

(Respondent is 33 years old, son of a former President of a Bank. As such, he belonged to the worst category - Category X -. Thenafter 1948, he could get only the oddest jobs. In 1951 he was deported to <sup>the</sup> Eastern part of the country (Sáp & Hortobágy) together with his father. He can tell many interesting stories about this period. He never could keep quiet and several times ~~he~~ left illegally the place of habitation assigned to him and took jobs under false name and papers in the neighboring towns only to be caught every time by the AVH, beaten up and brought back to his work on the fields with the other deportees. However, once the hour of his good luck struck, namely the AVH discovered that he was a very skillful painter and could make the best billboards and cartoons. They asked him to do the wall newspaper and the other usual decorations on the walls of the AVH headquarters at the neighboring town. When he succeeded in doing this so well, that the AVH there won the competition <sup>by</sup> ~~at~~ having the best wall newspapers among all the AVH centres of that part of the country, they were very proud and supplied him all the time with new commissions and so he, who before was always beaten by the same AVH men, now became their most favored pet. In 1953, he finally <sup>he</sup> was permitted to return to Budapest. He was working first in an iron rollshutters factory and later became a car varnisher in Csepel. At the outbreak of the Revolution <sup>1956</sup> ~~he~~ was just taking my vacation in Czechoslovakia).

At the first news of the Revolution, I returned to Budapest immediately. I contacted [redacted] and [redacted]

and with them we have resurrected the Catholic People's Union (Katolikus Népszövetség). This organization had already a 60 years old venerable past. We also re-organized the Catholic People's Party, the Katolikus Néppárt. Through the intervention of Zoltán Vas, we got back the former offices of the People's Union from the Film Agency which has occupied them during the Communist era. We also succeeded to have the official recognition for the re-organized Catholic People's Party by the Government (if I recall correctly, Erdélyi was that time <sup>the</sup> Minister who authorized the new formation of the Party).

You have to keep in mind that during these days, everything was still in turmoil and fighting was going on on the street around our offices. [redacted], already a very fragile old man, went out to the streets and during the greatest fights he was sticking our posters on the walls ([redacted] was an extremely interesting character, he was deeply religious and worked all his life for the Catholic Church. At the same time he was strongly anti-clerical. He just could not stand the priests. During the last years he was employed as an unskilled labourer at the KTSZ - Kisipari Termelő Szövetkezet, that Cooperative for small Handycrafts). One day, when I just approached our offices, I found that the house was occupied by the AVH. I ran to the next block, assembled Nemzetőr Freedom Fighters quickly and chased away with them the AVH. We found old [redacted] upstairs half dead from exhaustion. As I learned later, the AVH was questioning him,

threatening him and even mishandling him for hours, but they still did not succeed in getting out from the old man the secret where he kept our files with the names of our co-workers and members.

As the delegate of my Party, the Catholic People's Party, I was member of the Hungarian National Committee of the V Borough which was the inner city and also I was member at the centre of the Borough Committees, namely of the Hungarian National Revolutionary Council.

I saw Cardinal Mindszenty and spoke with him, although only for about two minutes. In my opinion he behaved very soberly and he thought over each word he said in those days. He was the true symbol of the ideas of our Revolution.

I was daily twice or three times in the Parliament on different errands. Since we needed badly an automobile in order to get started with the organization of our Party also in the country, at the time when there was almost no other means of communication and travel, I tried to get a car from the smallholders Party. The smallholders namely had already confiscated over 400 cars in Budapest alone for their own purposes. When I approached Tildy in this matter, he did not find time for me and advised me to speak with his son, a young boy not even 21. It was dis<sup>g</sup>tasteful to see that unimaginable nepotism which Tildy and his family exercised during these days just as earlier when he was still Prime Minister and later the President of the country. During the

Revolution, all his family and his wife's relations have moved into the Parliament and camped there on the couches and sofas so that the whole Parliament looked like a Tildy family reunion house. Of course, he did not have any time for serious politics, when all the time some of his relations, cousins, aunts and grandmothers were speaking with him about their petty daily problems of procuring milk or pillows or bedsheets for their couches in the Hungarian Parliament. However, Kővágó, another illustrious member of the smallholders, the former Mayor of Budapest, behaved even more inexcusably. When I told him that I came with a personal request from Cardinal Mindszenty for an authorization for the requisition of a car for our Party, he gave me the following high-handed answer "why doesn't Mindszenty join the smallholders Party, then he will get a car". I think this was not an answer which Cardinal Mindszenty has merited from people who were bragging to have fought against Communism and to have brought back honesty and Christianity in Hungary.

New political Parties sprang up like mushrooms every day. On the christian line <sup>ye</sup> they have been a new Christian Democratic Party, a Christian Socialist Party and even a rival Catholic People's Party.

In the country, especially in Western Hungary, the so-called Dunántúl, tremendous interest was shown towards the Catholic People's Party. In Győr and in other towns and villages, which we were able to visit in that short period, tremendous masses of

people were waiting for us in spite of the fact that almost no propoganda and announcements preceeded our arrival. The response of the population <sup>to</sup> ~~an~~ our speeches and programme outlines was very enthusiastic.

We started the edition of a newspaper too. It was called Katolikus Néplap (Catholic People's Journal). Unfortunately, only the first number could ever appear.