



GLASILO IN LASTNINA SLOVENSKE SVOBODOMI-
SELNE PODPORNE ZVEZE.

IZHAJA VSAKO SEEDO

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Naročnina za člane 78c letno; za nečlane \$1.50; za inozemstvo \$2.00

PROGRESS
**OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE SLOVENE PROGRES-
SIVE BENEFIT SOCIETY**

Owned and Published by the Slovene Progressive Benefit Society

ISSUED EVERY WEDNESDAY

Subscription for members \$1.75 per year — nonmembers \$1.50
foreign countries \$2.00

Advertising rates: 40c net for individuals; 35c net for societies

Napredek Naslov uredništva in upravnštva:
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VOLUME IV. 104 NUMBER 212

Entered as Second Class Matter August 5th, 1936, at the Post Office at Cleveland, Ohio, under the Act of August 24, 1912.

KAKO STOJI Z ZDRUŽENJEM

KOT razvidno iz Prosvete, uradnega glasila SNPJ, je seja glavnega odbora omenjene organizacije, ki se je zaključila pred tednom in pol, vzela v pretres združitveni sporazum, katerega je poslal SNPJ in JSKJ posebni odbor, ki ga je prošlega maja izvolila 10. redna konvencija naše Zveze. Razprava o tem predmetu je trajala pol dneva, piše glasilo SNPJ, in sprejet je bil naslednji zaključek:

"Gl. eksekutivni odsek SNPJ naj pojasni združitvenemu odseku SSPZ, da so v njegovi združitveni pogodbi, ki je bila predložena gl. odboru SNPJ v pretres, točke, o katerih ni bilo na skupni konferenci SNPJ in SSPZ sprojetega nobenega dogovora ali sporazuma, nekatere druge točke so pa nejasne, in zaradi tega je potrebna nova konferenca obeh organizacij, na kateri naj se glede omenjenih točk razpravlja in pride do definitivnega zaključka."

Prosveta k temu dostavlja, da bo "vse drugo objavljeno v uradnem zapisniku."

Iz gornjega ni jasno, ali je gl. odbor SNPJ združitveno pogodbo sprejel ali zavrnil. Upati je torej, da bomo o tem več vedeli, kadar bo objavljen zapisnik.

Pogodba, katero je predložil Zvezin združitveni odbor, je bila sestavljena po nesvetih aktuarja in odvetnika in z aktivnim sodelovanjem zavarovalninskega departmента države Illinois. Vpričo tega je izjava o nejasnosti nekam zagonetna. (Mar pri SNPJ nimajo aktuarja in odvetnika, da bi jim pojasnil stvari, ki jih v pogodbi ne razumejo?)

Toda bilo temu kakorkoli že, bolj obširno poročilo s seje gl. odbora SNPJ, ki je tudi nekoliko jasnejše, prinaša "Proletarec," čigar urednik, Frank Zaitz, je predsednik nadzornega odseka SNPJ. V izdaji z dne 14. avgusta je objavljen na prvi strani "Proletarca" obširen članek o tem predmetu, kjer po navedbi točke 2. iz Zvezine združitvene pogodbe čitamo sledče:

"Gl. odbor SNPJ je na svoji seji prošli teden sklenil, da je iz praktičnih razlogov, ki so po njegovem mnenju enako koristni za obe organizacije, proti razpustu obeh. Argument je bil, da ako bi se to zgodilo, bi nastalo mnogo komplikacij in v nevarnost bi prišle licence ali dovolitve poslovanja, ki jih je bilo v nekaterih državah zelo težko dobiti."

Na drugem mestu v istem članku se omenja kontroverzo, ki je nastala v javnosti zastran združitvenega vprašanja: "Dogodilo se je, da je ta razprava o 'bratskem združenju' zašla na stran pota golih osebnosti, kakršne bi med odgovornimi ljudmi ne smele imeti mesta." Pozneje zopet ugotavlja, da je "prej omenjena polemika vprašanje združitve spravila v napetost odnošajev, krivdo za to stanje pa zvraca vsaka stran druga na drugo." Potem pa zaključuje: "Kakor je situacija sedaj, je malo verjetno, da be podvzeta akcija za združenje uspešno zaključena."

Ako je položaj res tako kot ga opisuje Frank Zaitz, mi ne moremo trditi, popolnoma pa se strinjam z izjavijo — kot smo mi rekli takoj, čim je Prosveta odprla svoje kolone br. A. Zaitzu in z uredniškimi članki začela polemiko z gl. odborom SSPZ — da ta boj golih osebnosti med odgovornimi ljudmi ne bi smel imeti mesta. Zaželjivo bi bilo, ako bi "Proletarec" priznal, da tega boja ni začel "Napredek" ali njegov urednik, ampak bilo seveda preveč kaj takega pričakovati, kajti kot gl. odbornik SNPJ se Fr. Zaitz pač čuti moralno vezanega, ščititi one, ki v javnosti govore in predstavljajo jednoto.

Tako Prosveta kot Proletarec gresta z molkom mimo 11. točke Zvezine združitvene pogodbe, katera je po naziranju zavarovalninskega departmента države Illinois zelo važna in je bila vključena v pogodbo po njegovem direktnem navodilu. To je namreč točka, ki predvideva,

da se smrtninski sklad članov SSPZ, ki vsi plačujejo prispevke na podlagi American Experience lestice, v slučaju združenja s katerokoli drugo organizacijo, loči in samostojno upravlja od smrtninskega sklada, v katerega se plačuje na podlagi National Fraternal lestice.

Malo čudno je tudi, da urednik Prosvete do sedaj še ni objavil združitvene pogodbe, predložene od združitvenega odbora SSPZ, prav kakor člani SNPJ še vedno zmanjčajo, da bi v lastnem glasilu čitali pogodbo, katero je predložila SNPJ konvenciji SSPZ, in pa "Provizorične pogoje združenja," sprejete na isti konvenciji, na katerih sedanja Zvezina združitvena pogodba bazira. "Nova Doba," glasilo JSKJ, kateri je bila po naročilu naše konvencije pogodba poslana istočasno kot SNPJ, jo je priobčila že prošli teden v obeh jezikih, slovenskem in angleškem.

Glede nadaljnega razvoja združitvene akcije bomo poročali in komentirali od časa do časa, kot bo obstajala potreba. Skrbeli bomo, da bo članstvo SSPZ točno in pravilno informirano o vsem, kar je s tem vprašanjem v Zvezini. Najbrž bo tudi naš združitveni odbor imel v bližnji bodočnosti kako poročilo za javnost. — Prihodnji mesec se bo vršila v Waukeganu, Ill., konvencija JSKJ, pred katero pride združitvena pogodba SSPZ v pretres in odločitev.

IZ GLAVNEGA URADA SSPZ

ČLANSTVO IN VOJAŠČINA

Čedalje več vprašanj dobivam glede članov, ki so odšli v armado, kaj in kako bode z njimi. V pojasnilo vsem navedim naj služi sledeče:

Pravila SSPZ vsebujejo v tem oziru jasne točke, ki ne rabijo veliko razlage.

Določajo, da se vojake, sploh ljudi, ki spadajo k oboroženi sili, ne sprejema za člane.

Kdor pa je član in stopi k oboroženi sili, med drugim v vojno armado ali mornarico v mirnem času, lahko ostane član tudi kot vojak z vsemi pravicami in dolžnostmi, ki jih je imel kot nevojak, izvzemši, da je opravljanje take službe smatrano za "nevaren poklic" ali "nevarno delo" in če je vzrok bolezni, poškodb ali smrti direktno kriv tak poklic, potem se izplača samo 2/3 vrednosti kake podpore ali smrtnine, takemu ali za takim članom. Da se bo to točko prav razumelo, pojasnim tudi to:

Vso, ali polno podporo ali smrtnino se izplača za vojakom ali mornarjem, ako zbolí ali umre vsled naravnih bolezni, kot za bljučnico, srčno holeznijo it. d., ki nimajo zveze z opravljanjem vojaške ali mornariške službe. Dvetretjinsko (2/3) vrednost druge podpore se izplača le v slučajih, ako je, na primer, vojak obstreljen ali ustreljen pri strelnih vajah ali ravnjanju z biljko, mornar, ako pade raz krov in se utopi, ali se drugače pogrežne z ladijo ali podmornico, in za razne druge take ali slične slučaje, ki imajo stik s "službo."

Vse tu omenjeno krije točka 110 novih pravil: NEVARNA DELA ALI POKLICI.

Kot povedano, ta točka krije le vojake in mornarje v mirnem času.

Vojaki ali mornarji, ki služijo v kaki državi, ki je v vojni, napovedani ali nenapovedani, izgube vse članske pravice. V slučajih smrti se za takim izplača le svoto rezervne veljave certifikata in pa tako dodatno svoto nad rezervno vrednostjo, ki jo utegne določiti glavni odbor. (Točka 113 novih pravil.)

Za nevarna dela priznava ta Zveza tudi druga opravila, kot: stavkokasto, zasebnih ali po družbi plačanih deputijev za časa stavke, avijatikov, potapljačev, goznih čuvajev it. d.; za vse te veljajo iste določbe kot za vojake ali mornarje v mirnem času.

Priporočljivo je, da vojaki ali mornarji obdrže svoje članstvo pri organizaciji, ker gotovo je, da v tem poklicu ne bodo za vedno ostali. Marsikateri ima že dokaj rezerve na svojem certifikatu, katero izgubi, aka do del časa prekine članstvo. Reserva pa je zaželjiva za vsakogar, zlasti kadar doseže starost. Je takozvana "neizgubljiva vrednost" certifikata, vedno na razpolago članu, dokler jo ima.

Razumem, da vojak težko vzdrži članstvo, ali starši za njega, ki ne zmorcejo visokega plačevanja. V takem slučaju bi priporočal, da vojak opusti bolniško zavarovanje, s čemer se asesment zniža za dokajšno svoto. Te zavarovalnice nujno ne potrebuje pri vojakih, ker ima vso zdravniško oskrbo brezplačno.

WILLIAM RUS, gl. tajnik.

Dr. Ivan Lah:

DAN BITKE

(Odlomek iz "Druge knjige spominov" pred par leti umrlega slovenskega pisatelja.)

Privilekel sem se do poti, ki je precej globoko zarezana v voluh... Ob poti so ležali ranjeni in mrtvi vojaki. Velik narednik je ležal v znaku, vse štiri od sebe, še s čelado na glavi...

"Naprej, naprej!"

"Pazi se!" vpije vojak, skrit v jarku, "ali si nor?"

Hitim naprej, kakor koli. Po kolenih, po štirih, pripognjen... Krogle prše, moči pešajo... Blizam se vrhu. Tu ležijo tirolskih strelec, zakopani v jarkih...

Skoraj vsek drugi je ubit. Vidi se, kako vise preko jarka... Oni, ki so živi, se skrivajo za njimi. Tirolski strelec. Mrki so njih obrazzi. Nič ne rečejo... Še nekaj korakov... Tam je zidanica... Plazim se tja. Rdeči kriji se sveti na steni. Sonce nosila vzdihom, Panciu! Dolina

črta. Po ulicah je vladal strah in nered. Mnogo hiš je bilo porušenih. Videl sem vilo, ki ji je padlo pročelje na cesto, da so se kazale lepe sobe s posteljami in pohištvo. Srečni ljudje so prebivali nekdaj v nji. Zdaj zija, kakor da kriči v neskončni bolečini. Vse hiti proti obvezovali. Tam je Rdeči križ. Velika bela hiša in vrt za njo. Vrt je poln ranjencev, ki leže vse križem, leže, ječe — in umirajo. Kdo naj jih rešuje? Zdravnikovni. V sobi se vrše operacije. Italijana me zaneseta tja. Soba je polna ranjencev. Mlad zdravnik teka med njimi. Vsepovsod očupljeni vzklik.

"Doktor, doktor! Hilfe! Joji..."

Na teh leži ranjeni četovodja. Streli skozi prsi. Že komaj diha. "Moja žena! Moji otroci!" Smrtne srage mu stopajo na čelo.

"Saj ni nič hudega." tolazi doktor, "bo že bolje! Le mir, mir..."

"O Bog, o, pomagajte!"

Zdravnik je sam, ne more pomagati vsem. Niti strežnikovni. Ni kave, ne čaja, še vode ni.

"Mi smo mislili, da boste zmagali," pripoveduje doktor in hiti z obvezami od vojaka do vojaka. Zunaj se zaslisi pok.

"Ali še ni konec? Saj niti tu nismo varni!"

Nove trume pritiskajo v vilo. Zdravnikove oči se za trenutek srečajo* z mojimi.

"O, doktor, ti tu..."

"Da, prosim te..."

Bil je dr. Nobel, ki sem se bil z njim seznanil na ruski fronti. "Takoj, takoj."

Italijana sta me položila na mizo.

Doktor je zrezal z mene obliko.

"Samo povej, ali je smrtno..."

"Ne vem, mislim, da ne..."

Izmival je z vodo rano na križu, pritisnil nekajkrat na hrbenico.

"Ni hudo. Kos granate..."

Potegnil je iz hrbita, nekaj bodečih kosov, ki so se bili zapuščeni vanj.

"Ali imam cigaretto?"

"Nimam. Ničesar nismo pravili. Na, tu vzemi mojo dozo in zvij hitro."

Zvil sem cigaret in doktor jo je prižgal. Pušil sem v globokih oddihih, kakor da je življenje v tej cigari. Doktor je iztiskal kri iz rane.

"Imam čaj, kavo?"

"Nič. Vino, če hočeš."

Na kredenci je stalo pol litra romunskega vina.

"Daj!"

Natočil je. Pil sem hlastno, da sem premagal slabost, ki me je obhajala. Doktor me je obvezoval.

"Ni časa! Vidiš, koliko jih je! Za zdaj je dobro."

Zunaj je stalo nekaj mož.

"Halo, ab..."

Dva Romunca sta prišla z nosilkami in me položila nanje.

"Hvala ti, doktor!"

In že so rinili novega ranjence na mizo.

Moža sta me nesla preko vrta, kjer so se vrstili grozni prizori borbe med življenjem in smrtjo... Vojaki so donašali vode in skušali samo pomagati ranjenim tovarišem.

Mestec je ostalo za nami. Prišli smo na cesto. Moža sta me nesla še precej daleč do kmečke koče ob cesti.

Zavila sta vanjo in me položila v izbi na tla. Tla so bila brez poda, ilovnata, smrdeča. Položil sem roko pod glavo, da sem vdihaval svež zrak. V izbi so ležali že trije vojaki, dva prostaka in narednik našega polja.

Padal je mrak.

Po izbi se je čulo samo težko sopenje in bolestni vdih.

Kakor da se je temen zastor počasi spuščal nad tragedijo tega velikega dne. Od nekod se je bližala noč...

DOP



DO YOU KNOW THAT -
SSPZ Has Nine Modern Plans of Life
Insurance for Adults and Juveniles?

PROGRESS

"NAPREDEK"

An Answer to Brother Joseph Drasler

By Michael Vrhovnik

I'm sorry my answer to your article, which appeared in the English section of the "Napredok" on August 7th under the heading of "Brother Drasler Has His Say," had to be delayed to this week's issue. Had the Society not staged its 8th National Athletic Meet at Bridgeville last Sunday in conjunction with the Pennsylvania Federation's SSPZ Day celebration, and had not other important duties crowded my time (believe it or not), I would have seen to it that your wishes, that I EXPRESS MY OPINION on the subject of CONSOLIDATION as FRANKLY as you stated I did on the night of August 1, 1940, right after the adjournment of the Victorian meeting, were attended to in the shortest possible time.

May I be so frank as to make it clear to you at this time, that I, probably, would not give you the satisfaction of this answer and use up the space it will take, were it not for the MISSTATEMENT which appeared in a paragraph of your article in reference to the brief conversation you and I had on that date. The mis-statement referred to reads as follows: "He (meaning me) admits, however, that the merger must come about, as the entire organization has become stagnant since the Convention." Think carefully, Brother Joe, before you answer. DID I REALLY MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT TO YOU—or, is it that you misunderstood or misinterpreted the meaning of certain parts of our discussion, perhaps, unintentionally? Since you did not make use of a pencil and pad during the course of the INTERVIEW, I shall give you the benefit of the doubt as to your intentions and blame your lapse of memory for the mis-statement.

In my own defense, I can only state that I DID NOT MAKE SUCH A STATEMENT TO YOU OR ANYONE, a statement which, I consider, too ridiculous even for one who knows nothing about the true condition of our SSPZ! As for the balance of the same paragraph, I think, you have done a remarkably fine job of juggling words to suit your own personal views and desires. Spoken words can be misinterpreted so easily and twisted into a meaning entirely different from that intended, particularly, if the listener lacks sufficient knowledge and understanding of the subject under discussion, or does not possess a retentive memory, or cares not to hear well. It is quite possible that you will take the stand that you did hear rightly, and your memory, thank goodness or some other power, did not fail you on that occasion. In that case, I'm afraid there isn't much chance of reversing the mis-statement you credit me with, except that it will be left to the judgment of the members, your written word against mine. However, the facts which appear in the following paragraphs may help to substantiate my denial . . .

Right after the same meeting, I was approached by a member of the Victorians, who is also a member of the SNPJ and who happened to be with your group for a while during the meeting. He asked me in a serious tone: "What's the matter with the SSPZ—Do we really have to merge—Are we going on the rocks, or what?" I was surprised to hear the questions put to me in that manner and I answered, truthfully, in words to this effect (After you read this, Joe, you will probably jump to this conclusion: THERE, DIDN'T I TELL YOU! HE'S AGAINST THE MERGER, TOO!):

THERE IS NOTHING THE MATTER WITH THE SSPZ EXCEPTING THAT THERE HAVE BEEN ENTIRELY TOO MANY UNNECESSARY, PERSONAL ARGUMENTS BROUGHT OUT IN CONNECTION WITH THE CONSOLIDATION QUESTION, WHICH HAVE TENDED TO HARM THE SOCIETY AND THE ISSUE ITSELF . . .

THE SSPZ WAS NEVER IN A BETTER FINANCIAL CONDITION THAN IT IS TODAY! IT HAS A SOLVENCY RATIO OF MORE THAN 123%, WHICH DOES NOT INCLUDE THE CONTINGENCY RESERVE, SET ASIDE FOR POSSIBLE LOSSES, AND CERTAIN VALUED UNLISTED ASSETS. THE MORTALITY RATE HAS BEEN UNDER THE 85% MARK IN FOUR OF THE LAST FIVE (5) YEARS; TRULY A REMARKABLE RECORD. ALL INSURANCE CERTIFICATES ARE BASED ON THE AM. EX. OF MORTALITY. THE MEMBERSHIP HAS GROWN STEADILY SINCE 1934. THE SSPZ HAS PAID DIVIDENDS TO BOTH ADULTS AND JUVENILES IN 1938 AND 1939, AND IS, AGAIN, IN A POSITION TO DECLARE ANOTHER IF THE CONSOLIDATION AGREEMENT DOES NOT MEET WITH FAVORABLE APPROVAL BY THE OTHER TWO NEGOTIATING SOCIETIES . . .

WE HAVE SUCCESSFULLY STAGED (8) NATIONAL ATHLETIC MEETS IN A ROW (more than any other Slovene Society), AND CONSOLIDATION OR NO CONSOLIDATION, WE ARE PREPARING TO HOLD THE FOURTH (4th) NATIONAL BOWLING TOURNAMENT AT INDIANAPOLIS IN 1941. WE HAVE TO OUR CREDIT MANY JUVENILE ACHIEVEMENTS, THE NATIONAL VRTEC CULTURAL FESTIVAL AND INTER-CITY FESTIVALS, FOR EXAMPLE, WHICH NO OTHER SLOVENE SOCIETIES HAVE EQUALLED. THE SSPZ HAS A RECORD THAT EVERY MEMBER CAN TRULY BE PROUD OF!

In the light of all these facts, does it appear logical to you that I would say, "The merger must come about, as the entire organization has become stagnant since the Convention?" Nearly all of the above facts were pointed out to you, too, but you failed to mention one word of it in your article. YES, I DID SAY, AND SAY SO AGAIN, THAT MOST OF THE ARGUMENTS, WHICH HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED IN THE OFFICIAL ORGANS OF THE SSPZ AND THE SNPJ SINCE OUR CONVEN-

Penn'a SSPZ Day Successful

By Ernest Kvartich

The SSPZ Day and the 8th National Softball Tournament is down in history as the second greatest SSPZ affair in Western Penn'a., second only, to the similar, but three day celebration in Bridgeville back in 1938. The committee in charge, in behalf of the West. Penn'a. Federation and the Progressors, take this opportunity to thank every one that made this such an outstanding event. In particular we thank the Women's Club of Sygan, for their help in the stands, the members who worked at the bar and ticket booths, the speakers on the program, the three singing societies from Pittsburgh, Library, and Strabane, and last but not least the many visitors and contestants from near and distant communities who attended in great numbers to make up the enormous crowd that witnessed the tournament and later in the afternoon attended the picnic. It was not until the early hours of the morning that the last picnicker departed and the committee began the cleaning and checking up.

I wish to congratulate the tournament winners on their victories and I'm hoping they shall prize and display their crowns in their respective communities, thereby advertising their local lodge and the SSPZ as a whole. I also want to congratulate all who participated for their display of sportsmanship and fair play throughout the tournament. Each and every team began and continued, until the last batter was out, with that determination to be victorious. Not until the last bat-

(Continued on page 5)

Danica News

Indianapolis, Ind. — With the blare of our horns, and the constant shouting and waving to the newly made friends as well as the old, we started on our trek homeward, thinking not of the distance before us, but only of the moments of enjoyment we left behind. Indeed, our stay in Bridgeville was very short, yet we fulfilled our one desire, "to have a good time," thus making the Eighth Annual SSPZ National Softball Tournament, a remembering one. Much credit, however, for the success of this Meet is given to the committee who diligently worked for this end, and the Danica lodge and Vrtec No. 9 take this opportunity to thank them for their accomplishments.

Our trip to the Quaker state was not in vain, as we feel proud of the fact that the Danica team was runners-up thus making a good showing in their first venture of senior competition and our Vrtec team, inexperienced as they were, gave proof that they will be the team to watch in 1941. To Lodge No. 41 of Ambridge, Pa., we send our congratulations and to the Challenger Jrs. felicitations, Seniors and Juniors, Champions of 1940, respectively.

It Really Happened

Whoever heard of a Croatian named Rosenberger? He would not make good gun-fodder for Hitler's army. Incidentally, this particular Rosenberger is a star third baseman of the championship Ambridge team.

What two well-known Hoosiers forced two other Hoosiers into an osculating clinch? Would his face be red if the two Sygan gals were present when exalted happiness prevailed in those short seconds.

(Continued on page 5)

Evasion Is A Poor Answer

Bro. Joseph Drasler is a clever young man—at least he thinks he is. In a foot-note to one of his articles I used the occasion to point out certain facts which are the REAL reason for the hue and cry raised by him and others like him in regard to the merger issue now before the members of this Society. But instead of answering my statements, he simply ignores them and takes refuge in evasion. Clever, but not quite clever enough.

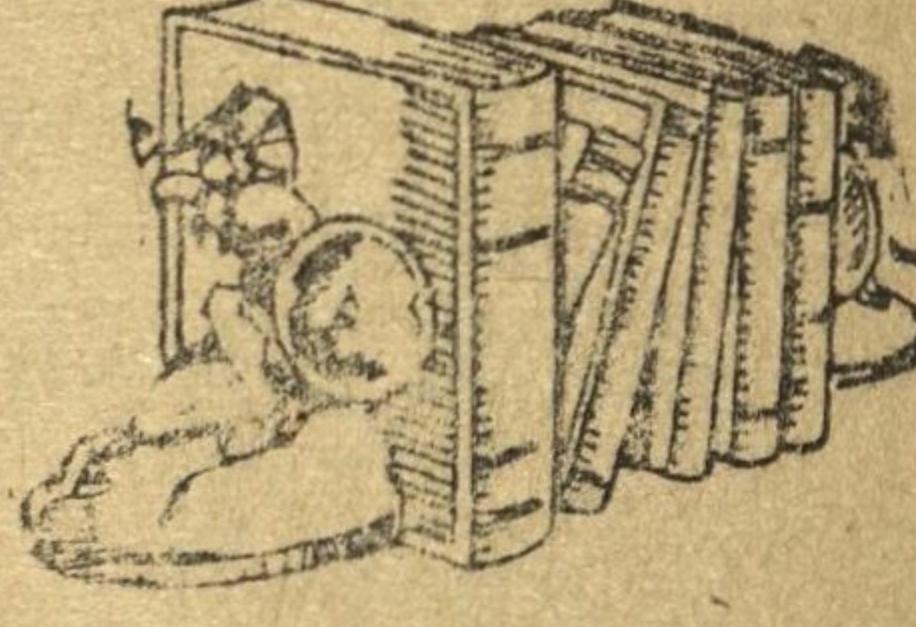
The high praise of SNPJ principles by Bro. Drasler is duly acknowledged. Did I ever say that anything was wrong with the principles of SNPJ? I did not. I merely had the unheard of audacity to point out that the manner in which those principles were applied has done more harm than good to the cause of a sound labor and youth movement among the Slovanes in America. I tried to cover that point more thoroughly in my article on merger, which was published in translation on this page of Napredok. So far, not a single E. S. lodge member of the SSPZ has seen fit to contradict my analysis.

In addition, let me state that I am a member of SNPJ of 19 years' standing and have helped to organize two SNPJ E. S. lodges in Cleveland. Can Bro. Drasler say as much for himself?

Bro. Drasler's concern over my "diastorous political career" moves me almost to tears. Yes, twice in my life, I've had the courage to enter the political arena and challenge the reactionaries on their own ground. I was licked, of course, but I have the satisfaction of knowing what it means to battle,

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Fraternalism in Action
The SSPZ paid to its members \$4,000,000 in benefits since organization.



FOR A SOUND MERGER

By Vatro J. Grill

(This is the third and final article in a series of three, translated from Slovenian, dealing with the question of merger, which has become controversial in connection with negotiations carried on by this Society with SNPJ and JSKJ.)

In our opinion there is no real reason why three of our fraternal societies which are fundamentally related to each other, the SNPJ, JSKJ and SSPZ, couldn't be consolidated into one sometime in the near future. For some reason it may be advisable that the consolidation should first be limited to two of them; this may also be more practical, whereupon further steps should be taken for the inclusion of the third and of the others whose membership differs little or not at all from the standpoint of ideas. However, that such a consolidation is not only desirable but also possible, we think no seriously minded person among us would dispute.

What, then, should we have before our eyes, first of all, in order that such an action, when and if it is consummated, should bolster up the respect of the Slovane community in America, make it morally stronger and take care so that our cause in America will not die when Slovane speech becomes silent? In other words, when Slovenes in America will be able to live and endure only as a concept, as a cultural and a moral force. That this is possible, clear evidence is offered by other, older immigrants in America who have long since ceased to exist as linguistic groups but who have, nevertheless, left a definite imprint in the life of this country, contributed significant lines in the formation of its cultural, social and political development, and who, at the same time, retained their identity. (Typical examples of such groups are the immigrants from Scandinavian, German and Anglo-Saxon countries.) This isn't important only because of ourselves, it is even more important on account of America. This isn't a matter of nationalistic selfishness or of being in love with ourselves, as if we thought that Slovenes are a special or superior human breed, but the question involved here is whether we understand, or do not understand, the role given us potentially to contribute our share to the growing civilization of America. That's what is at stake—no more, and no less.

With nations possessing an old culture hallowed by tradition, this question was never a problem. Those who belong to nations that had built empires, discovered new continents and directed the cultural course of mankind have never felt the need of learning self-confidence, which, however, is of tremendous importance in the formation of a virile character; they were born with it, so to speak, and it remained a part of them no matter where life's fate took them. It is different with small peoples like the Slovenes. We are burdened with a feeling of inferiority, which is nowhere so clearly shown as in our eagerness to proclaim that we are "proud" to be Slovenes, and in the satisfaction which it gives us to point out that someone who is somebody is "not ashamed" to be known as a Slovane or that his parents were Slovene. To members of nations with a great past the need of being proud, or of being ashamed of their background wouldn't even occur. Louis Adamic has written a great deal about the feeling of inferiority among the children of immigrants from Southern and Central Europe—New Americans, as he calls them—and that this is no fiction will be admitted by everybody who moves among our young people, and tries to understand and aid them in their efforts to free themselves from the psychological dilemma in which they find themselves by reason of their background.

Some time ago we said that we are opposed to a merger which would mean nothing more than a joining of treasures and home offices, in other words a merger that would merely result in a big insurance company, which, although it could be strong financially, would be only "business." We still hold to that opinion. We believe that a great task is waiting our fraternal societies—to use their combined power for an objective, serious and carefully planned educational movement for the benefit of our American-born youth. For a movement, which will be something more than the haphazard amateurishness with which we have been operating all too long, fooling ourselves with the idea that we are "educating" our sons and daughters into good, constructive Slovane Americans. To speak concretely—it will be necessary to conduct regular educational courses, to write and publish books, and to perform countless small tasks, if we desire our young people really to know something about the nation out of which they come; so that they will understand why we are what we are—know our weaknesses, understand their causes and not consider them virtues, but that they will also know our virtues, recognize them as such and not be ashamed of them. To the average American-born Slovane our past is a closed book; he knows very little or nothing about the people from which he comes. This is why he would like to shake off everything that reminds him of it and become "Americanized" as fast as possible. There can be no doubt that feelings of shame and inferiority which burden him represent veritable dynamite.

A lot of water has gone over the dam in this respect, but there is still time and opportunity to do some of the work that was left undone, provided there is enough intelligence, willingness to work, and understanding among us. A strong organization would be equal to this task, no less important for us than for it.

In unity there is power. Very true, indeed. We should not forget, however, that power is beneficial only when the ends for which it is being used are good and beneficial.

NOTE: I hope that the readers of the English section have kept in mind, while reading these articles, that they were written

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