

(1) Many people attribute to RFE broadcasts the mood that eventually led to the October revolution. I am of the conviction that this is wrong. Numerous people did not even have a radio apparatus to get Western broadcasts. Others did not dare to listen to RFE broadcasts. I did but always felt that they just comforted us without inciting. As early as in 1953, I could observe the general bitterness for forced work-competition. More and more I became aware of the fact that something is wrong with the whole regime. At this time I worked in Budapest, Soroksári ut, at the so-called Lámpagyár (Lamp factory), which produced firearms. I read a book prohibited by the Communists. Its title was: The Red Tzar, I got it from a friend. Though I was a member of the board (Nemzeti alapszervezet) of the DISZ (Dolgozó Ifjúság Szövetsége)— Union of Working Youth) I read the book with great interest. It described the brutality and inhumanity of Stalin.

I remember the part of the book relating that Lenin and Trockij discussed matters with each other. Incidentally Trockij told to Lenin that he knows anybody who could acquire money ^{for} the Bolshevik revolution. It was Stalin. The two others met him later. He came forward with the plan to rob the postal service. Lenin and Trockij were against it but could not stop Stalin. When the Communist Party secretary in the basic factory organization found out that I read the

book, he asked me to give it to him for reading.

In 1954 I left my job in the Lépnagyár and went over to the Gyapjufonó és Szövőgyár (Wool-Spinnery and Weaving-Mill), also in Budapest, Soroksári ut (Avenue). At this time I even became Communist Party probation member (tagjelölt), and became again member of the DISZ üzemi alapazary vezetősége (board), ⁱⁿ Three workshops were combined/this alapazary.

I took this office upon the request of the other young workers. There was a general discontent among them because of driving them to work more and more, and against the whole oppressive regime that did not let them to talk free. They knew that I felt^u with them. The only things they liked were that they got theatre tickets through the alapazary, and that outings were organized for them.

Communist Party members belonging to older people did not like things I did according to the wishes of young workers. I told the latter^u let us try to do things otherwise, though careful not to get in troubles. The youth saw with open eyes what what was being done. The construction of a subway started from our money, but it was to be stopped. They should have known that in Budapest the hot springs and generally the character of the ground does not permit such constructions, yet the expensive work was continued without success

for years. The papers reported how many flats ~~one~~ ^{were} being built, but no dwellings were to be found.

Forced "peace loans" highly contributed to the discontent. While in the Gyenyufordó és Szűgyővár I had to canvass for subscribing loans. It was in 1954 or 1955. I remember a ~~case~~ case when a young fellow worker of 18 or 19 told me with bitterness why he should spend 400 to 500 forints, that is his half-month wage for subscribing when the house and land of his parents has been taken away close to Budapest in order to build an airfield. He refused to subscribe more than 150 or 200 forints.

Of course, many people wanted to be probation members and later regular members of the Communist Party in order to secure their bread, but they were no less discontent ~~by~~ ^{when} seeking for this. Both young and older people grieved about having to glorify the Soviet Union while Hungary has a more beautiful history.

In April 1956, the factory's disciplinary committee, after a hearing, expelled me from the party's probationary membership. I had to leave my job, too. Late in April I went to Sopron to my parents together with my wife and our little girl of three years. We did not deregister as permanent residents in Budapest, but registered as temporary residents in Sopron.

I knew from friends that discontent reached a high degree in the Textile Mills of Sopron. Fairly trained workers were dismissed again and again when they opened their mouth and demanded more salary. It was evident that the management was afraid that they would cause trouble among others. On the other side they wanted to economize by dismissing better paid workers and by filling the gap by unskilled workers to whom they had to pay less.

While in Sopron, my father told me a story he experienced. He played as a member of a gipsy orchestra in Sopron in the restaurant of a nationalized catering enterprise. Young people were dancing there. They were disgusted that an intoxicated AVO man bally-ragged (ran-dalirozott) there scattering about filled an empty bottles. He wanted to ask to dance with him the wife of a young intellectual and annoyed people in the restaurant in many ways. A (regular) policeman was called in to get rid of the intoxicated man, but he was helpless. Finally people made a phone call to the AVO and succeeded to carry the man away.

While
~~XXXX~~ I stayed there a great many people of Sopron went illegally to Austria. I did it on August 7, 1956, together with my wife, our little girl and five acquaintances.

(2a) Those and similar things mentioned above.

- (1b) Even top Communists did not know how matters stand with them. What was all right yesterday turned to be wrong today. They became reluctant to dispose. The death of Stalin brought about this.
- (2c) It was at this time that an elderly woman stopped me in Kispest (a suburb of Budapest) and asked me for money for streetcar fare. She produced documents to show that she had just arrived from an internment camp. One hour later I found out from my mother-in-law in Pestszentlőrinc (another suburb of Budapest) that the same thing happened to her with a priest also recently arrived from an internment camp. We enjoyed relaxation brought by the Nagy Imre cabinet and thought that this is good as a start. Yet soon we had to see with growing bitterness that Rákosi remained the master and his policy prevailed by permitting one backward step only to advance by two other steps promoting his ideas.
- (2d) We felt that politics cannot be a good thing. Yesterday the regime was angry with the running dog (lángos kutya), and today it became reconciled with him. Anyway we hoped political changes in a sense that the anti-Titoists will be punished upon the demand of Tito.
- (2e) The pictures of Stalin and Rákosi were taken off in the factory I worked, according to the announcements made in the Congress condemning personality cult. Both papers and

pamphlets reported about the 20th Congress, and improvised factory meetings (röngyülések) were held on it. Of course, I did not know whether the information given there was authentic. As far as it was possible, we kept away from the meetings, it was too much to sit there after the working hours for 2 or 3 more hours and listen to speeches we were not interested in.

(2f) "Western imperialists and capitalists" were blamed for it. We felt that it would be good should similar things happen in Hungary.

(2g) We were pleased but at the same time we were afraid that the country would be delivered completely to the Russians. Anybody will come, we imagined, of whom we do not know anything, and whom the Russians will like.

(2h) I would not say that there was such a moment. Since August 7th I was in Austria and returned to Hungary only on October 29th.

(2i) No; I only became aware of the great discontent.

(3) First time I was informed about the recent events in Hungary on October 24 in Vienna by Austrian papers. I returned to Sopron, Hungary on October 29. As I was experienced in production of firearms, I thought that I could be of some help. I wanted to find out what happened to the immense quantity of arms, and was anxious to see my parents and other family

members. I did not know anything directly about the specific conditions and motives that led to the revolution.

- (4) I do not think that there were ready-made plans. The news that reached me did not make me feel that either the writers in the Petofi Club, or the university youth were preparing for an open revolution. In October I first went to Sopron and arrived to Pestszentlőrinc on November 2nd.
- (4a,b,e) (see question 1 above)
- (4c) For instance, I knew a master tailor in Pestszentlőrinc who felt against the regime but would not give bread to freedom fighters.
- (4d,g) (no answer available)
- (4f) I found that the general attitude was ~~for~~ the following:
The Russians have to leave the country. Parliamentary elections are to be held on the basis of the multi party system. The result would be the downfall of Communism. Latifundia are ^{to} not/be restored, farmers cooperatively should be kept according to the voluntary principle.
- (4h) The Russians have to leave the country and multi-party system is to be established.
- (4i) Yes. ⁺The ⁺Communists were considered to be responsible for everything. ⁺They talked in the name of the people, but 99% of the people of Hungary were against them and for the revolution. People were forced to participate in Communist

- meetings because Communist guards did not let them leave.
- (4j) In a formal sense, everybody who possessed a Red party book was a Communist. I also had to have it ⁱⁿ order to get a job and to do social work. Young fellow workers wanted me as their leader, and to be one I had to be a (probation) party member. In fact, only the AVO leaders and the other Communist leaders were completely for the regime, and most of the rank and file was for the revolution. Youth leaders, Communist party members, young villagers were enlisted ^{in the} ~~among~~ ^{AVO} ~~them~~. They were misled and did not know what communism was in fact.
- (4k) (not applicable)
- (4l) Similarly to England, the number of Communist party members would have diminished permanently. With western help Hungary would have been better off than England. The general attitude of people showed that if the multi party system will be established not only the Communists but also the social-democrats would get very few seats in the Parliament.
- (4m) No. We needed a regime of Austrian pattern.
- (4n) I and people to whom I spoke disliked [REDACTED]. She always wanted to have a role; this was revealed even by her behavior in America. She did not dissociate herself from dictatorial ideas.
- (4o) I cannot give examples.
- (5)(6) While in Sopron from October 29 to November 2nd, I found that

the city was relatively calm. Students upheld order and baked bread. I participated in distributing bread. My former fellow students warranted that I was not an informer. People were nervous not to know enough what happened in Budapest and other big Hungarian cities.

(6) I found out this mainly in my parents' home, as I did not move in the city too much, not having Hungarian identification papers. My identification booklet I had previously to my escape in August 1956, was to be given up to the Austrian gendarmerie, when arriving in Austria.

On November 2, at about 8:30 A.M., I left Sopron for Budapest in a truck of the TEFU (Tehautó Fuvározási Vállalat)—Enterprise For Transportation By Trucks).

No others than a ¹driver and I were in it. There were oil-drums in it. I was hidden in an empty one^T during our travel, whenever I found it reasonable to be hidden. Otherwise I looked out from below the canvas covering the truck.

We took the usual route from Sopron to Budapest. We were stopped by revolutionary patrols right after leaving Sopron and later in Csorna, Kapuvár, somewhere near Komárom and in an unidentified section of Budapest. The patrols consisted of three. They were all border guards in Sopron, Kapuvár and Csorna. In the other cases they were students and other civilians. May be that at Komárom there was also a border

guard or a regular policeman among them. I do not remember it exactly any more. They talked to the driver and left the truck proceed without seeing me. They ^{had} ~~were~~ either machine guns or rifles. I never saw bigger crowds, except close to Budapest. It was either before Győr, or before Komárom that we had to stop for about 30 minutes because of the passing of 8 or 9 Austrian trucks in the direction of Budapest. I do not know what they carried. I did not see Russians while being driven by the truck. After 8 to 9 hours of travel, I left the truck in the Tétényi ut (avenue) before reaching Budatétény and went on foot to Pestszentlőrinc (a suburb of Budapest) where my mother in law and her family lived. I reached their home at 9:30 or 10:00 P.M., after 5 to 6 hours walk. As there were many people everywhere I did not call attention by walking. After my arrival I mostly stayed at home, and was informed by my mother in law's family about the revolutionary events and demands voiced. I did not want to meet other people. They could find out that I returned after escape from Austria. Still, late morning on November 3, I went out to the Üllői ut in Pestszentlőrinc for about 1 hour. Also here, I saw patrols of three: soldiers, policemen, students and other civilians armed with rifles or machine guns. It was exceptional that the patrols consisted only of civilians.

On November 4, in the afternoon hours, I left my mother in law's home together with two brothers in law with the intention to escape the country. The last day's events con-

vinced me that this is the only solution. In Pestszentlőrinc already, we saw some Russian armored cars passing in the direction of the inner parts of Budapest. We walked through back-streets, passing Kispest. No fight was here, but we heard cannonade and firing of fixed-turret tanks from inside Budapest, and even rounds from machine pistols when closer to the inner parts of the city.

At about 5 to 6 P.M. we reached Nagyváradi ter (square) and saw 5 to 6 Russian armored cars passing in the direction of Haman Kató ut. Noise of gunfire was heard here. Walking again through side-streets where no fighting was to be seen, we reached the Corvin köz (passage) opposite to the Kilian barracks sometime around midnight. At the Corvin Cinema, we saw some 30 or more civilians. We supposed that they were insurgents and joined them. Some deads were here too. I took a Russian submachine gun and a magazine from the side of a dead person. Soon we saw Hungarian soldiers at Tüzoltó utca on the way of escape from the Kilián barracks. Later we saw 2 to 3 liquid fire guns, 10 to 15 tanks and 2 fixed-turret tanks shooting and passing. All of them were Russians. People we joined there put a Russian tank out of action by hand grenades and killed three Russians who left the tank. In the early hours of November 5, we continued our escape.

~~(see tape # 1.)~~

- (10a) The youth in ^{Sopron} ~~Shoutzen~~ edited and published a two page newspaper. It contained radio news both from Hungarian and Western broadcasts. I read only this.
- (10b) People were glad to have this newspaper for no other newspaper were available.
- (10c) I heard from people in the city what happened in ^{Sopron} ~~Shoutzen~~ and from my mother-in-law and her family after arriving in Budapest about the revolutionary events. In November after ^{my second} ~~my first~~ ^{escape} I met in Vienna one of my former school mates. He was the same who organized me to take part in this ~~in~~ ^{distributing bread in Sopron} ~~Shoutzen~~. He told me that he later went to Budapest and participated in the revolution and that ^{at the early} ~~reveille~~ ^{hours of} ~~in~~ November 4, ~~from him~~ there were virtually no ^{fighters} ~~flage~~ in Budapest with the Russians. ^{They} ~~we~~ just ^{was not} ~~arrest~~ everywhere in the city.
- (10d) In ^{Sopron} ~~Shoutzen~~ I listened to a few Western broadcast reporting about the revolution. In Budapest my mother-in-law had only a so-called people's radio which was only good to get Hungarian news. From it we found out that the Russians are back and the whole thing seems to be lost.
- (10e) No.
- (10f) Both in ^{Sopron} ~~Shoutzen~~ and in Budapest ^{what} but I heard from other people. The days were very troubled for me and thus I could not check very much the ^{reliability} ~~variety~~ of news.

(10g)

I spoke already about my experiences in ^{Sopron} ~~Shekren~~ and on my way from ^{Sopron} ~~Shekren~~ to Budapest.

(11)

I can't tell anything.

(12)

I know only things I ^{reported} ~~referred~~ already.

(12h)

They felt too sure in power and the events of the revolution touched them by surprise.

(13a) and (b)

After the events what happened to me in my job in the wood finery and weaving mills in Budapest I felt hopeless and even dangerous to stay in the country. I waited two ^{months} ~~weeks~~ to find the right moment to escape with my family and the right ^{time} ~~came~~ for us in ^{August} 1956. When returning to Hungary in October I left my wife and daughter in Vienna.

After the Russians returned to Budapest on November 4, I was sure it does not make any sense to stay in Hungary and I was anxious to join my family in Vienna as soon as possible. I also knew that my parents wanted to escape from ^{Sopron} ~~Shekren~~. They had such plans even before my first escape. When in the early hours of November 5, I left the ^{Comm. Kib.} ~~converters~~ in front of the ^K Millian barracks with my two brothers-in-law three soldiers joined us in the escape. All of us went on foot awhile along the Danube but three or four more blocks ^{from the river. We} insight we were about five hundred metres close to the ^{Szabadiasz} ~~Freedom~~ Bridge when we met a small truck manned by two soldiers. One of them was the driver. They took all of us on the truck and we crossed the bridge, which was guarded by ^{armoured} Russian infantry men. We were fairly far away in the ^{Budside}

of the city when the driver and the other two soldier with him refused to carry us ~~farther~~ farther. The three other soldiers argued with them, ~~that they carry them~~ ~~farther~~ ~~farther~~ but finally we had to leave the car the truck and start to go on foot. There was shooting around and soon we lost from our eyes my younger brother-in-law. I ^{and} his older brother tried to find him but as we could not do it ^{either} ~~although~~ my other brother-in-law decided not to escape. He did not want to do it without his brother. I went along with the three soldiers: first in a small forest and ^{later} along fields, in the ^{direction of} village of ~~Komison~~ Cameron through the mining area. We did not see Russians anymore. After walking about one hour and half we met another small truck with benches in the rear side. It was ~~manned~~ manned by two border guards; one of them of them the driver. They took us through ^{BYOR}, ^{Esoma} and ^{Kapuria} to ^{Sopion} Shockren. We were stopped once close to ^{BYOR} and a military guard ^{with} viewed a flashlight ^{tried} to find out who ^{were} ~~was~~ in the truck. He saw the three uniformed soldiers but did not see me ^{squatting} ~~sitting~~ in the truck. ^{We were permitted} With a permit to pass, and ⁱⁿ ^{Balf} near ^{Sopion} Shockren I left the truck and went on foot to the home of my parents. I found out that my mother escaped already. Later I met her in Vienna. I remained in Shockren for a week. Russians were already in the city. I use to go out to the yard only in early night and early morning. On November 11, my younger sister and her husband arrived from ^{Kezthely} ^{by train}

They also wanted to escape. On November 12, I started from at home with them and my father but at *Balf* we met certain other people ; four children in the age between 2 and 13 were among them. We were not acquainted with them. They asked where we are going and talked immediately their intention to escape. Thus we went together. Before reaching the frontier we met also other would-be escapees and finally a group of 30 passed the frontier. We did it ~~at~~ *through* fields . No mines were laid there, ~~and no bon fires~~ *barbed wires* either. We did not see armed guards, ~~and we were fairly well acquainted~~ *with* with the border area we hoped we did succeed in escaping without specific difficulty. [At our first escape in August we first planned to settle in Western Germany, but later it seemed to us that Sweden would be a better solution. I knew that Sweden had a *well developed* textile and steel industry and I hoped to get a job in one of them. We thought at this time that to immigrate to the United States would take one year or one and a half years. Therefore, we did not think to immigrate there. Australia occurred in our minds but my parents were still in ~~Sweden~~ *Sopron* and we did not want to go without them into such a very far country. We hoped that when in Sweden the Swedish Red Cross would help us to get our parents in Sweden too. All this changed in November when my whole family succeeded to escape and there came a possibility to get to the United States soon.

Escaping the country was for me the only possibility.

2(13d)

(14a)

I don't know whether it was true but I was told that Russians should have gone out from Hungary on December 31, 1956. If this was true it would have been better to wait quietly up till this time. But of course, the Russians would have remained very close to Hungary, and should the government ask for their help it would have *been* easy for them to return.] The revolution was a moral success for the West as it disclosed that Communism has no country. It was useful for those who could escape for they can start a better life and it was useful for the Russians because Hungary became ~~for them~~ a country to be exploited *by them* freely. It was useful for the present leaders of Hungary because they could get rid of the most dangerous men.

(14b)

It would have been successful by some help from Western Powers and the UN. No other help would have been needed except a UN police force. The Russians would not have taken the risk of the Third World War. Scandinavian and other neutral countries *could* have taken part in the police force. It was too bad that the the UN waited for three days to acknowledge the statements of Imre Nagy. It was an unfortunate thing that the West could not get exact information of what happened in Hungary.

(14c)

I think it is hopeless to think of new revolution. A great many freedom fighters are scattered around the whole world and it would be hard to start a new revolution.

- (14d) If three men are attacking one Hungarian he won't be afraid. Otherwise it was the AVH men who started ^{re} ~~fining~~ *fining*.
-basher.
- (14e) He proved in 1953 already that he dare not accept everthing dictated by the Communist party to the country. He would have been good at the start, *do*.
- (14f) I don't know.
- (14g) I don't know.
- (14h) The only thing I can tell that the workers of enterprises were the first among them. They still are fighting if not armed ~~by~~ *but by* the worker's councils, by ~~striking~~ *striking* or reducing Communist production.
- (14i) It was the Communists who organized the Hungarian Freedom Fighters Union, for the *their own aims* views. They trained them for partisan ~~work~~ *fighting*, for target shooting, they organized radio circles, motorist circles for them. All these were ~~thought to be of good~~ *thought to be of good* ~~attended to organized by~~ the use ~~as good fighters~~ for Communism. But I could find out much about the sentiments of the *youth* ~~use~~ when working ~~as~~ *a* the local *DIS leader* writer, they were confident to me and ~~he~~ *it became* ~~was~~ evident in my eyes that the biggest part ~~of~~ of the young workers is completely against the regime. ~~This~~ *is* I was not surprised that they turned against the regime using the *training* ~~knowledge~~ they got from the Communists ~~as I told before~~.
- (14j) AS I knew the sentiments of young workers I was not surprised by the role of students either.
- (14k) I imagined that something may happen if if it is possible to talk so freely.

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"A" PRETEST

SECTION R IN

P. 19

(141)

I don't know anything.

(1a)

In my last job I had to ~~cut~~^{cut off} the material in the laboratory of the ~~wood~~^{wood} finery and weaving mills in Budapest Soruksari Ut. ~~My~~^{My} mother divorced my father about twenty years ago. Her present husband adopted me. He was a musician in a gypsy orchestra ~~in Sopron~~^{in Sopron}.

T(16)

(2)

My first job was in the brick yard in Sopron as an ~~un-~~^{un-}skilled worker. I was there from the summer of 1946 up till the summer of 1947. About thirty ~~unskilled~~^{unskilled} workers and twenty skilled machine workers were employed there. Brick and roof tile were burned there from ~~tree~~^{clay}. They were cut and formed by machines. The machine shop was in an ~~two~~^{two} story building and working went in the ~~open-air~~^{open-air in a section} free ~~year~~^{year} covered by roofs. In the late spring or early summer of 1947 I got an apprentice job in Sopron with a self-employed upholsterer. I carried things on a hand cart and prepared the material for work. Early in 1948, I got sick and had to go in a ~~the~~^{the} hospital. When back from there I was still employed with the upholsterer ~~where~~^{where} for two more weeks. He could not have me in ~~job~~^{any longer} because self employed tradesmen had to pay heavy taxes and ~~many~~^{had} other difficulties for themselves. At to the end of 1948 I worked as a ~~skilled~~^{skilled} worker with masons in building construction industry. From February 1949, until May '51 I was employed with the cotten weaving mill in Sopron. I came there as an unskilled worker but was trained there to work on a machine. The cotten weaving mill had ~~enée~~^{enée} one thousand or one thousand two hundred workers. Originally

^{it}
 It was a German enterprise and was taken over by the Russians after the Second World War. The manager was a Russian but the workers were Hungarians. Products were carried to Russia. The weaving mill did a good work. It was proved by the fact that the products were returned ~~but~~ very seldom because of not being adequate. Most ~~clothing~~ ^{clothing} material and material for furniture as well as ~~carpets~~ ^{carpets} were produced there. ^{The production went on by} ~~By~~ machines placed in one big room. In April 1951, I went to Budapest and got a job in a factory producing metal furniture and other things from metal. Baby carriages and ^{tools} wears for locksmiths ^{were produced here, too}. About 250 or 300 workers were employed there. The work went on in several smaller shops. In the shop I ~~was~~ worked worker's wardrobes were prepared for factories and also doors and window panes for ^{air-raid} ~~shelters~~ ^{shelters}. It was a hard work for me to saw ^{with} ~~with~~ hand tools ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~tools~~. I would have preferred to be ^{to} ~~to~~ be ^{to} ~~to~~ be a planesmith. Even the factory physician told me that the work I have to do is a little bit hard to me. ^{After} ~~After~~ a week I left the factory and became employed with the lamp factory in Soruksari Ut. It was called lamp factory but it produced mainly fire arms. I had to control ready made arms as a ^{mess} ~~mess~~ ^{mess}. It means a man assigned to the technical supervision. I worked there from August 15, 1951 through August 9, 1954. The factory had 3500 to 3800 employees. ~~The factory~~ ^{it} worked with a big deficit. Especially at the end of the month the production was of a low rate. Workers had to work in hurry in order to reach the monthly ^{output} ~~reserve~~

as provided in the plan. After the control of the factories employees also military man controlled the production. They made spot checks and if they found that only one is not right ~~in~~ ^{among} 100 ~~arms~~ ^{firearms}, they refused to accept all the 100. In general, eight to ten arms were controlled by them out of 100 and if all the eight or ten were found good the whole shipment was accepted. The work went on in three great three story buildings ~~in a great factory building~~ and in several smaller buildings. ~~Wang boilers to be used by petroleum~~ ^{Saint James} and electrometers and gasometers ~~to be use~~ as well as various electrical appliances were produced only in a small section of the shops. Production of machine guns, rifles, military pistols, ~~arms~~ ^{with} telescopes and for sports was the most important part of the work that had been done there. From September 11, 1954 through April or May 1956, I worked with the wood finery and weaving mill in Budapest Soruksari Ut. I had to control the material in the ~~laboratory~~ ^{pieces} but in the meantime I also worked as an ~~inspector~~ ^{pieces} similarly to my job in the lamp laboratory. The factory was placed in several one story and higher buildings. About 100 employees worked there. I felt that they made a good work and were successful.

(3a)

I liked my work in the lamp factory because it was a clean and quite quiet one. As I was sick in my heart in 1948

*Find me involved
being responsible.*

I preferred no hard work. *Also, I liked to do precise work.*

(3b)

I did not like that my group foreman was a very primitive man. He was put there as a good Communist. Previously,

He was ~~never~~ ^{in charge of} ~~charged~~ with the sport matters in the shop committee, sport ^{fields} ~~followers~~, but the workers who were interested in sports did not like him and therefore he was put to be our boss. ~~Anyway I liked that in the~~
~~lame factory I had some responsibility with doing my~~
~~work and that it was exercise one.~~ In the brick yard at Sopron my work was often too hard for me. The hardest was when I had to put through loaded hand carts ~~by~~ weighing 300 to 500 kilograms on dry terrain. It was better when after ^{a shower} ~~weighing~~ the terrain was wet. In other works there I was helped by machines. I took my job as an ^{upholsterer} ~~apprentice~~ for better earning. It was good in the weaving mill at Sopron ^{that} ~~but~~ I had to operate only one machine and not to care for several ones at the same time. At the weaving mill and wood finery in Budapest I had an ^{inferiority} ~~inferiority~~ ^{complex} ~~feeling~~. Most of the fellow workers were women and I felt that I did a job that can be accomplished well by women.

(4a) In the brick yard at Sopron I earned 25 to 30 forints per week. The ^{upholsterer} ~~upholsterer~~ gave me 90 forints but recorded much less in the social security notice, ^{in order to pay his} ~~social security benefits~~.

(4b) In the weaving mill at Sopron I did piece work and earned 70 to a 100 forints per week. In 1955, in the weaving mill and wood finery in Budapest I earned 900 forints a month with additional premium amounting to 35 or 40% of my regular wage.

(4c)

(4e) Deductions were made for social security.

- (4f) I got also premium in the lamp factory amounting to 50%.
 Premium ~~on the~~ dependent ^{ded on the fact how far did the} helped ^{shop} accomplish the plan.
- (4g) I always had only one working place. ^{Many skilled workers}
 in the ^{Rakosi} ~~Rakosi~~ works at ^{Csepel} made 2000 to 5000 forints monthly and in the railroad car and ^{machine} ~~rolling~~ factory at ^{Cybr} ~~Uz~~ about 3000 forints ^{on the} ~~in an~~ average. In the ^{wool} ~~wool~~ finery at Budapest where I worked I knew about a girl of 17 to 18 who earned ¹³⁰⁰ ~~1000~~ or 1400 forints monthly. She had been distinguished by the government. But since about 1952 or '53 the average earnings ⁵ of workers was 900-1000 forints.
- (4i) In the lamp factory a man in the age of 50 or 60 did the same work as I ^{He} got 900 forints at the same time when I was paid 800 or 750 ^{forints.} for it. I had to go through a training course and when I finished it it I still was not paid better than he who did not finish a course at all. Our salaries or wages were always raised at the same time. At the end he got 50 forints more monthly than I.
- (5a) I had to work 48 hours per week. My working hours were from 7:00 A. M. to 4:00 P. M. ^{on weekdays} from Monday through Friday and from 7:00 A. M. to ^{12:00} 2:00 P. M. on Saturdays. There ^{was} a half hour lunch time from Monday through Friday. No lunch time on Saturday.
- (5b) Six days. I did not work on Sunday.
- (5c) Yes, mostly by the end of the month. For the first two hours of overtime we were paid 25% more; for the

second and fourth overtime hour 50% more. For more overtime than ^{in hours:} five 100% more per hour. Regularly we had ~~two~~ two to four hours overtime on the respective ^{days} ~~days~~. We had about 10 to 15 hours overtime in the average over a month.

(5d)

Yes every Sunday and ~~on~~ the following days: Tuesday, New Year's day, April 4; The day of liberation from the Germans in 1945, the first of May, the second of May, ^{The latter} which was given to replace December 26, which became a work day, also it was a holi day previous to the Communists regime as the second day of Christmas. ^{Other} ~~Other~~ holidays were August 20; inauguration day of the Communist constitution of Hungary, and November 7; memorial day of the Russian Bolshevik revolution. If not on Sundays we were paid for them. Paid vacations were 12 ^{work} days in a year. After three years at the same working place one more day was given as vacation ~~as~~ paid vacation.

(5e)

It was the seat.

(5f)

There were ^{time clocks} ~~clock controllers~~. One hour's wage was reduced of those that came late. But if they came late more than an hour two hours wages were reduced and so on. Also the name of the late comers were put on the board bulletin. In the beginning the ^{time} ~~control~~ clocks were operated in the factory yard; later in the shops.

(5g)

It was ^{requested} ~~requested~~ that everybody ^{be} ~~to~~ at his working place in his working cloths ^{ten minutes} ~~not~~ before working time ^{time} started. At long as the control clocks

were in the courtyard of the factory everybody had to be there at 6:30 A. M. for it ^{took} a longer time to undress in the ~~area~~ ^{dressing room} of the workers. It was small and we had to wait for each other.

(5h)

Both latecomers and ^{tees} absences were punished. After one or two days of absences ^{one of the employees} ~~present~~ went out to the home of the worker to find out the reason why he did not come in. There was no such a visit to the home when the worker sent in a doctor's report previously. One day absence resulted in deducting the worker's wage by the lunchtime reimbursement for a whole month. That is he got two and half hours wages less per week. As a rule although one or two days from his paid vacation were reduced. The foreman or the division leader decided upon his punishment.

(5i)

I got a monthly wage which did not depend on norms. But my wife got a piece-rate wage as a locksmith. The norm controllers ⁺ spends with her an hour to see how far she fulfilled her norm. Times were noted for changing or polishing machine parts. The one hours accomplishment has been multiplied by 8 and this way it came out what was her norm for the day. It also happened that the norm controllers ^{was} stands with her more than one hour and maybe also a whole day. In that ^{case} day the norm was calculated according to the whole ~~day~~ time controlled. The norm was raised if it was found that the worker can work more per hour as it was fixed in the previous norm. ^{This referred to} ~~There was made~~ for every other worker doing the same work. The worker got more wage if he overfilled the norm, but the norm

controllers ^{were} was paid less premium in this case. There-
fore ^{their} ~~his~~ interest was to raise the norm higher. The
whole system was intended to make the worker working
harder, ~~and~~ ^{and} at the same time it necessarily reduced
the quality of work.

- (5j) I don't remember.
- (5k) The ~~norm~~ norm was raised permanently.
- (5l) There was piece work system unless the nature of the
work did not permit it ~~and~~ as in my case.
- (6a) In the lamp factory there were German machines. I
don't know from what time. But as far as I remember
there was a plate on them indicating that they were
made-in- ~~in-~~ fabricated in ~~in~~ Köln (Cologne, Germ.).
They were not too modern. There were locksmiths in
charge to put the machine right for the actual pro-
duction. On one week parts of a file; on another
week parts of a ristle were for example produced on
the same machine.
- (6b) Generally the shops were not overcrowded.
- (6c) Not much repair was needed while working, but it
often happened that ready fire arms were returned,
thus indicating that they were not found alright.
- (6d) Ten, fifty, or twenty percent were returned virtually
everyday but by the end of the month it amounted to
even forty to fifty percent for at this time more
was asked to fulfill the norm and therefore the
quality of work became worse.

(6e)

By streetcar or by autobus. It took about one hour per *day*.

(7a)

~~was~~ At the workshop I worked, most of the workers putting together the arms were of the age from 20 to 60. About half of them were from the age of 30 to 40. At one time I was the youngest among them.

(7b)

~~Some~~ Workers, who were older than I were angry when I returned them some of their work. But such differences ~~disappeared~~^{ed} after work time. It was the same with group leaders and foremen.

(7c)

A former police officer was my best friend. He was in the age of 37 or 38 and worked as a police officer after 1945 for a while, but he was dismissed because he did not join the Communist party. I really don't know if he was a police officer before 1945 already. He was the only one among the fellow workers with whom I was in real friendship. It was he who gave me to read the book I mentioned "The Red Czar" and when he gave it I knew what kind of man he was. We went to each others home and it was my wife that suckled their son. It happened that I went out with other young workers dancing or to movies. We never had differences at this time. Generally people were quite frank to each other. When the Communist party secretary of the basic factory organization asked me to give him the book "The Red Czar" for reading, I could find out that even he is a "reactionary".

(7e)

Generally I felt well with every fellow worker. As I mentioned already some differences came out when I

(7f) returned some work of an older worker. They used to tell me I am doing the work for a longer time than you, and they called me by my last name, Nyári. We were quarreling, but after work I became again Misikém--my little Mike. I did not care much for society life. I preferred to read, to listen to music, radio, to play chess game with one of my ~~brothers~~--~~isn't~~ brothers-in-law and with other relatives. We went to ^{see} Western movies with my wife and little daughter.

(7g) We did not talk about domestic politics., and avoided to criticize the doings of officials and other Communist leaders. But we *discussed* world ^{the} policies; otherwise sport-- especially ^{soccer} football was the main item to speak every Monday morning.

(7h) In the lamp factory there was a Communist party committee of 30 members. It elected from its members an executive committee of 8 to 10 members. Three, four, or five of them did not do any factory work. One of them was the party secretary. In fact, he was responsible for the other; he was the genuinely ^{Then} leader. ~~There~~ there was a secretary for organizational work, and another one was the Agidrom[?]-- that means he was responsible for propaganda. All of them were paid by the party and not by the factory. Sometimes also the party officers in care of sport, production and press were paid by the party. At other times they were just regular workers in the factory who spent one to two hours of their

eight hour working day b' doing party work. ^{All of the} The similar work-hops had a similar organization but ^{people} the man in charge there for the party work did also ^{these} ~~the~~ regular work ~~there~~ as factory workers, and had to spend 23 to 24 more hours for party activity.

(7i)

Not in general but the norm controll of party members was less vigorous and Stakhanovists were not permitted to be overcharged.

(7j)

Communist had the biggest voice at shop meetings and other meetings of workers. The Communist party committee had not role concerning non party members. But Szabad Nep, the official organ of the Communist party, was propagated among them permanently.

(7k)

Only those who got often assistance by it.

(7l)

Only three or four among 1000 workers were not trade union members. Generally also the trade unions were directed by the party. Grants, in case of marriage, childbirth, or some quick need were given only to trade union members and through the trade union.

(7m)

I don't know anything about them.

(7n)

I don't know anything about them.

(7o)

It consisted of the factory manager, the Communist party secretary, and the trade union secretary. It talked over certain controversial problems as for example wheter a baby home, a nursery, should be established in the factory and how food and vacation problems should be

managed. They talked over also investments in the factory. Generally the problem was how much should be spent for those things ^{mentioned}. A shop meeting or a party meeting was called in a theatrical way to make it appear that the workers themselves has to decide about those things. They made proposals, but the triangle decided finally by itself. Questions whether a worker should be ^{be} dismissed or should get a special premium were also discussed and ^e decided by the triangle. When I worked with the weaving mill at Soroksari Ut also ^{one} some of the ^{DISZ} ^{fourth} secretaries attended as a ~~secret~~ man the triangle meetings. I was not permitted to attend them ~~but~~ for I was not a regular Communist ^{Party} member but only a probation member.

(Communist
Youth Organization)

(7n& q)

They could not succeed ~~for the~~ before the first Imre Nagy period but later on it was found out that good experts were needed and then ^{regime eased} they got much less for party activities than before. I read in newspapers that even people who returned from the internment camps got back their former jobs.

(7r) and 5)

Much less after 1953 or '54, than before. ~~This refers~~
~~else to point~~.

(7t)

I had to present life histories several times while working in the lamp factories. First when I entered the factory then when I had to become a party probation member and a ^{DISZ} Difz leader. When I had to attend a training course I again had to write a life history.

people were often summoned to call on the personnel department. Very often they did not know for what reason. They were asked about their life starting from their birth, about their opinions, from this thing or another. Nobody dared tell what he sincerely thought, for he was afraid to be carried out by a motor car. ^{Up to the end of 1952, or the beginning of 1953} there were blue ^{AVH} Avoh men in the factory. They were at the watchtowers, at the gates, on the yards,. Later on they were replaced by factory ^{guards} ~~guards~~ men. Before the mentioned time, AVH men were seen also in some workshons. I can't tell anything.

- (7u&v) As a young boy I had to take a job to have my own earnings. I did not come out very well with my stepfather, and therefore I wanted to stay on my own feet.
- (8a) I would have liked to be a airplane pilot, but because of my sickness I could not reach this goal. At least I wanted to be an air technician, ~~for~~ a mechanic. I always liked to do precise ^{and} clean work and I thought I could make good progress in this job.
- (8b) Much people seek to find out something new. Others prefer to work as unskilled workers and thus get earning immediately. But many others preferred to learn to be engineers. Even ^{if this} it did means ^{that} it will take time to get a work and wage with it.
- (8c) When I worked in the lamp factory I cherished the idea to

become an industrial designer by attending night school. But I ~~was~~ was married already at this ~~time~~ time. We had but a small room and it would have been nerve breaking to work in this environment for the studies. My wife could not work for a while and ~~these~~ thus we needed money for other things. Also I did not feel healthy enough.

(8f)

~~Not even before~~ ^{Although} before the revolution ~~also~~, both I and my wife worked, ^{we} ~~we~~ could not hope to earn enough. Only people having a great expert knowledge ^{or} who having friends in good connection with ^{the} party could be successful ⁱⁿ unless ⁱⁿ addition to they were Communist party members.

(8g) and (h)

Most people want material success because this means they can lead a fairly good life. I also would like very much should my wife not be obliged to work for earning. But I consider it as an idealistic thing to ^{be} an inventor. ^{Such people are not troubled by the hardships of life.} It could not care for hard life, big ^{A big apartment means nothing to them, they only want} ~~only~~ to find ~~to~~ something which helps ~~menhood~~.

(8h)

~~Answered it above.~~

(8i)

To put away money in case of sickness and to help my family in need. ^{To have} Buy a nice home, ~~buy a radio~~ ~~radio~~ radio, a good one, reading, playing chess, pingpong and ^{to have} a small ^{motor boat} ~~motor boat~~. I also would think of going home to Hungary as a visitor.

(8j)

NO.

(8k)

I would have liked that she gets an education to be or a doctor or ^a teacher, and also that she studies piano.

(9)

My mother divorced my father in 1933, and she married my adopted father in 1934. Both ~~the~~ and my real father were gypsy musicians. My mother worked in the cotton factory in Sopron because we needed earning for life. In 1946, I started working for the reasons given above. I married my wife in 1952. She got a job in the lamp factory in 1951 and worked there up till April 5, 1956. We needed the earning of both for a living. As I started working I gave the money I earned to my parents.

(9b)

(9c)

When working with an upholsterer in Sopron I was a roomer and I had my food in an eating place. I had good appetite and thus I could afford only to buy one ^{pair} pair of trousers in addition. While in Budapest I was also a roomer before my marriage and I had my meals in the factory. I could buy two suits of cloths and two ~~suits~~ pairs of shoes in a one and a half years period in '51 and '52. After the marriage, I had my lunch in the factory, breakfast and dinner at home. We went out to movies with my wife, ~~sometimes every~~ ^{about three times in a fortnight,} ~~second week. We spent three~~ ~~in movies every second~~ week. As both I and my wife had earnings we could spend a little bit more for clothing. Of course only for the most needed ones. Clothing for our little daughter was mostly sent or brought ~~to us~~ by my mother and therefore,

(98)

we did not have to spend much money on her.

From '53 through '56, my ⁴⁷⁰⁰ father had a fixed monthly salary of 1000 to 1200 forints. My ~~me~~ mother worked in the cotton yard in Sopron in the year '52 and '53, for 650 forints per month. I reported already on some of my own salaries. I have to add that in the Sotex, that is the ~~weaving~~ weaving mill in Sopron, I earned about ^{160 to 170} forints per week. I can't remember exactly anymore. In ^{the metal ~~manufacturing~~ ^{furniture and tool} factory in Budapest I spent only one week as an apprentice. I don't remember how much I earned, but certainly very few. In the lamp factory in Budapest I started with 650 forints monthly. One month later I got 750 ~~forints~~ forints, two months later 900 forints and later beginning from the next month ^{as} 1050 forints monthly. I got ~~premia~~ ^{premia} already mentioned. Deductions were made for accident and old age insurance. I don't remember in what extent. I had to subscribe for peace loans each year amounting to ^{half month's} ~~week~~ wage. It was ^{reduced} in ten month installments.}

As long as I was not married I had to pay 4% bachelor ~~tax~~ ^{paid on childless persons. I had to pay it from} ~~tax~~. This was starting in my age of 20 and it ~~was~~ followed in my age of 21. As long as we did not have a daughter. In ~~my~~ My wife was paid ^{according} ~~according~~ to the piece rate system. She made about ¹⁰⁰⁰ ~~1000~~ to 1 forints in 1952, and about 1700 forints in 1953 and 1954, all monthly. This was a time when we ^{she} had to work much and

she

this could earn well because of the Korean War. It was supposed that fire arms produced in the factory ~~and~~ ^{were} sent to Korea. From '54 through '56 as long as she kept her job she was paid about 650 to 700 forints monthly. I don't remember about her ~~premia~~. Deductions were the same in principle as ~~minee-vef-10-~~ were.

(9e) As long as I lived with my parents in Sopron I did not pay rent. When I had my own furnished room in Sopron I paid for it 40 forints monthly. In Budapest I paid for a ~~furnished~~ ^{furnished} room 100 ^{forints} monthly. After our marriage we had a small room for 17 months. We paid for this unfurnished room 150 forints monthly. At this time it had been allocated by the ~~Government~~ ^{Housing Board} to a third person, ~~who~~ ^{he} gave it to me as being a subtenant because he did not need the room ~~for~~ himself. In 1954, the same room had been allocated to ~~me~~ ^{me} ~~myself~~ and I became a tenant, paying only 33 forints monthly as long as we were residents of Budapest.

Respondent was available for interviewing only up to this point.

Impressionistic portrait of respondent.

The interview could be only fragmentary because the respondent quit for an unknown place before the interview could be completed. Nevertheless, useful data ~~was~~ ^{were} obtainable on working conditions and ~~and~~ ^{DISZ} and other young worker problems referred to by respondent. Respondent appeared to be sincere and honest.