

Recenzje. Sprawozdania

The first part, entitled *Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz – teacher, supervisor and friend*, has been divided into three chapters. The first one consists of excerpts from an interview RZEKA with A. Rajkiewicz *From the life of a positivist*. It was conducted by Beata Bereza in the years 2011 and 2012. Professor's opinions revealed the most significant facts from his life which had shaped him as a man, teacher and scholar. His memories from Drużbice, a village situated between Pabianice and Bełchatów where A. Rajkiewicz was born in a family with teaching tradition are worthy of notice. Drawing attention to the events which, after years, became significant in the interviewee's biography shows the Author's preparation for this interview. Already as a child, wandering around his village, he noticed differences in living standards of people and tried to investigate into the reasons behind such a situation. Questions posed at that time would become signposts for the future scientific and research

work. As a student of a middle school in Piotrków Trybunalski, he was observing layoffs of laborers as well as their protests in the 30's of the 20th c. "It made me sad to see how the police were treating shipyard workers who went on strike, spontaneously I sympathized with those who were being beaten and humiliated. I rebelled against all forms of exploitation" – he recalls (p. 39). Thanks to this and other facts mentioned during the interview it is easier to understand A. Rajkiewicz's beliefs and future path as a community worker, and as a result – Minister of Labor and Social Policy. The second chapter of the first part entitled *How to be a scholar, teacher and master – Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz in the memory of his students and colleagues* contains opinions confirming the uniqueness of the figure being presented. His alumni emphasize the impact that the Professor had on their lives. "Apart from the closest family no-one else influenced the place where I am as much as he did" – says Cezary Żołędowski, Director of the Institute of Social Policy at Warsaw University, A. Rajkiewicz's student (p. 67, 69). The Authors draw our attention to kindness he showed towards young people being introduced into the world of science (Jolanta Supińska; p. 75, Emilia Jaroszevska, p. 79; Hanna Ziolkowska, p. 86). For numerous people he has been a guide in their adult lives. "He has always been an Authority, Educator and Friend to me" writes Grażyna Chorażykiewicz (p. 93). The third chapter entitled *Organization of teaching and propagating knowledge of social policy in Professor's biography* presents his scientific achievements, teaching results as well as organizational achievements related to his cooperation with SGPiS (now Warsaw School of Economics) as well as Warsaw University. This chapter includes an article written by Adam Krzynowski entitled *Scientific, organizational and didactic activity of Full Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, PhD at Warsaw School of Economics* and an article by Grażyna Firlit-Fesnak entitled *Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz in the process of establishing and creating the development of the Institute of Social Policy at Warsaw University*. The Author has emphasized that the Institute of Social Policy, thanks to Professor, became a source of humanistic values and school of respect of the human being (p. 134). The publication also includes 25 years of A. Rajkiewicz's activity as the editor-in-chief of a monthly magazine "Polityka Społeczna". Beata Kaczyńska reminded about the areas of Professor's particular interests presented in it. These were, among others, issues related to globalization, unemployment, family life. The Author has also stressed the high level of this scientific magazine, which was confirmed with the highest number of points (9) awarded to a domestic periodical by the Ministry of Science and Higher Education.

The second part of the commemorative book entitled *Within the triad – research, teaching, practice: the anthology of texts by Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz consists of four sections*. Two of them reflect the Professor's thoughts on the issues of social policy, constituting his contribution to this field. What draws the attention of readers is the relevance of ideas. Social progress as an objective of social policy resulting from, among others, proper perception of work as a source of affluence, fair division, a method for equalizing chances, respecting human dignity, or a family as a source of a human being's basic environment – is a timeless idea (p. 158). Soon after the political transformation he emphasized that "the specific character of Poland requires specific approaches and concepts of development" as well as that in the new reality one needs to show concern about one's own values, which creates a chance for including Poland in the European economic system (p. 179). A. Rajkiewicz's words said in 1993 concerning the issue of growing unemployment sound bitter twenty years later: "All this is happening contrary to the state's obligations resulting from ratified international conven-

tions, contrary to social education of the Roman Catholic Church. It is enough to quote here article 43 of the encyclical *Centesimus annus*, which states: The duty of earning a living by the sweat of one's brow also assumes the right for this". He referred to the unemployment as a waste of human abilities, and the approach to this issue – reprehensible. He spoke out for establishing a protective community of the state, local government and citizens (p. 189). From the perspective of 23 years, the interview *To make a living* seems interesting. It was published in "Trybuna" in 2000, where the issue of labor migration was raised. This issue was discussed in the work from 2004 entitled: *The dynamics and structure of labor migration in contemporary Poland*, which has been included in this collection. The Author predicts here, among others, that during the entire period until 2030, a rise in educational migration should be expected, which has presently been confirmed by increasingly frequent information on educating foreign students at Polish higher schools. In another article entitled *A demographic bomb of population processes – areas of social dialogue* from 2010 the Author emphasized the necessity of taking greater care of the quality of human potential. As an attentive observer of processes occurring within mature European societies, he encouraged to use the experiences of other societies within usefulness and progress (pp. 261–262). Professor's reminiscences constitute section III of the book, entitled *Remembering people and their works*. Statements related to the organization Students' Mutual Help of the University of Łódź, whose secretary was A. Rajkiewicz, and then its president. In a text which was full of reflection, Professor paid tribute to his fellow colleagues from the organization, with whom he provided help for students (e.g. cheap meals, or a place in a student's hostel). Moreover, this section includes personal memories of Prof. Edward Strzelecki (1894–1967), Prof. Waclaw Szubert (1912–1994), Prof. Kazimierz Secomski and Prof. Lucyna Frąckiewicz. Section IV entitled *Usefulness of political studies in the process of transformation* includes comments made by A. Rajkiewicz on teaching political sciences during the breakthrough decades of the 80's and 90's. The notes of the ending of the strike in Gdańsk and conclusion of the August Agreement deserve attention. Professor participated in these events as an expert on the government's part and mediated in negotiations between Lech Wałęsa and Edward Gierek. Participants of these events have been described with unusual precision, which reflects the gravity of and hope of those days very well. An important text entitled *Social costs of the transformation* of 2004 contains bitter reflection on social damage which was experienced by a significant part of the Polish society after 1989. The Author discussed the issue of demographic regress, occupational deactivation, pauperization and differentiation in terms of wealth. These lead to, among others, an increase in crime rate and feeling threatened, weakening of interpersonal bonds, passivity towards public matters, a rise in the number of suicides. "Domination of economic values which found their expression in the popularization of marketization, and also commercialization in the systems of satisfying human needs as important as health and education results in dehumanization of life" – notices Prof. Rajkiewicz, and it seems difficult to ignore such a warning (p. 379). However, honesty, efficiency and activity are the hope for the fatigued society – thanks to these values, according to Prof. Rajkiewicz, "tomorrow may be better" (p. 381).

The lack of opinions on Professor from the people connected with the Płock Learned Society, in which he has been active for over 40 years and whose honorary member he is, is a certain shortcoming of the book. Admittedly, the book mentioned research on Płock as an industrialized idea, yet also comments made by doctoral seminar participants, which

A. Rajkiewicz conducted at the Plock Learned Society for 30 years without taking remuneration for it, could prove interesting. As a result of the seminar's activities a great number of people obtained doctor's degrees, thus improving the potential of the Plock region, which appeared to be particularly helpful during the period of higher education development in Plock.

Full Professor Antoni Rajkiewicz, PhD, is one of the pioneers of social policy in Poland. His scientific, didactic and educational achievements are unquestionable. Professor's social activity in many areas is worthy of admiration. However, this information may be found in libraries, bibliographical notes or official biographies. The book entitled *Life in the service of people and education* includes much more information. Opinions about the Professor, as well as his own memories, present a person touching the essence of life. It is a combination of knowledge about interpersonal relations, of human strengths and weaknesses, and also the ability to emphasize with those who were hurt during great political and economic processes of the 20th and 21st centuries. This book's value is its versatility. Due to its didactic and educational values, it may be interpreted even separately from the person it has been devoted to. Professor's life becomes here the source of information which may be applied to anyone and used in the process of individual development. It may prove helpful particularly in the case of young people searching their own paths. The global economic crisis caused by greed has also exposed a crisis within the system of values. It will not be possible to recover from this collapse without reinstating their proper definitions. It is worth searching for them among the works of the Polish scholar A. Rajkiewicz as well as in his biography.