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THE ISSUE OF OBSERVANCE OF NATIONAL MINORITIES RIGHTS IN THE POLITICAL ACTIVITIES OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UKRAINIANS OF BUKOVINA IN 1928–1929

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(Abstract)

The death of King Ferdinand Ist and of the leader of the National Liberal Party I. I. C. Brătianu in 1927 laid the conditions for the change of power in Romania. The meeting in Alba Iulia in May 1928 played an important role in the National Peasant Party coming to power, because the program of the party's activities for the near future was announced there. After the government of I. Maniu came to power in November 1928, the representatives of the national minorities of Romania expected changes in the government's attitude towards the observance of the rights of national minorities, as well as the political regime liberalisation. The observance of the rights of national minorities for the Ukrainians of Bukovina was seen primarily in the return of the Ukrainian teaching language to the educational sphere adopted by the government. The resumption of activities was another issue after the abolition of the siege state in northern Bukovina, as well as Ukrainian educational societies, primarily the “*Ruska Besida*”, which performed tasks in educational activities through reading and amateur theatrical groups. The third issue, which should guarantee the implementation of the first two ones, was to obtain a sufficient number of seats in parliament for representatives of the Ukrainian community. From mid-October 1928 through February 1929, Ukrainian communities of Bukovina filed requests for teaching in Ukrainian. The newspaper “*Chas*” (Time) also dealt with this issue, publishing reports on the meeting of the communities. As a result, 199 applications were received with 30 thousand signatures, which gave the government grounds to talk about the possibility of introducing the corresponding number of teaching hours in schools of 139 communities. In general, the decision of the government in the field of teaching in the Ukrainian language was not made till December 1929 that caused concerns and statements from the Ukrainian side. Also, V. Zalozetskyi who was elected to the Senate in January 1929 made a statement about the loyalty of the Ukrainians of Bukovina to the authorities and motivated the need to introduce the Ukrainian language of teaching for Ukrainians. A number of statements concerning the need to study the state and Ukrainian languages in equal proportions was made by the communities. V. Zalozetskyi called the national consciousness of the Ukrainians of Bukovina not posing a threat to the Romanian statehood, but it could become a condition for preparing the intelligentsia for the future ‘non-Bolshevik Ukraine’. The restoration of the number of organizations of the “*Ruska Besida*” society led to the spread of the amateur theatre group activities. Such steps gave grounds, primarily to representatives of national liberals, to make statements about the demands

ucrainenii s-au dovedit a fi o minoritate foarte liniștită în comparație cu cea a ungarilor (care au protestat pentru susținerea drepturilor lor) și cu situația din Dobrogea, deși aceștia erau mai puțin organizați în vederea luptei pentru respectarea drepturilor lor.

Cuvinte-cheie: Bucovina, minorități naționale, ucraineni, drepturi, activități politice.

Issues of the status of national minorities are traditionally among the issues raised in the history of Bukovyna in the interwar period. The system developed in Austria-Hungary for the use of the language of national minorities in the educational, administrative and judicial spheres was changed after World War I and became an issue that the political representatives of the national minorities of the Kingdom of Romania tried to solve. This situation was taken into account by the leaders of the leading parliamentary parties and made it possible to win over the promise of fulfilling the wishes of the Ukrainian or German communities of Bukovyna. The leaders of the Ukrainian community of Bukovyna had special hopes for the implementation of the right to use their native language in the educational, administrative and judicial sectors after the government of the National Tserenists came to power in 1928. The purpose of this article is to highlight the government activities as well as leaders of the Ukrainian community of Bukovyna in the field of implementation and definition of results of cooperation between Ukrainian politicians and representatives of National Peasants Party.

A certain place is occupied in the foreign Ukrainian Bukovynian studies by the collective work "Bukovyna, Its Past and Present", which draws attention to several moments that took place in Bukovyna in 1928. At least, A. Zhukovskiy called the period of 1928-1938 rich in events and noted the activities of the Ukrainian National Party, which tried to be represented in the Parliament, although for this, it entered into electoral cartels with a number of Romanian political parties. The same period in the issue of presenting the history of Ukrainian schools was called "squeezed revival". If the desired result was not achieved in the school and teaching in Ukrainian, then there was some success in the sphere of publishing and the activities of cultural and educational societies¹.

Romanian historian D. Hrenciuc considers the issue of education in Bukovyna in the interwar period in the context of teaching in the native language, noting that the agreement signed in December 1919 by the Romanian delegation did not oblige the Romanian government to create conditions for providing education in the native language for representatives of national minorities. The difficult state of the elementary school in Bukovyna in 1919 was described by this author together with the process of transition to the Romanian language of teaching and "Ruthenian" schools². D. Hrenciuc also touched upon the fate of teachers and

¹ Квітковський Д. Буковина – її минуле і сучасне, Репрїтнт. вид. 1956; Д. Квітковський, Т. Бриндзан, А. Жуковський, Чернівці, Лрук Арт, 2019, pp. 346–348; 366–369 (Подаємо бібліографічний опис за вказаним у книзі, хоча це і зроблено з помилками. Авт.).

² Daniel Hrenciuc, *Provocările vecinătății: ucrainenii bucovineni în Regatul României Mari (1918–1940)*. Contribuții, Iași, Editura Tipo Moldova, 2010, pp. 247–250.