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CZECHOSLOVAKIA

ADMINISTRATION /0100/
National Committees /0101/

MEMBERS OF NATIONAL COMMITTEES NOT INTERESTED IN
SOCIAL WELFARE.

SOURCE WASHINGTON : Free Europe Press

DATE OF OBSERVATION : December 23 1954.

EVAL. COMMENT : This interesting information cannot be confirmed since the "Národní výbory" periodical ceased to reach this office approximately one year ago. Special attention FEP.

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Members of the National Committees cannot be burdened with "secondary administrative tasks, such as caring for the social welfare of their needy constituents, according to "Národní výbory," a weekly periodical published by the Czechoslovak Prime Minister's Office for the orientation of the National Committees.

In the issue of December 23 1954, an article criticized the head of the PRAGUE City Welfare Department for asking members of the local committees about their opinion on the distribution of help to needy citizens.

"If members of National Committees," writes the periodical, "were burdened with small secondary administrative tasks, they would have little time left to perform the mass organizational work in their districts. They would thus be kept away from the proper mission for which they are called. They would become executive organs of the administration. In reality, just the opposite should be true. The administrative departments are the executive organs of the National Committees. The heads
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of these departments are not allowed to impose tasks and duties on members of National Committees. If the National Committees accepted such a practice, they would contribute to the weakening of the State authority and would allow the bureaucratic apparatus to dictate to the elected representatives of the people."

The incident was caused by a letter of the head of the Social Welfare Department of the PRAGUE National Committee addressed to the members of the Third District Committee in PRAGUE on December 13 1954, in which he asked them to answer a questionnaire sent to them some time before, concerning special financial help and free food to needy citizens of their district.

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