for themselves.

Moscow Heeds Signs

If that were the only development of its kind, perhaps less importance could be attached to it. However, similar resistance groups from other eastern European countries are organizing quietly abroad. There are the Poles, the Hungarians, the Rumanians, the Bulgarians, the Yugoslavs. And meantime underground resistance exists in all countries which have been brought under Soviet domination.

Some day there will be a spark which will set all this resistance aflame. That spark will come from a fortunate circumstance which no one can foresee now. Another war involving Russia most certainly would provide the spark, and that's one good reason why Moscow doesn't want war.

We may be sure Moscow isn't discounting the growth of the resistance.

Life Term For Murder Meted To 14-Year-Old Girl

BAKERSFIELD, Calif., May 29. (AP)—Fourteen-year-old Joyce Christine Nichols was sentenced yesterday to life imprisonment for the play cave murder of a five-year-old playmate.

She was the youngest person ever to receive a life sentence in this district.

Superior Judge Norman F. Main issued sentence after a hearing to determine the degree of Joyce's guilt. The girl had pleaded guilty to the slaying last Oct. 17 of Myretta Jones, five, formerly of Anadarko, Okla.

Atty. Philip N. Wagy asked for conviction on a manslaughter count, contending "Joyce was panic-stricken" when she beat Myretta's head in with a rock.

Joyce was arrested in her classroom three days after the body of the victim was found in a cave near the children's home.

Joyce admitted to officers that she lured the little girl to the cave and beat her when she resisted immoral advances.

Positions Open To Specialists In Reserve Corps

Members of the Enlisted Reserve Corps qualified as specialists in any one of five military skills may volunteer for tours of extended active duty for assignment to positions currently open in Oregon, M. Sgt. Charles NeeDels, commander of the Roseburg Army and Air Force Recruiting Station, announced this morning.

The sergeant listed specialists needed as classification specialists, clerk-typists, personnel consultants, medical technicians, and medical laboratory technicians.

Enlisted reserve members can be recalled in their present grade by applying for an active tour of not less than nine months and not more than a year. While on active duty, they receive the same pay and allowances as regular army personnel, and are not subject to foreign service.

Sgt. NeeDels said the openings provide an opportunity for reserve members selected to serve a tour stationed in Oregon. This opportunity is offered only until a limited number of vacancies has been filled, and in any case only until June 20.

Information and application for

the assignments may be obtained at the Roseburg Recruiting Station in the armory.

Typhoid Immunity Shots to be Given Camp Fire Girls

Typhoid immunization and booster shots will be given Camp Fire Girls and Bluebirds who are planning to attend the summer Camp Fire camp to be held at Camp Tye, on the Umpqua River, Wednesday from 9 a.m. until 12 noon at the county health office. A small fee will be charged for each shot, according to health office employees.

Mrs. Sydney Domenico, local Camp Fire executive director, announced today that pre-registration fees for summer camp may be paid at the Camp Fire office on Miller's mezzanine Saturdays from 10:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.

Mrs. Domenico will be at the office during these hours and is assisted by Horizon Club girls.

Information and application for

also. She is also available during these hours to parents who wish to make inquiries concerning summer camp or other Camp Fire activities.

Camp this summer is based on the theme, "Pioneers," and the first session, "Down the Oregon Trail," will be held from July 18 to July 25. The second session is, "Skip to My Lou," from July 25 to Aug. 1. Bluebird session, "Oh, Suzannah," is scheduled from August 1 to 8.

Luther Ellison announced today that he will furnish transportation to and from the camp site for a minimum fee if a full bus of girls is available. Girls interested in this may contact their guardians or Mrs. Domenico at the Camp Fire office.

National Spelling Title Won on Word 'Oligarchy'

WASHINGTON, May 29.—(AP)—Jean Chappelle, 14, of Ravenna, Ohio, yesterday won the 21st annual national spelling bee.

Jean spelled "oligarchy" correctly after the runner-up, Darrell Flavell, also 14, of Washington, D. C., missed the word.

According to contest rules, Jean

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had to spell one more word. She handled "psychiatric" without difficulty to take number one position among 40 contestants from about 4,000,000 grammar school students.

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