

THE PROVINCIAL CONSTITUTION: UNIFICATION OF THE POLITICAL ADMINISTRATION IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

Ladislav Lipscher

The district law was realized only in part, the dualism in the organization of the administration continuing to exist. The election results of 1925 led to the search for a new constellation for the coalition. The solution was found in the formation of an exclusively bourgeois government, in which a very important role was played by the opponents of the district law, the National Democrats and Czechoslovak People's Party — both unconditional advocates of a provincial constitution. On the other hand, the promise to introduce a provincial constitution represented a platform easing the way for the entry of the Slovak People's Party into the government. The draft reform of the political administration was finally approved by both chambers of parliament on 14 July 1927.

The heart of the reform lay in the division of the state into four administrative units, or lands. The provincial authorities consisted of bureaucratic administrative organs as well as those that were either elected or constituted by a combined method. The provincial president was not only the chairman of the provincial representative body (the so-called self-management organs), but also directed the political administration at the provincial level. The provincial representative bodies became totally subordinate to the state bureaucracy. Within the framework of the administrative reform, the district authorities, which were organized along monocratic lines, exercised the function of initiating action.