

Professor CTU Emanuel Šlechta

(December 19, 1895 Kutná Hora - March 17, 1960
Prague)

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Pict. 1: Young Emanuel Šlechta

Abstract: Emanuel Šlechta (December 19, 1895 Kutná Hora - March 17, 1960 Prague) was a Czech and Czechoslovak politician of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party, the main representative of the post-Communist Czechoslovak Socialist Communist post-February course, a member of the National Assembly of Czechoslovakia and Minister of Czechoslovakia.

Keywords

History, authorized civil advisory engineer, Minister of Technology

1. Introduction

Emanuel Šlechta was born on December 19, 1895 in Kutná Hora and died on March 17, 1960 in Prague. He committed suicide with his wife Anna Šlechtová.

He was a Czech and Czechoslovak politician of the Czechoslovak Socialistic Party, the main representative of the post-February pro-communist course, a member of the National Assembly, and the Minister of Government of Czechoslovakia. He was very precise and careful.

During his long political career professor Šlechta was appointed Minister of Technology on June 1948, Minister of Construction on 20 December 1950 and Minister of Construction Technique on September 1953. At the ministry he focused on the beginnings of industrialization of construction, the first steps in planning the construction on transport and civil engineering and the preparation of conditions.

2. Apprenticeship years

Emanuel Šlechta graduated in 1914 in Kutná Hora, in 1915 he was drafted as a soldier. He entered the full-time military service shortly after graduation in 1915 and achieved the rank of lieutenant. He was superannuated.

From a young age, he was handicapped by a small figure and a partially deformed right hand as a remnant of World War I injuries. Edvard Beneš, for example, had great sympathy for him precisely because of his small stature. He was higher in knowledge, but they both had the same qualities, especially diligence and hard work. Emanuel Šlechta graduated in 1914 in Kutná Hora, in 1915 he was drafted as a militiaman. He entered the military full-time service shortly after graduation in 1915 and achieved the rank of lieutenant. He was superannuated due to his injuries at the front (hand injuries) and was granted a partial pension of CZK 600. He was then recruited for technical weapons service. At the end of the war, he was already enrolled in Prague technology. In 1919 he passed the first state final examination with honors. In 1921 he passed the second with good grades. After graduating from the Czech Technical University in 1922, he began working as a designer at the sugar department of the First Czech-Moravian Machine Factory, where he participated in the reconstruction of the sugar factory in Ovčary in the Kolín region. The more

extensive reconstruction of the local sugar factory was carried out jointly by the companies Brát a spol., The Czech-Moravian Machine Factory and Škoda's plants.



Pict. 2: Emanuel Šlechta with his wife Anna

Stanislav Špaček was behind Emanuel Šlechta's study trip to the USA. Based on an agreement with him, the Šlechta went on a three-year internship to the USA, where he was employed in a number of industrial enterprises. On April 18, 1923, he joined The Baldwin Locomotive Works in Philadelphia (production of 3,600 locomotives per year), where he worked until February 16, 1924. At the same time, he became a member of the Association of American Mechanical Engineers. As early as February 28, 1924, he joined The Niles Tool Works (a subsidiary of the Niles Bement Pond Hilton machine tool group in Ohio) as a machine tool designer for locomotive workshops (standardization and fitting systems department). September 9, 1925, when he left on September 18, 1925 to The Great Western Sugar Co. in Denver, Colorado as Assistant Chief Engineer the Group owned 21 beet sugar factories. completed in October 1926. After finishing work on December 1, 1926, he returned to his homeland.

Own expiriens with surface treatments, spot welding, welding and soldering, join metal parts together. He researched time during the manufacturing proces. Try to learn perfectly english and learn money. After completing his inthership in the USA, Šlechta returned to the Czechoslovak Republic in 1927 and joined the Baťa shoe concern, as a consulting engineer. After a short stay with this company he decided to become independent.

He obtained the certification of an authorized civil advisory engineer and in the following years implemented a complete reorganization of a number of companies. He introduced American methods of production management. His clients included domestic banks, industrial enterprises Baťa plants, Pilsen Škoda and the capital city of Prague.



Pict. 3: Šlechta in 1948

3. Consulting activity

During his time at Bata, he prepared a fundamental study based on his American practice, which later became the basis of his dissertation, Economical Lot Sizes, quoting six American and one German sources, published in 1928 by F.

Hrivnac. On the basis of her defense, he was awarded a doctorate in technical sciences at the Czech Technical University in 1929 (November 4, 1929). In March 1929 (exactly March 7, 1929) he received a license from a civil engineer to build machines. He moved from Zlín to the capital and opened an office in Prague 2, first at 12 Na Poříčí Street (in the YMCA Palace), then at Národní třída 18 (next to Reduta) and in 1931 he moved to Lazarská 7, the Báňská building and metallurgical company, which also housed the Czechoslovak Committee for Scientific Work Organization.

After visiting Germany, he traveled to Holland and in 1935 headed to England. Subsequently, in the years 1932 - 1938, he undertook several business trips to the USA, France, Belgium, Holland, England and Germany. He went on his last pre-war trip to Washington in 1938, where he attended the International Congress of the International Committee for Scientific Organization (CIOS). He also served as a member of IV. Department of Masaryk Academy of Labor, correspondent member of the Social Institute, member of the Czechoslovak Association. Engineers and the Board of the Chamber of Engineering, a member of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, a member of the International Committee for the Scientific Organization in Geneva and a member of the Board of the Department of the Post Office.

4. Professor at CTU

Emanuel Šlechta was graduated from the CTU in 1929 as a doctor of technical sciences, and in 1932 he was habilitated as a private associate professor in the organization of industrial enterprises and their economies. In a short time built the Institute of the Organization of Production and Operation of Industrial Plants, based in the historical building of the Czech Technical University in Prague on Charles

Square. He thus became a full professor of organization of industrial enterprises at the Czech Technical University. This appointment began his pedagogical career at the Faculty of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering, which at that time was led by Dean Professor Ing. Dr. Josef Řezníček and the vicedean was Professor Ing. Jaromír Jirák.

As chairman of the Economic Council and a member of the board of directors, he regularly met with the party's top national socialists, chairman Petr Zenkl, secretary general Vladimír Krajina, foreign trade minister Hubert Ripka, education minister Jaroslav Stránský, justice minister Prokop Drtina. Within the Economic Council, he often met with the party's economist and CKD director Jiří Hejda, construction entrepreneurs and party members Štěpán Ješ and Václav Havel, with whom he dealt with, for example, the construction of houses for young married couples in Barrandov. As part of his position, he also met with Foreign Minister Jan Masaryk and a number of foreign diplomats.

His activities at CTU gradually graduated in 1947. In addition to management of the institute, he was elected a member of the organizational and financial commission, wrote a syllabus of lectures and established the library and inventory of the institute.



Pict. 4: Tomb of Emanuel Šlechta near Kutná Hora

He was published two professional publications, „Our economic recovery“ and „Improving Performance.“

5. Minister of Technology

Emanuel Šlechta in February 1948, during the government crisis accepted the offer of Prime minister Klement Gottwald, and against the will of his party leadership he became Minister of Technology for the National Socialist in a changed government. He thus enables the Exchange of this party's resigning ministers, thus giving the whole coup an appearance of legality. He lost moral and professional credit with many of his colleagues abroad. Collaborator with the communist régime.

Emanuel Šlechta himself was a very controversial figure. His scope and contacts went far beyond the ordinary technical community. He knew many important personalities of his time from political and artistic circles. His acquaintances included, for example, painters Josef Čapek and Emil Filla. Before the war, he was in a house at 7 Lazarská Street, where he may have met Vlasta Burian, who ran his theater there. His wife Anna Šlechtová later created an admirable collection of paintings in Melantrich, which included masterpieces by Kosárek, Slavíček, Zrzavý, Trampota, Čapek, Navrátil, Aleš and others.

6. Final summary

The presented text maps the professional career of Emanuel Šlechta (born 1895-died 1960), a professor at the Czech Technical University since 1946. The life journey of Professor Emanuel Šlechta can also serve as proof of the gradual decrease of the democratic values of the third Czechoslovak Republic. He experienced all the rapid changes that affected Czechoslovakia in the first half of the 20th century. He managed to use some

of these changes to his advantage (granting a professorship, a significant improvement in the material situation), others led him to the suicide, later in his life (collaboration with the communist power).

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