
Lithuanian Opposition Begins the Issuance of Weekly Organ: Review and Criticism of *Naujoji Gadyne*

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We have before us the first two issues of *Naujoji Gadyne* (The New Age), the official organ of the Lithuanian Communist Opposition, a group of Lithuanian Communists and sympathizers who have come into sharp conflict with the present Party leadership over its sectarian and splitting course in the Lithuanian workers' organizations in this country.

Naujoji Gadyne is a well-edited revolutionary paper. Its eight pages are full of good general news of the American labor movement and of Lithuania. Of course, the paper concentrates upon the situation in the Lithuanian left wing organizations, such as ALDID (literary clubs), the women's organizations, singing societies, etc. There is plenty of news from the various Lithuanian centers throughout the country. The paper deals vigorously with the struggle of the Lithuanian Opposition against the "Bimbaites" and the Lithuanian Central Buro of the Communist Party.

It must be declared, however, that in the early issues of the paper there is distinct tendency to treat the struggle of the Lithuanian Opposition against the Party officials and policy as if it were an isolated "Lithuanian" fight. The fundamental political struggle in the American Communist Party and in the Communist International — the struggle between the leadership of the Communist International, the International Communist Opposition, and the Trotskyist Opposition — is almost completely neglected. For example, the article of Comrade [E.] Butkus, the clearest in political conception, is very good as far as it goes but it speaks of the split rather abstractly — it does not so much as

mention the Communist Party (Majority Group) or its struggle, although Butkus's arguments are largely the arguments of the CP-Majority Group. Such incompleteness and hesitation both reflects and breeds dangerous political confusion.

There is also a tendency visible in the paper to blur the big differences in tactical questions between the Opposition and the Party leadership — a tendency to conciliationism. The Hunger March is described in enthusiastic terms without any attempt at criticism of its glaring sectarian mistakes. The article by Comrade [Leonas] Pruseika on trade union policy practically accepts the official Party viewpoint on the TUUL [Trade Union Unity League] unions, merely criticizing their incompetent and sectarian leadership. Now, of course, a certain confusion and tendency to conciliationism are inevitable in the early stages of any opposition but surely the Lithuanian Opposition does not have to repeat all of the mistakes of its forerunners without any attempt at learning from them!

The general program of Lithuanian Opposition is still only vaguely determined; the task is still for the future. The Lithuanian comrades must realize that only a conscious struggle along the lines of the program of the Communist Party (Majority Group) and in the closest cooperation with it can bring any results among the Lithuanian workers as everywhere else.

Edited by Tim Davenport

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