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Trotskyists of the "Left" discover Santa Claus

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Trotskyists clearly recognize themselves in all revisionist ramblings. The third congress of the Khrushchevites of Belgium - whom these with a beautiful cheek baptize XVIth Congress of the Communist Party - inspires them visibly.

We were thus entitled, before the fact, to a brilliant exercise in cutting hair in four by Mandel occupying two whole pages of the *Left* to analyse some typically revisionist and neo-reformist points of the Burnellian report, to propose as quickly other theses who sometimes arrived - it is a performance which deserves to be emphasized - to sink even further into revisionism and neo-reformism.

Afterwards, we are entitled to a comment from a page by Marcel Liebmann, who, there is hardly, in the same place, had erected himself as a high priest of the cult of Leon Trotsky. Liebmann has discovered another great man: it is René Noël, the "Italian" of the PC

We know the theme of the congress. The official thesis: let's group around the PSB [Unitary Belgian Socialist Party, editor's note], implied (but barely) to blend in at the first opportunity, if necessary, after a short internship in the Joint Action. In the meantime, let us try to make Spaak's party understand that it would be more skilful on its part to leave the government temporarily.

Opposite, Her Majesty's opposition, whose apparent leader is Noël: the PSB is irretrievable. Let's make alliances, like the Walloon Democratic Rally in Cuesmes, where we group a little everyone including liberals (see his collaboration in the discussion forum of the *Red Flag*) and success is guaranteed.

Liebmann wriggles because he has found his leader this Christmas which he does not hesitate to compare to Togliatti. It goes so far that we read in the article in question that Christmas last year pleaded the cause of the Chinese Communist Party. This is sure to surprise those who read the prose and even more heard the racist words of Christmas during the Cuesmes election campaign.

PRIDE AND POLITICAL GANGSTERISM

Anyway, the editor of the *Left* assures us: “ *Cuesmes, this is the great pride of the PCB (sic). In this big borough of Borinage, traditional bastion of the PSB, the communists (resic), trained by Christmas, took the majority in the municipal council and the burgomaster's chain .* ”

The revisionists have a bizarre conception of pride and Liebmann, who knows very well what happened at Cuesmes, has strange lapses of memory. Do we have to remember how Noël, regent and school principal, made scandalous pressures on sponsors of the list of the Walloon Communist Party, used threats and blackmail to obtain the cancellation of our regularly deposited list? It was despicable and so despicable that the investigation carried out at the end of these facts led to prove the good faith of our activists and the unspeakable procedures of Christmas.

This very normally resulted in the cancellation of the October elections, not only by the permanent deputation of the province of Hainaut, but also, Noël himself appealing, by a decision of the Council of State. The fact that the Khrushchev senator then had a "success" in Cuesmes does not take anything away from his infamy.

Our readers know - and Liebmann knows - what methods Noël used during his election campaign, the brutality and the gangster methods used by his goons. It is true that, as they say in the region, "*when you sleep with a dog, you catch his fleas* ". Liebmann probably has the allies he deserves.

There is one thing that amazes me. How is it that, five months after the facts, the *Left* has not yet managed to speak of the agreement made - probably under the auspices of Freemasonry - between the Khrushchevites and the PLP?

It is true that Liebmann probably has good reasons for sparing Freemasonry. This agreement resulted in the election, by 8 revisionist councillors and by 6 PLP [Party of Freedom and Progress, ancestor of the current MR, editor's note], of Jean Terfve as provincial senator from Liège.

This agreement also brought the intervention of the PLP *in extremis* in the electoral campaign of Cuesmes: a leaflet, signed by Hanotte, deputy and animator of the chauvinist demonstrations of colonials in July 1960; by Jottrand, senator, administrator of the Bank of Brussels and lawyer for charcoal owners; by Gherards, provincial councilor of the Poujadist style, called to vote Christmas. The PLP in Cuesmes had had 700 votes in the May elections - the 700 votes that the Togliatti du Borinage lacked to obtain an absolute majority.

The PLP at the same time filled the teacher and the student, Terfve and Noël.

CHRISTMAS, ALL DEDICATED TO PSB

The Christmas opposition to the PSB is a very recent thing and I will only speak here of what I can prove.

Is it indifferent to say today, at the time of the *Red Flag* editors' strike, that at the time when Christmas was a permanent member of the Party - exactly director of publicity for the Communist press - it was granted to him, thanks in the good care of Jean Terfve, the authorization to exercise in addition the paid functions of director at the industrial school of Cuesmes? There are "permanent" who have not known the hard sacrifices that Burnelle knows so well how to evoke.

The advertising direction of the *DR* does not succeed at Christmas. He resumed his teaching career. From then on, the spectacular friendship between Christmas and the bourgmestre Plumart was well known in the Borinage. The latter even had trouble leaving with his political friends who did not understand that Christmas was allowed was forbidden to a teacher member of the PSB: the combination of parliamentary mandate and a teaching function. Hurez, ex-collaborator of the *Left* knows something about it.

On the other hand, Christmas was not ungrateful to Plumart. In 1952, for the municipal elections of Cuesmes, the fiery director vetoed the presentation of a communist list and the section shattered. In 1958, there was also no list at Cuesmes. But at the same time, Noël, who lived in Mons, had sanctions imposed on the militants who, supported by the unanimity of the section, had refused to allow him to lead the Communist list following, on his part, an improbable series of acts hostile to the Party.

I remember a particularly astounding fact that had happened before and I was involved in it. Following mining damage, an entire side of rue du Peuple in Cuesmes had collapsed. The Committee of the Boreal Federation of the Party had carried out an action in favour of the victims and had charged the serious faults of the bourgmestre Plumart.

I had been instructed by the Federal Committee to write an article on this subject in *La Voix Boraine*, a supplement to the *Drapeau Rouge Magazine*. Unbeknownst to everyone, Noël went to the print shop and edited my article, turning the criticism of Plumart into unconditional praise.

Complaints to the Party leadership did nothing. Those who for weeks had led, according to the statutes, the fight against the opportunism of Christmas and his friends, had to bow down or revolt. A few weeks later, I was expelled along with fifteen other comrades including three founders of the Party.

The truth is that the Cuesmes PSB was the electoral force for Christmas. By making him the director of a technical school where he behaved, however, many times as a combat boss (as

evidenced by a very recent conviction incurred by him before the Regional Office of the CGSP-Education). By making him parade again as a speaker of CLEO in the House of the People of Cuesmes.

In addition, what strikes the observer is the total passivity of the Boreal Federation of the PSB during the second municipal election campaign. We were going to see what we were going to see, we said in advance. We saw nothing at all and the local socialist section seemed completely paralyzed.

If they do not have the same lapses of memory as him, the friends of Liebmann, these members of the PWT borain [Walloon Workers' Party, Trotskyist structure founded in early '65 after entrism was declared incompatible with belonging at the PSB and that the Trotskysts gathered around the newspaper *La Gauche* were expelled from it, editor's note if devoted to the senator, could perhaps tell him that during the great strike of December 1960-January 1961, Noël did several times, in a tavern at the Grand-Place in Mons, meetings to convince them and others not to create a left socialist party.

They can tell him that, shortly before the last municipal elections, Noël went there from several editorials in *La Voix Borraine* to say, in the American punch style he likes, that they could not create a new party, that 'they had to join hers or stay where they were.

Then Noël changed his mind about it, hoping for a lot of PWT in the hands of men who, for the most part, are devoted to him.

A REPLACEMENT PAWN OF REVISIONISM

It is good to remember who Christmas is when revisionism will probably use it as a spare pawn. In this regard, Terfve's silence at the congress, after his feat of arms with the *Red Flag*, is perhaps symptomatic.

PSB policy is currently so clumsy, the betrayal of the working class is so obvious, that the collapse of this bourgeoisie Trojan horse in the workers' sector can be rapid and spectacular. May 23 sounded the death knell. The new single law will provoke workers' anger. The PSB will risk paying hard at this time.

The liquidators Burnelle, Beelen, Blume - the BBBs of integration into social democracy - risk sinking into the same debacle. To save the revisionist party, there would be the Christmas trend! Perhaps the man is little weight? Some keepers could then speak ...

But what is certain is that Christmas is another type of revisionist, but still a revisionist. During his famous campaign of Cuesmes, he boasted of having no program. He committed himself, teaching him retired official, to suppress the festival of official schools and to replace it by a festival common to the two education networks.

In an intervention in the Senate, he advocated universities common to public education and clerical education. If he is held to a certain reserve in the rostrum of a congress, he makes no secret elsewhere that his goal is the creation of a "big" party of "left" open a little to everyone : revisionists, reformists, Christian Democrats, liberals for the occasion baptized progressive.

It is another variety of liquidation but which is not far from that which Amendola and his faction defend in the Italian Communist Party. And this is what obviously pleases the Trotskyist Liebmann.

For him, the revisionist Congress is " *becoming a real congress* ". He tells us what he means by that: an assembly where the tendencies clash even ends with " *what is the custom agreed to call a motion of synthesis* " - we would say, we, a "negro motion -white", so dear to the SFIO. In short, he wanted a congress, a party where the rival factions clash and tear each other apart, a party without unity where there is much talk of unity.

That Liebmann and his friends recognize themselves there, should we be surprised? Note that the author of the article is not entirely fooled. The Terfve-Noël-Burnelle-Blume-Beelen-Moulin party is bogged down in the swamps of reformism:

"... *these points of view slide towards a dangerous reformism* ...

... *the formula is inadmissible for a Marxist* ... "

Then he speaks of " *weakening* " ... and so on.

All this, in our view, Liebmann is essential. For you, it's the accessory. You found a man. Your excitement - Christmas after Trotsky - pushes you, you say, into dialogue.

And you quote Drumeaux: " *We will continue to work, that is to say to dialogue* ..."

Well, talk! We communists, we will discuss, we will debate. But above all we will fight. Against the bourgeoisie, against American imperialism. And by this very fact, against their workers' agents.