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TRADE UNIONS TO INSPECT WORKING CONDITIONS

DECREE SUBMITTED TO SEJM -- Zwiaskowiec, No 4, 22 Jan 50

To assure the worker of better working conditions, a decree submitted to the Sejm provides that inspection is to be carried out by the trade-union organizations, and grants the right to the Central Administration of Trade Unions to make a number of basic decisions.

Inspection will be carried out by plant inspectors for the entire establishment, division inspectors for individual divisions, and group inspectors for trade groups. The inspectors will perform their duties after work hours and will receive special remuneration.

Whenever safety rules are not being observed in an establishment, the inspector will in writing bring the matter to the attention of the proper manager of the establishment, who must correct the situation, and inform the inspector of the disposition made in the matter.

The management of an establishment can appeal the case to the district work inspector. Either side not satisfied with the decision of the district work inspector has the right of appeal to the commission of the regional work inspector, or to a commission in the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.

SCORES TRADE-UNION ADMINISTRATION -- Zwiaskowiec, No 4, 22 Jan 50

The Secretariat of the Central Council of Trade Unions scored the operation of the Chief Administration of Trade-Union Workers of the Food Industry for failing to carry out the injunctions of the Presidium of the Central Council of Trade Unions issued in January 1949 to improve the work of the Chief Administration.

The persons in charge of the work of the Chief Administration behaved in a bureaucratic manner and indulged in self-advertising and favoritism. Real activists were relegated to subordinate positions and rendered ineffective.

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The Secretariat resolved to suspend Lisowski, chairman of the Chief Administration of Trade-Union Workers of the Food Industry, and vice-chairman Tomaszewski, until the time of the assembly of the National Council of the Food Industry Union.

TRADE-UNION COUNCIL DISCUSSES DUES -- Zwiaskowiec, No 4, 22 Jan 50

The December Plenum of the Central Council of Trade Unions gave considerable attention to the problems connected with membership dues. In general, the following problems have come up: system of collecting dues, the amount, receipt of payments, introduction of membership cards, auditing of funds, purchase of union subscription stamps for the funds collected, and financing of trade-union organizations in enterprises.

Three systems of collecting dues are used in the area: the individual, the administrative, and the indirect, whereby dues are collected by authorized treasurers or paymasters.

The organizations have failed to develop a personnel of trustworthy men.

In many instances when capable men have been elected, they have not been given an active part in trade-union work at enterprises.

Numerous shortcomings were found in the method of determining the amount of membership dues. However, the January Plenum of the Central Commission of Trade Unions decided that the dues should be based on the gross wages.

WORK COMPETITION PROGRAMS INCREASE -- Dziennik Polski, No 14, 15 Jan 50

Various trade unions are now holding plenary sessions in Warsaw. Recently, the Railroad Workers' Trade Union and the Trade Union of Forest and Wood Products Industry Workers held their sessions.

Chairman Kurylowicz of ZZK (Railroad Workers' Trade Union) reported that there are still unrealized economic potentials, such as faster turnover of coaches and locomotives, reduction of operating costs, and rolling stock maintenance cost. ZZK already has 60-percent participation in work competition. It recently organized several technical advice centers for innovators. Among others, the Bydgoszcz locomotive roundhouse, where many Soviet methods are used, serviced an average run of 620.87 locomotive/kilometers per day (24 hours).

At the plenary session of the ZG (Main Administration) of ZZPL-PD (Trade Union of Forest and Wood Products Industry Workers), it was pointed out that 1949 earnings of forest workers were approximately 50 percent higher than 1948, and earnings of workers in the wood products industry increased 12 percent. Not only did labor productivity increase, but also earnings of workers were 10 percent over the established rates in the collective-bargaining agreement. Fifty-two percent of the members of the Trade Union of the Wood Products Industry participate in work competitions. This trade union organized 560 workers' recreation centers and 74 kindergartens. It also sent 10,000 workers' children to summer and day camps and 10,000 of the 170,000 members on vacations.

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WORKERS GET 5-PERCENT WAGE BOOST -- Zwiaskowiec, No 3, 15 Jan 50

The aim of the recent resolution of the Council of Ministers for a 5-percent increase in wages and a partial increase in family allowances to offset price increases on some articles is to make the national economy more efficient and to base it on a sound wage and price policy. For a time the government subsidized the production of such producers' goods as iron, steel, and building materials. Socialized economy must, however, bring in revenue in order to cover the investments and public expenses of the state.

Long-term subsidies of certain branches of industry would be detrimental to efforts to improve the living conditions of the working people. Furthermore, benefits from subsidized consumers' goods are diverted by capitalist and speculative elements. A good example of this was the mass purchase of textile materials for illicit trade.

Maintenance of low meat prices in the retail trade cost the state several billion zlotys paid into the livestock purchase program. Thereby, the well-to-do people obtained meat at the same low prices as the working class. Under such conditions, the government was forced to raise the prices on some commodities. On the principle that no change in prices can be made at the expense of the working class, the government resolved to increase the wages of state workers and workers of state enterprises by 5 percent to take care of dislocations in workers' budgets arising from the increase in prices on meat and textiles.

Price increases will affect meat, some textile fabrics, and several commodities which the working class on the whole does not use. The increase does not cover basic items such as bread, flour, sugar, matches, wood, coal, soap, kerosene, leather, footwear, rents, electricity and gas, and railroad passenger fares. Price increases cannot be used as grounds for any further changes in prices. Further wage increase in 1950 will depend on increased labor productivity.

It is known that private trade, aided by propaganda of the underground, will make efforts to use the resolution of the Council of Ministers for a general price increase. This new attack by capitalist elements must be opposed by trade unions. Trade unions should explain to the workers the real significance of these recent economic orders. Speculators' schemes and attempts of wealthy people to pass the price increase on to the consumer will only strengthen the public action for control of private trade.

In the interest of the working class, it is necessary to support the expansion of the network of state and cooperative stores. Trade unions can contribute much to the efficiency of cooperatives by recruiting new members among workers, activating store member committees, and improving class consciousness among cooperatives' personnel. Trade unions active in villages must persuade small- and medium-size farm holders to help eliminate middlemen's speculation by selling their dairy products and livestock to cooperative and state purchase centers.

INTRODUCES BILL FOR FACTORY FUND -- Zwiaskowiec, No 3, 15 Jan 50

A bill was introduced at the Sejm for the establishment of the Factory Fund. The Factory Fund will be accumulated by each socialized industrial enterprise through a yearly assignment of a definite amount from profits made by the particular enterprise. The fund is to be used for workers' social and cultural facilities and for individual premiums for outstanding workers.

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Along with the decree pertaining to factory councils providing for the active participation of workers in the co-management of plants, the new bill will promote interest among the workers in efficient operation. One of today's most characteristic features is the basic change in relation of the working class to labor and to social and economic problems. Housing quarters, orphanages, and recreation centers will grow in proportion to the increase in labor productivity, and the Factory Fund will help finance such investments. The Factory Council will participate in the management of the fund. This direct participation by workers' representatives in the disposition of the fund, deepens the role of trade unions in plant management.

For the establishment of the fund, from 1 to 4 percent of the planned yearly profits will be assigned, and from 10 to 30 percent of the profits made above plan. In the event that the financial and economic plan of the enterprise does not anticipate a profit, the quota used to determine the amount for the fund will be determined on the basis of the reduction of actual costs in relation to planned costs. Under no circumstances can an above-plan profit quota be assigned to the fund if the profit is not made by efforts of the enterprise but is derived from outside sources such as the reduction of railroad rates, reduction in bank rates, changes in prices on raw materials and semimanufactures, etc. The percentage of the planned profits for the fund is much smaller than the percentage of profits above plan because the planned profits are assigned beforehand for the needs of the budget and therefore cannot be excessively curtailed.

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