

Note: This respondent has not been scheduled originally for this interview. He just served as a fill-in, because another respondent did not show up for the scheduled interview.

Conditions in a printing and binding establishment (Globus).

1. Respondents background and hobbies.

I completed 8 grades and studied for 3 years in a state industrial school from 1941 to 1944. Also, from 1940 to 1956 I worked as a book binder for Globus in Budapest. I frequently listened to foreign radio stations, to the Voice of America, the Radio Free Europe as well as <sup>to</sup> Turkish Broadcasts. I was very much interested in sports and I liked to go to the movies. Mostly, I saw Italian and French movies such as "the price of fear" and many others. I was also liked to go to the theatre. I enjoyed very much the "Csad<sup>as</sup> <sup>Queen</sup>" in the opera theatre of Budapest. I don't like very much the Hungarian writers but I liked the works of Dumas and detective stories. Once or twice I also saw Russian movies, such as "the children of Captain <sup>and the Circus</sup> Grand". In addition, I was very much interested in sports.

2. Place of work.

The Globus printing and binding establishment was an English concern prior to the War. It was a large enterprise employing more than 1000 people, and it used to be a very efficient one. In 1948 the Globus was nationalized

maximum and the number of the working personnel was reduced to 600.

3. A Comparison of conditions of work and production in the Globus before and after 1945.

Before 1945 my average weekly earnings ranged from 60 to 70 pengoes. After the post-war stabilization of the forint, my nominal salary had constantly increased up to 1300 forints per month in 1956. However, I should add that this nominal increase, in fact, meant <sup>a</sup> more purchasing power because at the same time the price of goods rose out of proportion to one's wage increase. Thus my pay deteriorated with the gradual deterioration of the purchasing power of the forint. In 1948, when the Globus was nationalized, the Communists promised that we would get more, however, this remained <sup>a</sup> vain promise. In regard to general efficiency and productivity I would like to point out that out of 1000 people employed by Globus before 1945 there were only 32 people doing secretarial and personnel work including the <sup>ev</sup> ~~sudden~~ <sup>a</sup> managers. The rest of the employees were all engaged in production. After 1945 out of the 600 employees 260 to 280 people did administrative work and only about 320 to 340 were engaged in <sup>for</sup> production. The reason ~~was~~ such a high ratio of administrative workers was that many of the administrative personnel worked in connection with the norm system whereas others did the accounting, kept the loyalty files, did the statistical work, and so on. In addition, the <sup>the</sup> ~~number~~ of the administrative personnel

also increased because many workers who proved to be weak in the production were transferred to the personnel. It is true that the overall production of the 320 post-war workers under the norm system reached the pre-war level of production of the 986 workers. But the quality of the post-war production was immensely poorer than *that of the* the pre-war production.

Before 1945 I worked as a decent human being. I made enough for exerting myself.

I had a nice apartment for 67 <sup>e</sup> pangoes a month and I would have become a chief-binder since I was very well liked because of the quality of my work. After 1945 I could no longer afford a decent apartment though I worked twice as much as before. It is true that in the Globus we worked 48 hours a week but on the 1300 forints per month salary that I received I could not support my family. Thus I had to work an extra 40 hours per week for a friend of mine <sup>at</sup> Maszek which was the organisation of the artisans and handicraftsmen and which was allowed to operate <sup>s</sup>ince the Nagy regime.

Working mostly at home where I had a small workshop I made an extra 3200 forints per month. Even with this extra work I could not afford to get my family a decent apartment.

After 1945 there were ~~x~~ certain deductions from my wages. For instance I had to pay 400 forints on *the peace-loan*, and for a while I <sup>also</sup> had to pay trade union dues. Later on, I decided to quit the trade union because I considered it a mouth-piece of the Communist Party. Under ordinary circumstances ~~however~~ <sup>they</sup> would have fired me <sup>for this.</sup> However, they considered me an exceptional worker and, therefore, they allowed me to stay on the job. They wanted to make me a Stakanovite because of my outstanding work achievements but, finally, they gave this title to a Communist who was not in the production but was doing party work. At a later occasion when the question of <sup>my</sup> becoming a Stakanovite came up again I told them that I didn't want the title. I ~~wasn't~~ wasn't afraid, I knew that they needed me for the teaching and training of the novices. In the past before 1945 it took 3 years to train a book binder that is it took 3 years for an apprentice to become a master. However, there were quite a few people, mostly the acquaintances and good friend of the ~~manager~~ managers and technical supervisors who were trained in a 6 week course, ("Átké<sup>sz</sup>és"). Thus, it happened frequently that an unskilled labourer next day became categorised as an "Átké<sup>sz</sup>és" and as a result received the same pay as a skilled ~~ly~~ labourer.

In regard to the norm system which was in operation during most of the post-war period, I would like to point out

that there were about 7 or 8 changes. Each time our norms were increased. I was a very good worker and overfulfilled my norm from 2 - 300 %. However, the person in charge of the norms could not allow me more than 150 - 170% overfulfillment to be recognized. He distributed the ~~rest~~<sup>rest</sup> among the other workers whose production was below the required norm.

The worst and most unproductive workers were excluded from the norm system and were put in a different category called "Időbér". This meant that a person in this category had an hourly wage which would be equal to about 80% of what he would have received under the norm system. People who were in charge of the norm system usually had to complete a special course. Party members were mostly taken out of both categories because they didn't like to work and because they received higher salaries.

After the nationalization of the enterprise in 1948 we still received a great deal of work. For one thing, the Communists put out great many new school books, and for another we had also exported to the Soviet Union. Approximately 5% of our production went to the Soviets but the work itself had to be *meticulously* precise and on such occasions all the employees came down to us to look at the finished product to make sure that

everything was all right. Apart from the school books and exports, we were also in charge of the printing of the identification booklets as well as membership cards for the AVO, ~~and~~ the trade unions, and the Hungarian Soviet Society. The printing of the compulsory identification cards for the whole population incidentally was a very good business for the Communist regime, because they <sup>h</sup> charged 4.30 forints a piece, and the actual printing cost amounted only to 1 forint a piece.

4. Political briefings, informanc<sup>ts</sup>e.

There were many political briefings, so called "Röszgyűlés", especially during the morning hours. In the course of these meetings the party line was propagandized and the American imperialists were blasted. Sometimes we would also have special conferences in which we would discuss how to increase production.

I do not know of any informanc<sup>ts</sup>e or secret AVO agents at our enterprise.

5. Relationship of Globus to overall economy.

All the printing establishments including Globus operated under the supervision of the management of the printing industry and as such they were under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Light Industry.

6. Respondent's remarks concerning the Revolution.

I stayed home most of the time during the Revolution. Apart from helping to bring out arms from a depot before the return of the Russian troops, <sup>I did not actively participate in the Revolt.</sup> We all hoped that the United Nations would <sup>2</sup> intervene, ~~and~~ A few thousand U.N. soldiers and arms would have been enough and the whole Hungarian nation would have fought against the Russians.

Ratings.

Respondent seemed to be a cautious but honest person whose main interest seemed to center around his family and profession .