Rough trunslation

LENIN, Collected Works, Rus.ed. Vol. 30, 1932

One Step Forward, Two Steps Back

(Lenin's enswer to Luxemburg's "Organizational Questions of the Russian S-D", written against Lenin's panishlet of the same mame as the above article, a published both in the Neue Zeit, No. 42&43.1904, and in Iskra, No. 69 July 23(10), 1904. Lenin's answer Kautsky sfused to publish. The MS was found-satate the notes to this volume-as a copy in the German language in an unknown and writing, and corrected by Lenin)

The article of com. Rosa Luxeburg in #42 & 43 of Die Neue Zeit appears as a citique of my Russian book about the crisis in our party. I cannot but express thanks tone German com ades for their attention to he our party literature, for their attent to acquaint the Ger. S-D with this literature, but I must point out that the farticle of Rosa Luxemburg in "Neue Zeit" will not acquain the readers either with my book, or with anything else. This is seen from the following examples.

states

Com. Luxemburg, for ex. /that my book clearly and strikingly displays a tendency of "centralisation which takes not bing into account" Com. Luxemburg thus assues that I make one organizational system for the other. But in mality this is not so. Throughout the book, from the first to the last pre. I defend the elementary portulates of no system of any imaginable party organization.

My book deals with not the question abut the difference between one or another organizational system, but the question about how one should defend, criticize and orrect any me system, not contradictory to the principles of the party.

Rosa Luxemburg states firther that "in correspondence with his (Lenin's) understanding, the C.C. has full autority to organize [1] local committees of the party." In reality this is not true, by view on this question can be documentarily demonstrated by the file of the party organization which I want introduced. In this project there is not a word about the right to organize local committees. The Commission, elected and the party congress for working out the rules of the party, included in it this right, and the party congress approved this project of the commission. In this occursion, bestite well's in the test of the minority of the majority, were elected 3 representatives of the minority of the party congress, consequently, in this commission which had assigned the CC the right to organize local committees, 3 of my opponents as it happens supported the top of the Com. Luxemburg confused two different facts. Firstly, she comfused my organizational project with the altered project of becommission, on the one hand, and, on the other hand, with the organizational rule sloped by the party congress; secondly be confused the defense of a definite demand of a definite paragraph of the rules (I was in no way "merciless" in its defense" since at the ple num I did not speak against the corrections introductioned by the committee) with the defence (Is it not true, genuinely ("ultra-committee) with the defence (Is it not true, genuinely ("ultra-committee) with the carried out in life until and time as it will be charged by the next congress, must

Com Luxemburg says that in my opinion the "CC is the only active cadre of the party." In reality this is not true. I have never defended this view. On the outrary, my opponents (the minority of the 2nd congress of theparty) accused me in their writings, that I do not adequately defend the independence, samostoyatelnost of the CC and subordinate too much to it the ed. board of the C.O. and Soviet of he party which is abroad.

To this accusation I answer in my book that when the party majority had the top in the Council of the party, it never made any attempt to limit the independence of the CC; but this occurred at the moment that the Council of the party became the instrument of struggle in the hands of the minority.

Com. Luxemburg says that in the Rus sian S-D there exist no dabts of any kind about the need of a single party and that the whole dispute was concentrated around the question of greater or leser centralisation. In reality this is not true. If Com. Luxemburg took upon herself the wark task of acquainting herself with the resolutions of the many local committees of the party which form the majority then she would readily understand (this is espaislly clearly seen from my book) that the dispute among us was mainly about whether the C.C. (or) the C.O. should knowld not given about the represent the direction of the majority of the party congress. About this "ultra-centralism" and "purely Blanquist" demand of the respected comrade says not a single word. She prefers to declaim against the mechanical, blind obedience, and other like horrors. I am very tankful to Com. obedience, and other like horrors. I am very mankful to Com.
Luremburg for her explanation of he profound idea that slavish obedience is fatal for the party, but I should like to know, whether the comrade considers normal, can she allow for, had she seen in any party that in the central organs, which call themselves party organs, there hould desirants predominate the minority of the party organs, there hould desirants predominate the minority

Com. R. Lux em burg amatigne me the thought that in Russia there are already all presquisites for the organization of a big and extremely centralized workers party. Against there is a factual untruth. Nowhere in my book did I defend such a view, nor even expressed such an opinion/ The theris I elaborated expressed and expresses something different. And I specifically underlined the fact hat on the face of it there are all prerequisites for this, that the decisions of the party congress
be recognized, and that he is long past when the party
collective be substitued by private (individual) (ircle. I
brought proof of the fact that several party diterate revealed
their inconstance and fibitiness and they have no right whatever brought proof of the fact that several party literath revealed their incomstency and fightiness and they have no right whatever to shift their undisciplidness unto the Russin proletarian. The Russian wriers have already repeatedly under different circumstances expressed themselves for following out the decisions of the prty congess. It is indeed laughable then come Luxemburg declares such a view to be "optimistic" (is it not necessary rather to consider it "pessimistic") and with this says not a single word about the factual basis of my stami (proposition). Tom.

Luxemburg says that I eulogize the educational significance of the factory. This is not true. Not I, but my opponent, asserts that I represent to myself the party in the form of a factory.

As was necessary, I will called this, demonstrating by his words that he confuses two different aspects of factory discipline, which, unfortunately, has also happened with Come Luxemburg.

\*Cf. the Russian book, "Our Differences", the article, "R. Luxemburg

(The notes to the volume, under d. of Adoratsky, Molotov and Esvelov, state that the "opponent" to whom Lenin refer was author of the article, "Re the question of our party tasks/ About organization.", printed in applement to Iskra #57, 1/28 (15)1904, and signed under the speudonym Practical" (M. Makadamb)

Also: the Article "RL sgainst KM" was written by Ryadov (A.A. (Bogdanov)) and printed in the sbornik of articles of Galerki and Redov. (Our Misumerstandings") (Geneva, 1904, pp.46-59¢ reprinted on the sbornik of the Istpart "How the Party of the Bolcheviks was Born", pp.167-184)

Com. Luxemburg says that in my definition of a revolutionary SoD as a Jacobin connected with the organization of he classepoint of view than ay of my opponents could have possibly given.
Once again a Actual inacuracy. Not I, but P. Axelrod was the first to peak of Jacobinism. Axelrod was the first to compare our party groupings with the groupings at the time of the Great French could be accepted that the division of contemporary SoD on-yan opportunist a revolutionary and according to a certain degree to the division on the Mountain and teGirondists. A accepted by the party engress. Recognizing precisely such a accepted by the party engress. Recognizing precisely such a division, he old Iskra fought against the opportunist wing of our confused here co-relation be tween two revolutionary tondencies of the 18th and 20th century with the himitication of these same comparison to a Young I. My Mark as the same as a two-story house in comparison to a four-story one, this does not yet mean that I identify a four-story home with a Youngfrau

analysis of the different tendencies of our party has completely falle out from the field of observation of Com. Luxemburg. And which is based on the protocols of our party congress, and pay special attention to it in the introduction. Rosa Luxemburg completely ignores in the our party congress which, sobstveno, that this is a risky unertaking. All the more misky inasmuch, as, and precisely because of this all their assertions are devoid of any factual basis.

Precisely such a basic mistake is accomplished also by Rosa Luxomburg. She repeats only naked phrases, not taking upon herself the task to explain their concrete meaning (smysl). She frightens of the task to explain their concrete meaning (smysl). She frightens of the task to sugaboos), not having studied the real basis principles and considerations, abolute truths and tries to keep principles and considerations, abolute truths and tries to keep quiet about the relative truths concerning the strictly determined yet of stereotypes and in this appeals to the dialectic of Marx. And yet the article of the respected comrade contains exclusively alphabet of the dialectic. This alphabet asserts that the ferre is no superfact truth, that truth is always concrete.

Com. Rosa Luxemburg majestically inguares/concrete facts of our party struggle and magnanimously occupies in self with declarations about questions which one cannot seriously consider. I will cite the final example from the second article of Com. Luxemburg.

of the creational statute can gree make as the more or less strong means of struggle against opportunism. Regarding what formulations I spoke in my book and we all spoke at the party congress Ross Luxemburg sy s not a word. Whattype of polemic did I lead at the party cogress, against whom did I propose my propositions, with this the comrade does not concern herself whatever. Instead of this she graciously reads me a whole lecture about opportunism. In the countries of parliamentarism!! But about all particular, specific diversities of opportunism. about those numbers which it assumed with us in Russia and about which my book concerns itself—about this we find not a word in her article. The conclusion about all this, in the highest degree, ingeniuous considerations, is be followings.

"The statute of the party should be not some sort of selfstruggle with opportunism, but only the weapon for manuality
leading (conducting?provedeniya) outside of is leading influence
of the factually existing pevolutionary proletarian majority of the
majority. Entirely errect. But how did the factually existing
majority of our party become formed, about this R. Luxemburg is
silent, and it is precisely about this that I soeak of in my book.
She is silent also about this, what kind of influence did I and
Plekhanov defend with the help of this weapon. I can only add
I never anywhere spice such nonsense, that the statute of he party
is a weapon in itself.

The most correct answer to such a method of interpretation of my views would be the analysis of the concrete facts of our party struggle. Then it would be clear to each one, how strongly the concrete facts outradict the generalities and stereotyped abstractions of Com. Luxemburg.

Our party was born in the spring of (898 in Russia ata time congress of representatives of several Russian organizations. The Party was named the Russian 8-D kaken Workers Party. The central organ was "The Workers Newspaper"; the Union of the Russian E-D abroad became the representatives of the party abroad Scon after the congress, the C.C. of the party was arrested. "The Workers Newspaper" ceased publication from the second number. The while party was transformed into a formless conglomeration of local party organizations (called committees). The only link, connecting these local committees, was that of Meas, a purely spiritual connection. Inevitably there followed a period of discord, vacillations, splits.

The intellaigentsia, composing a considerably greater percentage of our party in comparsion with West European parties, were attracted to Marxism as to a nw style. This attraction very quickly gave way to, on the other hand, a slavish worship of the bourgeois critique of Marx, and on the other hand, to the purely professional labor movements (strike-ism--economism). The division between the intelligentsia-opportunist and proletarian-revolutionary tendency brought about the sait abroad of the "Union". The paper "Workers Thought" (Rabochaya (Mysl) and the paper abroad, "Workers Deed" (Rabocheye Dyelo) (the later a lamewhat weaker) became the expressions of economism, lowered

rejected
the significance of the political struggle, denied the elements
of bourgeois democracy in Russia. The ("legal" critics of Marx,
Mesars. Etruve, Tugan-Baranowsky, Bulgakov, Berdyaev and others,
went completely right. Nowhere in Europe will we find that He
Bernsteinism so rapidly came to its logasl end, to the formation
of a liberal fraction, as it was with us in Russia. With us
Mr. Struve began with "criticism" in the name of Bernsteinism,
and ended with the organization of a liberal journal, "Freedom"
(Ogvobozhdenia). liberal in the European onse of this word. rejected

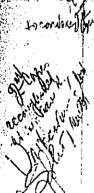
Plekhancv and his friends, leading the union abroad, find support from the side of the founders of "Iskra" and "Zarya" These two journal (about which even Com. Rosa Luxemburg heard some thing) led "a three year brilliant campaign against opportunistic wing of the party, a campaign of the S-D "Gor" "against the the S-D "Marrondists" (this is the expression of the old "Iskra"), a campaign against "Rabocheye Delo" (Coms. Krichevsky, Akimov, Marryncy and others) against the Jewish "Bund", against the Russian organization, inspired by this tendency (in the first place against the Petersburg so-called Workers Organization and the Voronezh Committe). Ocamitto).

the tie between committees It became clearer and clearer that became apparent the need for the formation of a party of genuine saidarity, i.e., the execution of that which was only noted in (1892) Finally, at the end of 1902 there was formed the Organization Committee the task of convoking the 2nd congress of the party. In this O.C., organized, in the main, by the Russian organization of the "Iskra", and it also included that a representative of the Jewish "Bund". In the fall of 1905 the semond congress finally met, be ving accomplished on the one had, the formal unification of the party, and on the other hand, the split into "majority" and "minority". No such division existed before the congress. Only a detailed analysis of the management atruggle which occurred at the party congress, can explain the struggle which occurred at the party congress, can explain the division. Unforminately, the partisans of the minority (including Com. Luxemburg) cautiously evade such an analysis.

In my book, which is so originally brought to be attention of the German readers by com. Luxemburg. I devote over 100 rages to a detailed aslysis of the protocos of the congress (casisting of 400 pages). This analysis forced mo to divide the delegates, or more accurately speaking, the votes (we had delegates who had one or mark two votes) into four basic groups:

(1) Iskra-ists of the Majority (partisans of the tendency of the old "Iskra) (24) votes, (2) Iskra-ists of the minority (votes, (3) centre (marks nicknamed nasmeshku also the "marsh")

(10) votes and, finally, the anti-Iskraists (8) votes, in all 51 votes.



I analyze the participation of these groups in all the the subjects that came up for discussion at the party organization)
I show that in all thestions (program, tactic and organization)
the party congress became the arena of struggle of the Iskra-ists
against the Takra-ists with the various vacilations of the "warsh". To
any one who is at least a little acquainted with the history of
any one who is at least a little acquainted with the history of
our party it should be clear that it could not be otherwise.
But all partisans of the minority (including also R. Lumemburg)
modestly close their eyes to this struggle. Why? Precisely this
struggle makes obvious the full falseness of the present
struggle makes obvious the full falseness of the present
political situation of the minority. During the while time of
this struggle at the party congress, on dozens of questions, in
this struggle at the party congress, on dozens of questions, in
dozens of votes the Iskra-ists fought against theanti-Iskra-ists
and the "marsh" who the more decisively was on the side on the antiliskra-ists the more concrete the question under discussion was,
the more positively it definied the basis thought of the S-D
sork, the more real it tried to bring to life (realize) the correct
plans of the old Iskra.

Akimov

The anti-Iekra-ists (especially com. Akana and he who elways aggred with him-the deputy of the Petersburg Workers Org., com. Brider, amost aways com, Martynov and 5 delegates of the Jewish Bund) were against the #888871116 of the tendency of the old Bund) were against the #888871116 of the tendency of the old Iskra. They defended the old private (individual) organizations voted against their subordination to the party, against their fusion with the party (incident with the O.C., the dissolution of the group "Southern Worker", the major group of the marsh, etc.) They fought against the organizational statute, composed in the spirit of centralism (14th session of congess) am accused then aprint of centralism (14th session of congess) am accused then all Iskraists, that they wish to introduce "organizational lack of faith", "exclusive law" and other similar horrors.

All Iskraists, without exception, then a ughed at this it is remarkable that com. Rosa Luxemburg accepts all these inventions for something serious. In the preponderant majority of questions the Iskraists won; they predominated at he congress, which is clearly evident from the above-mentioned figures. But at the time of make the second half of the sessions of the congress, when the less principled questions were resolved, the anti-Iskrawhen the less principled questions were resolved, the anti-Iskrawhen ists --some Iskraists voted with them-won. Thus it happened, ists --some Iskraists voted with them-won. Thus it happened, ists example, on the question of equality of languages in our program; for example, on the anti-Iskraists abost succeeded in defeating on this mestions the anti-Iskraists abost succeeded in defeating the program commission and carrytheir own formulation. This happened again on the question of he first paragraph of the statute when the anti-Iskraists tester with the marsh carried the formulation of Martov. \*\*XINGENTIAL THE CONTROL OF THE PROPERTY OF SANIZATIONS (Such a wording Ple thanov too defended) but also all persons who work under the control of the party organization are considered members of the party.

Com. Youteky, expressing himself on this formulation of Martov, stands in this from the point of view of expediency. First, this point was considered at our party congress not from the point of view of expediency, but from a principled point of view. The question view of expediency, but from a principled point of view. The question was posed thus by Axelrod. Secondly, com. Kastkyis seceived if he thinks that under the Russian police regime there exists such abig thinks that under the Russian police regime there exists such abig distinction be tween belonging to party organization and simple work under control of such an organization. Thirdly, it is especially false to empare the present situation in Russia with situation in Ger. under the Exceptional law against secialists.

The same thing occurred on the question of the elections of the C.C. and the Ed. Bd. of the Central Organ. 24 Iskra-ists formed a soried majority; they carried through the long thought of plan if rejuvenating the kd. B.: out of 6 old editors three were selected; into the minority came 9 Iskra-ists, 10 numbers of the center and 1 anti-Iskraist (the remainder-7 anti-Iskraists-the representatives of the Jewish Bund and Rabocheyo Delo--left theoegress earlier yet). This minority was so dissatisfied with the elections that it decided to abstain from participation in the remaining elections. Com. Kantaky was entirely right when he saw in the fact of the rejuvenation of the ed. bd. the main reason for the following struggle. But his view that I (sic!) "excluded" tooms, from the editorship tan'explained only by his tax complete-lackof acquaintance with our congress.

First of all, nonselection is not at all the same as exclusion, and I, of course, had no right at the congress to exclude any one, ad, secondly, com. Kautsky, it seems, does not expect the fact that the coalition of anti-Iskraists, centre and a small part of the adherent of Iskra also had a political significance and could not but have sninfluence on the results of the elections. Who does not wish to close his eyes on what has occurred at the congress, he must understand that our new division into minority and majority is only a variant of the old division into proletarian-revolutionary and intellegentsis-opportunist wings of our party. This factorization is a fact which one cannot get around with any sort of interpretation, any sort of jokes.

Unfortunately, after the congress the principled significance of this split was obscured by dirty goes ip on the question of cooptation. And precisely the mivority did not wish to work under the central of the central institutions inless three old editors whould again be cooptated. Transmitted This struggs continued for two months. The boycott and disarganization of the party were the means of this struggle. 12 committees (out of 14 who expressed themselves on the subject) severely censured these methods of struggle. The minority even refused to accept our (caing from me and Plekhanov) proposition and to express aim its point of view in the pages of the Iskra. At the congress of the League broad the matter went so far that the numbers of the C.O. were strewn withinsults and abusive speech (autocrats, bureaucrats, gendarmes, liars, etc.) They were accused of stifling personal (inhividual) initiative and with desire to introduce absolute submission and blind subordination etc. The attempts of Plekhanov to classify this strugg method of truggle of the minority as anarchist could not reach its aim. After this congress Plekhanov appeared with his article "What Not To Do" (No. 52, Iskra) which camposes an epoch with directed against me.

In article he states that the struggle with avisionism does not tays have to signify a struggle egainst revisionists it was a to all that for this helder in mind our minority. Further he and that sometimes it is a hecessary to struggle with individual anarchim which so deem imbedded in the Russian revolutionary; some concessions are sometimes the best means to subordinate it and avoid a split. I left the editorial board since I could not share suchaview and the editors of the minority were coopted.

(\*The constant references to "minority" and "majority" seems strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now these terms, the strange in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the fact that by now the second in view of the second in v

Then followed the struggle over cooptation in the Central Committee. My proposal to condude peace winder the condition that the C.O. remains under the minority and the C.C. under the majority was rejected. The struggle continued, "principled" fights were carried on against bureaucratism, ultra-centralism, formalism, Jacobinism, shveizerianstva (precise me they called the Russian Shweitzer) and other horrors. I ridiculed all these acceptions in my book and remarked that this is either simple coopted wrangle or (if this must be conditionally recognized as "principles") nothing other than opportunist Gironidst phrases. The present minority repeats only that which can Akimov and other recognized opportunists said at our congress against centralism, defended by all partisans of the old Iskra.

The Russian committees were indignant over the transformation of the C.O. into an organ of an individual circle, the organ of the cooptedaquables and party goesip. Many resistions were passed that expressed the sharpest censure. Only the so-called "Petersburg Workers Organization", which we had already mantioned, and the Voronezh Committee (partisans of the andency of Com.Akimov) expressed their principled satisfaction with the direction of the new Iskra. Volces calleng for technocation of a 3rd congress multiplied.

The reader who will take the trouble to study the original sources of our party struggle will easily understand that the expressions of com. Rosa Luxemburg abut "ultra-cetralism", about the need of gradual centralisation etc. concretely and pactically are a mockery of our corpess, so structly at beretically (if one can have speak about theory) are a direct valgarization of marxism, aperversion of genuine dialectic of Marx, etc.

How hypocritical warm all talks of the minority against ultra-centralism and for autonomy were is clear from the hew publicable maintain of the majority, issued by me and several comrades (where the above-mentioned brochure of com. Gabrky mad others were published) was declared to be outside the pale of the party.\*

14298

-+1 ana

The 19w publishing house offers the majority the only possibility of propagandizing its views since the pages of the Iskra are practically closed to tem. And despite that, or, more correctly, precisely because of this the Soviet of the party carried cut the above-mentioned resolution on that formal basis that our publishing house is not mandated by a single party organization.

No point to speak about what zabrose is at present the positive work, how strongly fell the prestige of the S-D, how strongly disorganize our party is, thanks to the change of all decisions all elections of the 2nd congress, thanks to this struggle against the convocation of the 3rdc agress, which he party institutions, responsible before the party are carrying on.

Written in and half of Sept.1904; 1st pub. in 1930 in "Keninsky Sbornik, "XV.

The notes explains the phrase "outside he pale of the party" ctate: The reference is to the following explanation of the Council of the Party, published in Iskra #74, 9/14(1)/04 and directed against the publication house of the mgority (b.Bonch-Bruevich a d N. Lenin): The Council of the party declares to be comrades that only that is party literature which is published under the authority and in the name of one of the party organizations. Therefore the title R.S-D W.P. cannot be placed on publications issued by individual members of the party. The Council asks all ownedes, in view of the reiterated violations of this, self-evident rule of every party, to keep in mind t is explanation. (Of. brochure by Orlovsky (V.Vorovsky) 'Council asinst the party' in the reprint in the abornik of the Istpart 'How the party of the Bosheviks" was born." 1925, p.370)