

mine precisely our opinions about the author of „Wskazania polityczne“ (Political Directions).

KAROL MARIAN POSPIESZALSKI

#### THE MAIN TENDENCIES OF THE CONTEMPORARY ELECTORAL LAW IN GERMAN FEDERAL REPUBLIC

Since 1945 there has been in Western Germany a strong dispute about the electoral system that should be applied for parliamentary elections — the principle of proportional representation (SPD) or of plurality majority in one-candidate districts (CDU). The first electoral system to Bundestag of 1949 was intended as a compromise but in fact it was the principle of proportional representation that proved victorious. But the controversy lasted and that led to new electoral system Acts in 1953 and 1956 which, however, did not essentially change the situation.

The act of Elections for Bundestag of May 7th 1956 provides that candidates in single-member districts can be proposed either by political parties or by voters' groups while in many-candidates Lands only by political parties. Every voter has two votes — he casts one for the candidate of the district and the other for the Land list. A candidate may run for election in the district and in the Land at one time. In the district the candidate who tops the list in number of ballots is elected (the principle of plurality majority). In the Land it is the principle of proportional representation that is adopted. According to the amount of „second“ votes the number of representatives for different parties is computed. From these numbers the quantity of successful candidates from districts is deducted and the rest is completed from the Land list. Hence this system is based on proportional representation but the results of elections in districts may be decisive, at least as to the first places on party lists.

The candidate of the party for the district is chosen by local party members at a special meeting. The voter can vote in the district for the candidate of party X and in the Land for the list of party Z. This is intended as an idea of individual choice (*Persönlichkeitswahl*)

The political party which has neither received at least 5% of the entire amount of „second“ votes in the whole country nor won 3 successful candidates in districts cannot gain representatives from the country list. *Bayernpartei* and *Gesamtdeutsche Volkspartei* had raised the objection that this clause was not in accord with the constitution but it was rejected by the Federal Constitution Tribunal.

A stronger means has been applied against the Communist Party. The verdict of the above mentioned Tribunal stated that the party itself was unconstitutional and thus ordered to dissolve.

WACŁAW RADKIEWICZ

#### THE ECONOMIC SITUATION OF AGRICULTURE IN WESTERN GERMANY

The Author demonstrates that the agriculture of Western Germany does not develop as quickly as the industry of that country despite strong stimulants