

creato divergenze. Tuttavia, anche *Pučki prijatelj* iniziò a manifestare la propria insoddisfazione per l'inesistenza di un'attività sistematica ed organizzata. Il giornale manifestava la propria insoddisfazione proprio nel momento dell'annessione definitiva della Venezia Giulia all'Italia, agli inizi del 1921, enfatizzando la necessità di riorganizzare le attività e l'operato. Dopo le elezioni statali del maggio 1921, i socialisti cristiani criticarono pubblicamente la dirigenza di Edinost imputandole i deludenti risultati elettorali in Istria e a Trieste, e mettendo in questione il programma operativo della Società politica. Fu arduo anche *Pučki prijatelj*, criticando, innanzitutto, il programma elettorale. Era quindi inesistente una linea unitaria volta all'attuazione di un piano d'azione sensato nel campo politico, culturale, sociale ed economico. Furono proprio i risultati elettorali a spronare i socialisti cristiani istriani a prendere in considerazione l'avviamento di un'attività più indipendente e dinamica, come avevano già fatto i goriziani. Nel luglio 1921, fu costituito a Cosina il Sottocomitato istriano della Società politica Edinost, attribuendo l'incarico di presidente a Božo Milanović, che ricoprirà tale ruolo fino a luglio dell'anno successivo. Nel periodo iniziale della presidenza di Milanović nel Sottocomitato, non ci furono manifestazioni pubbliche di differimenti tra idee, tranne nei contatti personali. Soltanto dopo la pubblicazione del calendario *Istranin* per il 1922 da parte della Tipografia di Pisino, la polemica tra *Učiteljski list* e *Pučki prijatelj* rivela una discordanza di opinioni e l'assemblea del Sottocomitato istriano tenutasi a Cosina il 10 luglio 1922 e le conseguenti reazioni pubblicate nei giornali indicano che lo svolgimento della situazione portava verso una disgregazione. Un tentativo di ripristino delle attività della Società politica per croati e sloveni in Istria fu di breve durata: l'ascesa al potere del fascismo costrinse le parti contrastanti a raggiungere un accordo, che non si mantenne però a lungo perché le divergenze e i conflitti non potevano essere superati.

The Assembly of the Political Society 'Edinost' in Kozina on 10 July 1922 and the intention to renew the Political Society for Croats and Slovenes in Istria in October 1922

Abstract

After the accession of Istria, Trieste and Gorizia to the Kingdom of Italy, since the very survival of the Croatian and Slovenian people in these parts came into question, the achievement of political harmony was a dominant issue within the Slovenian and Croatian political order. The activity of the Political Society 'Edinost' from Trieste moved towards the inception of a unified political activity in the area that had found itself under Italy. Even after they became allies because of national interests, the differences in views between liberals and Christian socialists persisted in the unified society. The newsletter of the Istrian Christian socialists, *Pučki prijatelj* (*The People's Friend*), which started being issued again at the beginning of September 1919, was striving for political concord. In 1919, the editor of the newspaper was advised to avoid writing which would initiate a conflict with the national-liberal movement, and on the eve of the 1921 state elections, the Christian socialists supported members of

that movement as Istrian candidates. However, without a political and economic-social programme, it was not possible to establish a strong and effective organization.

As early as the mid-1920, Gorizian priests proposed a programme based on Christian-social principles. The Society 'Edinost' supported the dissemination of these principles, but did not acknowledge them as a social agenda because such principles would create divisions. However, *Pučki prijatelj* would also begin expressing dissatisfaction with the lack of systematic and organized work. The newspaper expressed its dissatisfaction at the time of the definitive annexation of the Venezia Giulia in early 1921 to Italy, emphasizing the need to reorganize its activities and work. After the May 1921 state elections, social leaders publicly criticized the leadership of 'Edinost' for poor election results in Istria and Trieste, reprimanding the political agenda of the Political Society. *Pučki prijatelj* was also harsh, primarily criticizing the election program. Therefore, there was no single blueprint for meaningful work in the political, cultural, social and economic field. The election results were the impulse for the Istrian Christian socialists to start thinking that they, like Gorizians, should start working more independently and actively. In July 1921, the Istrian subcommittee of the Political Society 'Edinost' was founded in Kozina, and Božo Milanović was appointed president, which is the position he held until mid-July the following year. At the beginning of Milanović's chairmanship of the Subcommittee, there were no indications of ideological differences in public, except in personal contacts. Only when the Pazin Press Society issued the *Istrani* calendar for 1922 did the controversy between *Učiteljski list* (*The Teacher's Gazette*) and *Pučki prijatelj* show the public the existence of the conceptual differences; the Assembly of the Istrian Subcommittee held in Kozina on 10 July 1922, and the reactions in the newsletters, showed that the sequence events led to a schism. The attempt to renew the work of the Political Society for Croats and Slovenes in Istria was short-lived: the arrival of fascists compelled the conflicting party to reach an agreement, which, however, did not last long because the ideological differences and conflicts could not be overcome.