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EASTERN GERMANY

Revolt In The Ranks Of The NDP.

SOURCE BERLIN : Observer of the NDP in Thuringia.

DATE OF OBSERVATION : 17 September 1953

EVAL. COMMENT : Please see also Item No.9311/53,
"No Taken of Gratitude."

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Recalling the refusal of NDP chairmen in HETTST DT to send a telegram of gratitude to the Soviet Union on 28 August 1953, the NDP board of chairmen for Bezirk HALLE succeeded in decreeing new Kreis-chairmen elections of the party in HETTSTEDT on 17 September 1953.

When HETTSTEDT NDP Kreis-chairmen thereupon met as usual in EISLEBEN, they found a number of SED functionaries who declared that in the interest of the continuation of the Block Policy, they had come to participate as non-voting representatives of the SED in the meeting.

In spite of strong objections from many NDP delegates, SED representatives, supported by members of the NDP board of Bezirks-chairmen, succeeded in remaining in the meeting room where the discussion took place.

During the next two hours, SED representatives now and then made speeches containing inflammatory remarks against most of the NDP Kreis-chairmen, whom
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they wanted to have removed from party office because of their objections not only against showing gratitude to the Soviet Union but also against the policy of the Communist party.

According to source, many NDP functionaries asked agitating SED representatives embarrassing questions during the meeting. For instance, why the SED was using money of the FDGB to support agitators in West Germany, particularly during election time, instead of using this money for the welfare of East German workers.

When the vote was finally taken -- by open ballot -- more than 80 per cent of the NDP delegates cast their votes for members of the existing board of Kreis-chairmen. One SED representative -- obviously the leader of the group -- thereupon threatened that the block policy in HETTSTEDT would soon be discontinued.

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