

- (1) The Hungarian Revolution came as a great surprise. I was quite flabbergasted when the students made a revolution.
- (2) I'm not too good in answering this question. I'm too young and I have never been interested in politics. I have ^{never} read the newspapers except for the sports pages. I have never discussed political events with my friends.
- (2a) Stalin's death was the cause of great joy in Hungary. It was something like a national holiday. People were ^{laughing} ~~nothing~~ when talking about his death.
- (2b) I heard of Imre Nagy during the time of the Revolution only. At that time people thought that he was a good and honest man ~~but~~ that he really was the best among the Communists.
- (2c) I do not know.
- (2e) No information.
- (3) People were discontented and hated the Communist system.
- (3b) It is impossible to control people beyond a certain limit. The Party secretary could watch the fellows. If all the fellows wanted to do something, the Party secretary couldn't do much except to call ~~for~~ the police.
- (3c) The demands of the people were put down in the Fourteen Points. The trouble rather was that there were too many Fourteen Points. Everybody made up his own points. For example, the miners had their own fourteen points which were quite different from those of the students. I mean that the miners ^{at Komlo} ~~had their own~~ made up their

own demands in fourteen points by demanding better wages, better working conditions, shorter hours and another type of supervision, changes in the plan and norms and so on. The students of the University of Pécs wrote up another fourteen points where they talked about political freedom, freedom of the students and so on. The miners did not care for the demands of the students and the students were not interested in the fourteen points of the miners.

- (3f) The Party secretaries and the managers opposed the revolt but we did ~~not~~ ^{NOT} their voices ^{AT THAT TIME} ~~disappear~~ ^{THEY} ~~disappeared~~ ^{MADE A TURN-ABOUT.} on the first day of the revolt, ^{OPENLY.} for example, one Party secretary came out ~~and~~ ^{WAS} and endorsed the Revolution. He went from group to group telling the people that he ~~was~~ ^{was} entirely for the Revolution.
- (3g) The older people were neutral, ^{They} ~~but~~ did not want to ~~take~~ take any risks.
- (3h) The most popular slogan was "Oux with the Russians." This was the only slogan which the people really liked.
- (3i) Yes, everybody hoped that the Communist system would end and something else would replace it. We did not know what this other system should be but everybody wanted the end of the Communist system.
- (3k) Many Communists disliked the Communist system. They wanted something else just as the rest of the population.
- (3l) There were no reactionaries at Komlo. I know the situation in the city of Szeged. Szeged was always a city with many reactionaries

It was notorious for the many reactionaries living there. However, during the Revolution in Szeged ~~was~~ none of the reactionary elements participated in it. They stayed at home in their apartments, listened to the foreign radios and to the news coming in from the city. The Revolution in Szeged was staged by the students and other young people who were not reactionaries at all.

(3m) In this case perhaps Imre Nagy would be the prime minister of the country.

(4) It is very difficult to tell you the exact order of the events because so many things happened during those two weeks. Since that time I have forgotten the real sequence of events and I may mix up many things.

In 1956 I was working as a miner at the mines ~~in~~ in Komlo. About October 15th I had a little accident and broke ^{two} ~~all~~ of my fingers. Consequently I was put on the sick list. I had to go ^{to the} ~~to~~ OTI for treatment every second day or so and I did not work. I had plenty of leisure time and I spent a great part of it in the ~~in Szeged~~ Culture House. When the Revolution started, that was on October 25, I spent the evening in the Culture House. I played billiards with the other fellows and then we were parting. In the meantime, somebody, an enthusiastic Communist ~~was~~ ^{turned} on the radio, where Gerö was speaking. The radio was ~~was~~ ^{loud} roaring since there were always some enthusiastic Communists in the Culture House who liked to make propaganda. So, we with a few fellows I

left the house, and stayed around the door of it ^{on} the street and continued our talk there. We were still talking when some people came out of the house and said that the speech of Minister Geró had been interrupted. Later on some other people said that a Revolution was going on in Budapest. There were many groups by that time standing on the street around the Culture House, discussing the events. Some people said that there was a Revolution in Pécs and other people said that there was a Revolution in Szeged. So most of the people were talking about politics. However, ~~we~~ we, the youngsters, did not believe those rumors. There were many rumors going around all the time and we did not believe in any revolution. So we went back to the Culture House and played cards there. I returned home late at night since I ~~was~~ did not have to get up early the next morning.

I have to mention that the miners at Komlo were not for the Revolution very much, at least not at that time. There were about 24,000 people working there ^K ~~in the mines~~ and 18,000 of them were youngsters. Many of the youngsters ^{were} tough guys because only the tough guys signed up for work in the mines. So some of the tough guys like ^d the idea of Revolution just as they liked fights and brawls in the taverns and on Sunday nights. But the majority of the people were not interested in the Revolution. The majority of the workers had a family at ~~a~~ some other place and ^{they} regularly went home for the weekend. ^{when} So ~~the~~ the real Revolution came and the

worked was stopped, most of the people went home and did not return to Komlo for several weeks. So it happened that during the Revolution only a few thousand people were living in Komlo. The older people and the functionaries wanted to maintain order and to avoid any kind of trouble. The local police and the army sided with the Revolution. A few days later ~~z~~ some AVO people came out from Pécs. These AVO people didn't ~~know~~^{do} very much except in the case of ~~in~~ the demonstration about which I shall tell a little bit later.

On ~~the~~ October 24th or 25th some students from Pécs came to Komlo. They held a meeting at the main square and made a great propaganda, going from house to house and from plant to plant. They announced that the Revolution had broken ~~z~~ out and the Revolutionary Council has to be organized in Komlo, too. So, a Revolutionary Council was established in Komlo and it took over the direction of the local affairs. A strike was announced immediately and the work was stopped. Nobody worked; most of the people went home and the mines became deserted. I don't know whether any maintenance work in the mines has been carried out since I did not work either. During the time of the Revolution my fingers healed and I was declared ~~able~~^{fit} for work. However, because of the work stoppage I did not return to the mines. The Revolutionary Council we ~~made~~^{elected} was made up of all kinds of people. Most of them were unknown to me, they were workers or other kinds of people, but they were not

famous, at least I did not know their names. The local Party secretary became a member of the Revolutionary Council. This secretary was quite an alright fellow. He stayed on during the Revolution and carried out his work. On the first day he visited all the workers' hostels where the workers without families lived. For example, he visited our room in the workers' hostels. He made small meetings in every place. He listened to the demands of the workers and approved them. He helped to put together the fourteen points of the miners. Altogether he was a person liked pretty much by the miners. Of course, it is possible that he was insincere and behind our back he said other things or perhaps he even reported to the Party. Originally he had been a shop mechanic who joined the Communist Party in order to make money.

Then the working youth organized a ~~mass~~ demonstration. It started out as a big meeting in the Culture House. The University students from Pécs helped to organize it. However, they did a rather poor job. There were many speakers but it was impossible to hear one word because the microphones did not work. Anyhow at that time the fourteen points of the miners were officially announced, demanding higher wages, better living conditions, apartments, and so on. Those demands were very popular. Everybody applauded them. Then everybody ^{got up} and wanted to talk. People were talking for hours and hours, but nobody wanted to fight. Just when this meeting was over and people were leaving the Culture House, a few trucks

arrived with guns and ammunition. They came from Pécs and they were sent by the Students' Council in that city. The people were just coming out of the Culture House and they crowded around the trucks looking at the guns, but nobody wanted to touch them. Nobody wanted to take up arms and fight. I did not attend this meeting and just heard what happened there.

I don't know what happened with the arms just received, but in the following few days, ^q quite a few people particularly the youngsters got hold of arms and ammunition. In almost every room of the workers' hostel there were one or two guns. Often they were placed in very conspicuous places, for example, on the table ~~k~~ in the center of the room that could be seen by anybody, and they were left there for days. I remember one night I wanted to ^{eat} ~~give~~ some supper and before sitting to the table in our room in the workers' hostel, I had to put a gun into the corner of the room in order to make room for my food and plates. By that time there were only a few people living in the workers' hostels because most of them had gone home. Perhaps only one-fourth or less of the regular number were living there. One morning we were sitting in our room when the janitor came up and told us that everybody should go down to the Council's hall. So we went there. There was a meeting there and one member of the Revolutionary Council announced that ^{there were} ~~are~~ not enough arms at Komlo. ^{Someone appeared, then} ~~Someone appeared, then~~ brought trucks, ~~and~~ drove over to Dombovar and brought arms from ^{Some people volunteered to bring arms to Komlo. One fellow} ~~provided~~

there. Two of the trucks loaded with arms were captured by the Russians ~~and~~ on their way back to Komlo, but three trucks arrived safely. So by ~~the~~ ^{that} time everybody received a gun or a revolver, I had one, too, ^o although I did not participate in any of the undertakings. The following morning I had to go to the OTI for my regular treatment. I was waiting there and at the same ^{time}, a great demonstration was going on. A great mob of people, perhaps 1,000 people, were marching peacefully on the street toward the main square. Before ~~reaching the~~ ~~main square~~ ~~they~~ ~~were~~ ~~stopped~~, first of all by the firemen who wanted to turn the firehoses against ^{them} and disperse the crowd by water. However, the crowd chased away and beat up the firemen. The firemen ran away, but then suddenly the AVO people arrived, coming from the main square. The captain of the AVO ordered the crowd to disperse and go home. Nobody obeyed, but the crowd stayed there and wanted to move forward toward the main square. Then the captain order fire and quite a few people died and more of them got wounded. The wounded people were brought into the building of the OTI where I saw them. One of the fellows I knew was shot in the chest. It looked like a pretty bad case. I mention this incident because by that time everybody had arms. However, nobody used the arms. Everybody was marching peacefully without any arms and the firing of the police was not returned by the crowd. The crowd then

really dispersed and went home. But people got very bitter. From this time on everybody put a revolver in his pocket when going out. For a few days even I, myself went around with a revolver in my pocket. At night we were shooting but only into the air, ~~but~~ in the evening hours after darkness one could always ~~hear~~ hear shots ~~at~~ from some part of the city.

Later we heard that the Revolution in Budapest was put down and the Russians were coming and occupying every village. It was on Saturday, late in the afternoon, when the ^{news} ~~journal~~ came that the Russians were approaching Komlo and wanted to occupy it. Some people started a small scale organization. They took their arms and went out into the woods. Komlo is situated in a valley and the two sides of it are taken in by wooded hills, so many youngsters took up positions in the woods guarding the main road leading to Komlo. With two of my ~~former~~ friends I went out into the woods, too. The Russian tanks appeared on the road before the city about 6:00 in the afternoon. Quite a few people began to fire at them but it was a ridiculous attempt. You cannot fire with revolvers on tanks. Anyhow, the Russian tanks stopped there and did not enter the village. A few people were shooting. Many other people stayed there in the woods but the Russian tanks stopped; no Russian soldiers left the tanks and there was a standstill for about three hours. By the time shooting died out, many people returned home. Finally around ~~at~~ nine or ten o'clock

at night the Russian tanks began to move and moved into the city and stopped at the main square. By that time they did not ~~not~~ encounter any armed opposition. This is how Komlo was occupied by the Russians. There was no real resistance. It was impossible to offer any resistance. It is true that many of the youngsters were bitter so in the following days they left Komlo and retired to the mountains of the ^{Cs}Mecsek where they joined arms with the University students from Pecs. In the Mecsek very courageous resistance was carried out for about two weeks. Finally the Russians had to throw in airplanes and bomb out the forces of resistance. Even the radios spoke very much about this resistance. However, there was no real resistance at Komlo and I did~~x~~ not participate in any of the real fights.

The Russians ~~xx~~ occupied Komlo on November 5th or 6th. Their arrival did not cause any great changes. The Revolutionary Council was still running the affairs and the mines were still not working. Actually, more and more people left the village and went home. There was no hope of ~~h~~ opening the mines or doing anything sensible. We got some pay from the company, at least those workers who stayed at Komlo did. We could go to the offices every second or third day and get some money. It was not our full pay, but ^e enough to live on it. Finally I saw that there was not much sense in my staying there any longer. On November 17, I left Komlo and returned to Szeged where my family lived. In Szeged, however,

much bad news awaited me. My family was in a pretty bad situation. My sister who was x a student at the University had participated in the Revolution and we were afraid that she would be arrested by the police. Later on she was really arrested. The factories were not working in Szeged and my family was in a very strained position. I had nothing to do but spend my days with my old fellows whom I had known from our school days. Particularly I spent a lot of time with one fellow who was working with me at Komlo. So finally we came to the decision that the best thing was to leave the country. Together we left Szeged on December 1, and in five days we reached Austria.

- (4a) I did not participate in the demonstrations, since the demonstrations are usually for people who are interested in politics such as University students. Moreover, there was a golden rule at Komlo. It said that if you want to stay out of trouble, don't join the crowds. I followed this rule during my whole stay in Komlo. I never got into any of the fights and brawls and I never participated in the demonstrations either.
- (4b) The Russian signs were removed on the second day of the Revolution. It was done peacefully by the youngsters.
- (4c) The students from Pecs distributed many leaflets, for example, poems and the Fourteen points. I got many of them, but like the other people I threw them away after reading them.
- (7) I forget to mention that there was an old army officer from the

old Hungarian army who was working as a miner in Komlo. He became the chairman of the Revolutionary Council and he tried to organize fights. ~~ze~~ He wanted to get arms, distribute them and organize fighting forces. For a few days he was something like a leader then he saw that he could not organize the people of Komlo and he gave up his plans. I don't know what happened to him. I cannot even recall his name. Heaven knows how popular he was. I ~~had not~~ heard his name before the Revolution, then for days I heard it very often. I have never seen him and never heard ~~of~~ him.

(7a)

No information.

(8)

Before the Revolution no Russians were stationed in Komlo. Then in November, 15 tanks and several armoured ~~cars~~ cars arrived. The Russian group was pretty big. It filled one of the workers' hostels. They kept ~~the~~ discipline and ~~didn't~~ weren't cruel to the population. They were not hostile to the Hungarians. It was a common sight that two or three Russians were surrounded by a number of Hungarians and talking to them peacefully. It is true that many of the Russians who arrived at Komlo were looking for the Suez Canal. There were no atrocities at Komlo. But in some other parts of the country, a real fight took place. For example at the airfield of Papa the Hungarian forces ~~put~~ put up a fight against the Russians for two days. One of the greatest battles of the Hungarian Revolution took place at Papa.

(8a)

No information.

- (9) We received ~~our~~ information mainly through the radios. There were radios not only in the Culture House, but in every workers' hostel. There was a so-called common room in every workers' hostel with a nice radio set in it. The sets were good enough to receive the foreign stations, too. However, we were not too much interested in the foreign stations because we could not understand their language. During the Revolution, everybody was listening to the radio broadcasts coming from Budapest. After November 1st, we did not receive any newspapers. Eventually it was pretty difficult to follow the events. People never knew what happened in some other parts of the country. There were many guesses and rumors. People were always talking of those rumors, but nobody believed them entirely.
- (9a) Newspapers were not important. Only a few people read the papers regularly, particularly very few miners.
- (9b) See above.
- (9c) See above.
- (9d) The most important news came through talks with other people. Everybody was talking all the time. If anybody came into the house, he was asked immediately what news he knew. If anybody met a friend on the street, he stopped and exchanged the news.
- (10) To understand the situation I have to mention that an ordinary miner has never met a manager, a real Party secretary, a chief engineer or a chairman of one of the Councils. Those kind of people

were above the ordinary working man all the time. When the Revolution broke out, those leaders disappeared from Komlo. All the managers, engineers, Party secretaries, chairmen of the Councils and so on, left the village and did not return up to November 17, the time I left Komlo. There was a time during the Revolution when the Revolutionary Council looked for them, but the Council couldn't find them. We, the ordinary working men, did not care very much about them - neither before nor during the Revolution. During the Revolution, a gang of tough guys appointed themselves as a vigilante committee. They were recruited from the worst types of the tough guys. They looked for trouble and fights before the Revolution and during the Revolution the gang was made up of about 50 persons who sometimes were hunting for the AVO people and for the old leaders of the mines. They could not find anybody, although they wanted to shoot them or at least to arrest them. I don't think that the ordinary working man liked this gang. I have mentioned^{ed} that Komlo was a meeting place of the worst kind of elements. Former prisoners and criminals who couldn't find a job elsewhere came to Komlo to work there. These tough guys organized their gangs much before the Revolution. Those were criminal gangs, dreaded even by the police. For example, one of the gangs was known ~~kockas standa~~^b kockas standa and another gang was called the Murderers Gang because the members had committed murders. Up until 1953, those gangs made life at Komlo very insecure. After 1953, the

police was more successful in coping with them. Still many tough guys and criminals remained at Komlo and now during the Revolution, they gathered in the vigilante committee.

(10a) No institutions functioned during the Revolution.

(10b) I don't know what happened to the Party since I never was a member of it. I did not even go near the Party offices at Komlo. As mentioned above, most of the Party functionaries disappeared.

But that Party secretary who was liked stayed there and had an important part in the Revolutionary Council.

(10d) The local AVH people disappeared during the Revolution. They did not do anything during that time. However, the AVH people who came from the city of Pecs are responsible ^{for} ~~at~~ the shooting _^ at the peaceful demonstrators.

(10f) There was no army at Komlo.

(10g) No information.

(10h) Some members of the local Council became elected to the Revolutionary Councils.

(10j) The Revolutionaries were not organized. The students from Pecs tried to organize the Revolutionary forces. This is the reason why they visited Komlo several times. However, they did not succeed. There was no central organization and nobody among the Revolutionaries obeyed the orders of anybody else. I mentioned the case of the former army officer who wanted to become the leader of the Revolution in Komlo. However, the tough guys who made up

the vigilante committee disliked him even more than the ordinary ~~man~~ working people did.

(10k) See above.

(10l) I do not remember that any workers' council was established at the mines.

(10m) This question can be answered only by somebody who knows more about politics than I do.

(11) During the Revolution, everybody was expecting help from the West. In this respect there was no difference among the people. The ordinary working man expected to have ^{it} just the way as the peasants or the white collar people from the offices ^{d.d.} This was the reason why we listened to the radio stations all the time. I remember one Wednesday night, one of the Western radio stations announced that we should keep on with our resistance for only three more days and the help would arrive. This message gave new encouragement to the resistance and to the Revolution. 10,000 people lost their lives because of that radio announcement. Of course, there were many rumors, for example, people were saying all the time that the army of Western Germany was on the border of the country already, ready to interfere for the Hungarians. We did not believe such rumors but we believed the clear ~~xxxxx~~ ~~xxxx~~ message of the radio station: about three more days. It was too bad that we were showing such a credulity. That's when I got angry ^y ~~xxxx~~ at the Western countries.

- (11a) I am not sure myself, but I do not think it was useful.
- (11b) No the Revolution could not have succeeded.
- (11c) See above.
- (11e) Many people liked him and believed in him.
- (11f) We haven't heard any important names during the Revolution. The ¹ local people who came up during the Revolutionary days were of no importance. Budapest was too far away. We did not know exactly what was going on there.
- (11g) The youth were the most important elements in the Revolution, the students just the same way as the young workers. Of course, many irresponsible elements got into the Revolution at Komlo. Fortunately enough, they could not do much harm because most people left Komlo and went home.
- (12) It was at Szeged, after November 18, that I decided to leave Hungary. At that time, many of my friends left the city, but most of them wanted to go over to Yugoslavia. Of course, they were captured by the Yugoslavs and sent back to Hungary. The Yugoslavs didn't do them any harm, just sent them back. But finally with a friend of mine, we decided to escape westward towards Austria. So we left the city on December 1.
- (12a) At that time there was no hope for young people like me. The factories were not working and nobody knew when and where we could get jobs. We thought that we could find more success in the Western countries.

- (12b) I discussed my plans with the friends. Most of them wanted to escape just as I did.

- (1) From the spring of 1953, up to the time of the Revolution, I was working at the mines of Komlo. I went there because an uncle of mine was working there as a foreman. He told me about the high wages which were paid there and he secured a job for me. At the beginning ~~me~~ I was working underground, as a so-called lorryman. Later on I joined the soccer and the pingpong team of the Sport Club of the mines. Since I was a good athlete, it meant many advantages for me. For weeks I was not working just ~~me~~ taking the different training camps or participating in the games. The mines had a so-called second class football team and I had an important part in it. So after awhile my under ground job ended and I got a new job in the ore shipping department ~~me~~ which was work done above the mines. Moreover, I got many vacations and days off because of my sport ~~me~~ activities.
- (2) In the years 1951 and 1952, I was working in my home town Szeged and I had several jobs within a short time. I worked in a sawmill, in a brickfactory and on construction work. It was heavy physical labor paying 600-800 forints a month. At that~~me~~ time I was living with my parents ~~but~~ ^{and} I had to give my earnings to them. There was no money left for amusements. This was the main reason why I ^{is} looked for another job which would pay me more money and this ^{is} how I got to Komlo where I made more money and had some money to spend for my own amusement.

My first job in Komlo was that of an elevator operator. It was

a freight elevator, of course, which transported the coal to the ground. I was working 800 meters underground. My job was to pull ~~push~~ out the empty lorries from the elevator because the loading lorries were pushed into the elevator by machine. The work was not too heavy but the air was very bad and the depth had a very bad effect on the workers. I did not like the job and particularly I didn't like the Sundays which were called the great production days. We were supposed to work on Sundays and produce even more than on regular days. The regular working week was six days a week but as a great trouble we got our days off always on another day of the week. Komlo is the only coal mine of Hungary which ^{yields} ~~gives~~ coal good for coking. The coal was needed by the Russians who took the output out of the country and the whole output was not enough for them. The coal mines worked really well and received the ~~the~~ title of "distinguished plan". Three times in a row the norms were set very high and we had to work and produce very much. On the other hand the pay was good. An underground miner who overfulfilled his norms could make as much as 80 forints a day. We had quite a number of Stahanovite miners, for example, Kusz, Janos, and Molnar, who were written up in the newspapers and made 6,000-8,000 forints a month. But even the ordinary miners got 2,000 forints a month and the workers underground received ~~xxx~~ 1,200-1,400 forints. On the other hand, there were many accidents and explosions. It was strictly prohibited to take

matches and cigarettes underground but, the supervision was lax and the young tough guys circumvented this order. It happened in the so-called anna-mines that ~~xxx~~^a young tough guy lit a cigarette and an explosion occurred and ten people died. But even on a regular day when a miner came up to the ground, he could hardly move because of the fatigue. The main trouble was that the lode near to the ground became exhausted and we had to work in the depth of 600-800 meters.

- (3) I did not like my first job as an elevator operator. Later on my job and my earnings improved because of my sport activities. Consequently I liked it much better.
- (3b) The supervision was not too ~~x~~ bad. The foreman did not try to push and drive the people. Everybody could stay (work) at his own pace, but most people came to ~~mine~~^{mine} in order to make more money, consequently they drove themselves to work hard to fulfill the norms and take home more money.
- (3e) I lived in one of the workers' hostels, which was about a ten-minute walk from my mine.
- (3f) We were supposed to work 48 hours a week, eight hours a day. However everybody did some overtime because he wanted to make more money. For example, our soccer coach had to punch his ~~xx~~ time card every time he came to the tracks. Consequently, after the training we stayed there for another hour or so just talking and punching our cards much later to make out more time. Most people volunteered

for overtime work, particularly on Sundays when they got double wages. Besides the hourly wages, the miners received the ~~sum~~ so-called premium of faithfulness which was something very important indeed. I received it in my second year with the mines for the first time when it amount^{ed} to 6 percent of my annual wages. It increased with every year spent with the ~~time~~^{mine}. For example, an old miner who was in the mines for several years, received 8,000-10,000 forints ~~per~~ every year in September which was a very nice additional amount to his regular weekly wages.

- (3g) We worked six days a week. A day off was regularly given to everybody except people on the soccer ~~in~~ team and so on.
- (3i) After one year of work, one could get one week vacation. If somebody had worked there for a longer tim^e, he could get two or three weeks. The vacations were paid according to the ~~w~~ regular weekly wages. Many of the miners were sent to the resort places of the Trade Union of the Miners.
- (31) Lateness and absenteeism were problems only on those days when people were supposed to return from their weekend. If somebody did not return in due time, he was punished. Let's suppose that somebody prolonged his weekend and returned one day later. In this case he lost not only one day's work but his different premiums such as norm and overtime for the whole week. Moreover, he lost his annual premium or at least a part of it. In some cases people were fired because of lateness and absenteeism. However, it

happened that somebody once fired was rehired again. For example, a fellow I knew simply did not return ~~fm~~ from a weekend, he did not show up for several weeks. When he came back, the foreman told him that he was fired. However, he hung around and did not give up and a few days later, he ~~was~~ was rehired and worked in the mines again.

- (3m) During the three and a half years, there were several changes in the norm system, but I do not remember them. Because of the changes in my job, I belonged to different norm systems.
- (3o) There were many benefits for the miners. For example, we received working gloves and very good ones. The so-called wear-out-time of the work gloves was two years, but if somebody tore his glove, he got a new one after six months. Both the overalls and the boots we received from the mines were very good. As another benefit, I have to mention the summer resort places. The older workers or the good workers received two weeks vacation paid by the trade union. For example, the excellent worker name Kusz Janos was sent for vacation every year. Actually only a small number of miners could receive a really free vacation from the Trade Union. But vacation was very cheap and very good even for the other miners. For example, I went to Balatonfoldvar, spent two weeks there and the room and board with five meals a day cost me 220 ^zforints altogether. The railway fare was at reduced rates given by the Trade Union. Altogether it was a very good system and people liked it very much. Any miner, who wanted to, ~~do~~ could get such a

reasonable vacation either at the Lake Balaton or in the mountains, for example in the Mátra.

(4a)

All kinds of people came to work at Komlo. Many of them were peasants living in the surrounding areas of Transdanubia. They had land, home and families somewhere in a village and they went home for their days off. In their case the most important thing was to take home as much money as possible. They really worked hard and tried to make all the possible premiums. They were very proud if they could receive a fat pay envelope on payday. Then, many youngsters came to work at Komlo. About three-fourths of the labor force consisted of youngsters, let's say younger than 25 years and single. They were ~~attracted~~ attracted by the high wages and they spent the money they earned. They spent a lot of time in the taverns ~~dancehalls~~ dancehalls, movies and other places of amusement. If they received 1,200 forints a month, they could spend it in less than a month. In the last days before the payday, they lived on borrowed money.

(4b)

The foremen who were real miners and knew about the business, were liked by the workers. However, there were some Communist foreman, who in old times had been shepherds and were promoted by the Party. They behaved like bashas. We had no trouble whatsoever with the real experts. For example, the production manager of the mines was a former miner with 15 years of experience in underground operations. He was an alright guy and lived liked the

other workers lived. He came with us into the tavern and we ~~was~~ addressed him as: "Ye". But the manager of the Coal Mining Trust of Komlo was named Dr. Vizi who was an upstart, a pushing fellow, hard on his employees. Everybody hated him. For awhile, Vas Zoltan was the general manager of the Coal Mining Trust. He dealt personally with all the complaints of the workers, listened to everybody and any worker could approach him. He was very popular because his main aim was to improve the situation of the workers. Everybody was sorry when he was transferred, His successor was Vizi, whose main aim was to increase production and drove the workers very hard.

- (4f) The Trade Union collected the fees, but did not function otherwise. It had only 6,000 members. I don't know how it happened that the other miners did not become members. When a meeting came up, the miners had the courage and spoke up about their complaints. They were banging on the table, even in the presence of the chairman of the Trade Union who was a big Communist. Otherwise the Trade Union helped the Youth League with a donation for sports equipment. It helped the workers in getting working gloves. If somebody went to see the chairman of the Trade Union, he could get a new pair of boots or a new pair of overalls.

(4i) No information.

(4l) No information.

(4n) I do not think that there were any good kaders among the miners.

~~4m~~

b) There were no informers among the miners. There was, of course, a kader department in the office building. The kader department did its regular job but once hired, people did not get in touch with it anymore.

(5)

It was very difficult to change jobs. Let's suppose that I ~~wanted~~ wanted to change my job. In this case I would have been called in to the office of the Trade Union where one of the bigwigs would have given me a big talk trying to persuade^{ade} me to stay. When I was working in Szeged in the sawmill, I gave two weeks' notice. When the two weeks were up, I wanted to leave. However, they did not want to let me go. Finally, they marked in my ~~lab~~ labor book that I left the job voluntarily. Such a mark in the labor book was a very great handicap. It was difficult to find a new job and even if somebody found a new job, part of his vacation was taken away in the new job. The workers, of course, wanted to change their jobs all the time. There was a great migration of the labor force and the authorities wanted to cut it down. When the Revolution came, one of the demands of the miners was that the changing of jobs should be free again. Some of the workers in the mines^s were not free people, but ~~we~~ either drafted to work or they were internees. A so-called labor service army was working in our mines whose members were drafted into military service, but instead of regular service, they were sent into the mines. I don't know very much about this labor service army, since they worked in another section.

then I did and ^I never came into contact ~~with~~ with them. I know a little bit more about the internees working at Komlo. There was an internment camp at ~~Buda~~ Beta and in 1956, about 900 political prisoners were there. They had to work in the mines. They worked the regular time but did not get any pay. On October 26, 1956, they were freed and they became the most enthusiastic supporters of the Revolution.

- (5b) I have never been in the schools so I couldn't have taken any of the fancy jobs. The best bet would have been for me under any conditions to work in the mines or in a factory in Budapest.
- (5e) I would like to live in a city instead of Komlo. In a city there are better changes for amusement.
- (5g) No. Not even my father wanted me to be a miner.
- (6) It is hard to answer this question. My family and my father were much worse off since the war. On the other hand, I was making more money at Komlo than the whole family together. For myself I had money enough.
- (7) On the average I made 1,400 ~~for~~ forints a month. The basic ^{pay} was 34 forints a day and six days ~~work~~ made up a week. But sometimes I made overtime. And finally I received the different premiums. ~~xxx~~ Altogether it came to an average of 1,400 forints.
- (8) See the special sheet attached. As additional information, it is necessary to mention that the workers hostel was free for any of the workers. The mining ~~trust~~ offered a ~~conference~~ ^{cafeteria} service to

the workers for 240 forints a month. The food given there was not enough and one had to buy ~~some~~ some additional food. ~~However,~~ ^{However,} food was pretty cheap. Concerning the deductions I had to pay every month 100 forints for the peace loan. I was not asked about it, it was simply allotted to me, but I could not protest against it. Altogether I think I could have saved 900-1,000 forints every month. However, I saved less because I was spending my money foolishly on very stupid purposes. And with my savings I regularly supported my parents in Szeged, I sent home every month 300-~~500~~ 500 forints. I ~~also~~ saved some money too. When I left Komlo, in November 1956, I had enough money saved to live for the next few weeks in Szeged and to finance my escape to Austria. I did not borrow money from anybody, although the escape cost quite a bit of money.

- (9) The Mining Trust maintained the workers' hostels for all single workers who did not have any other residence at Komlo. In the hostels ten people occupied one room, sleeping in bunks, one above the other. This hostel was free to all the workers. The rooms were rather poorly equipped and dirty. There was one common bathroom on every floor which served 100 people. In every building there was a so-called Common Room for amusement. It was equipped not only with a radio but with ~~many~~ ^{much} reading material. However, we did not read because the books and magazines were Communist propaganda material.

- (9b) The food in the company's cafeteria was actually quite good. It

could not be compared to homecooking, but it was better than the food served in many expensive restaurants. The older people were satisfied with the food but, we the youngsters had to supplement it and went out to eat once a day. There were two taverns in Komlo which served rather good food at reasonable prices.

- (9c) All the stores in Komlo were owned by the state. If I wanted to do some important shopping, I went to Pecs. For example, during a day off, I could arrange all my shopping. In Pecs there were some privately owned stores. For example, one clothing store which was called used clothing store but actually one could buy very good new ~~st~~ suits there at much more reasonable prices than in the state store. This store was owned by a Jewish fellow ^w who liked the young miners from Komlo because they spent a lot of money at his place. The youngsters of Komlo got dressed ^{up} in the last two years I spent in Komlo I ~~purchase~~ purchased many suits for myself. That was the time when I began to go out with girls and clothing became important to me and ~~to~~ my friends.

(10) I could not answer this question.

(11) Money was an important reason why people became discontented. Not everybody had so much money as the youngsters at Komlo. For married people, particularly with children, life was really hard. For example the peasants who worked in the mines, returned home every month with 1,000 forints or more as their monthly savings. However, in their village, they had to keep a family. They had to

pay the taxes. So after all not much money would be left at the end of the year.

- (1) I attended the schools in Szeged. I attended eight years of general and one year of high school. In 1952, I quit school. I did not like the school, ^{though} ~~also~~ my family tried to force me to continue my education; ~~My~~ two sisters went to the university, I remained ^y the only uneducated member of the ~~the~~ family.
- (1e) Every student had to go to the school in his own district. I did not have any personal choice in selecting my own school.
- (2) There were several reasons why I left school in 1952. By ~~the~~ ^{that} time my father was rather old and it was necessary for me to make some money and support the family. I did not want to continue my schooling. At that at time I was engaged in soccer already and soccer was more important to me than school work. My father, who comes from Transylvania, wanted to make a forrester our of me, but finally he had to give up his plane. My two sisters were excellent students at the high school, but they were not admitted to the University. Later on, ~~but~~ in ~~a~~ 1955, both of them were admitted and attended the University.
- (3) Not asked.
- (4) From the fourth grade on we had to learn the so-called political subjects. For example, we had to take ~~up the~~ Russian language and it was the most important subject. We were pressured all ~~g~~ the time by the principals and by the teacher to study more Russian. In history we had to deal with Russian history. The Russian language

was taught five hours a week and disliked ~~g~~ by all the students. Our first teacher was a girl who flunked me. Her successor was a man who was disliked by everybody. Both of them were very conceited because the Russian teachers are supposed to be superior beings. Most of the students stood near flunking and nobody paid any attention to what the teacher would say during classes. We all hated the Russians.

- (4b) Communist education was not effective. Nobody became a Communist in the school.
- (4c) The children hate Communism just as much as the grown-ups.
- (4f) No information.
- (4h) Communism did not change the attitude of the children, all of them were against Communism.
- (4i) Communism is not effective at any age. Those people who become Communists do so because they want to make more money.
- (5) Communism caused a lot of trouble in our family. My father was a professional soldier who spent 28 years in the army serving with the Pioneers. He became a ~~staff~~-sergeant ~~sticking~~ doing office-work. He had eight children altogether, - six boys and two girls. ~~As~~ As he used to say, he had to serve five years for each of his children. Anyhow he raised us very ^{decently.} ~~peaceably~~. We had a very nicely furnished apartment and the whole family lived well. Father wanted to give us a good education, but because of the war none of us got a university education. The trouble started when in ~~in~~ 1944, my

father with my two oldest brothers went to Germany. ~~R~~ Father was not a Nazi, but at that time most of the soldiers went to Germany. Anyhow, Father left Mother and six of his children at home which showed that he wanted to come back as soon as possible. In 1945, after the war ended, he returned and first of all he was not verified but ~~was~~ fired from the army. Then somebody denounced ~~him~~ him ~~before~~ before the police and he was imprisoned. In the spring of 1947, he was ~~then~~ freed but in the meantime he ~~was~~ lost his pension. So his 28 years of service in the army were for nothing. He took up different jobs as a common laborer, but being over 50 and have^{ing} a police record, he couldn't make good. He was fired from many jobs and in some other cases he had to leave his job because it was too heavy. Then he developed some trouble with his liver so he couldn't work. Also by the time my brothers grew ~~up~~ up, they established their own families and could not support us. By 1950, we had to sell our old apartment and the old furniture. By that time we had many financial difficulties at home.

(5f) Our family lived like many other families.

(5g) Up to 1944, ten ~~was~~ people made up our family. Father, Mother and the eight children. After 1945, my brother~~s~~ moved out of the home, they got married or began to work outside of Szeged.

(5h) By now all my brothers, five of them ^{are} ~~are~~ married. All of them are living in Szeged or nearby.

- (5i) In 1956, I lived at Komlo alone. My parents lived in Szeged with my two sisters. The two sisters and myself were the three youngest children in the family. My sisters write me regularly and they want me to go home. They write that this one and that one have already returned and nothing happened to ~~him~~^{them}. I know that my parents would like to have me there ~~is~~ very much. I am the only member of the family who escaped from the country.
- (5k) My social origin hurt me in Hungary.
- (6) Respondent was single.
- (7) Not applicable.
- (8) Not applicable.
- (9) Not applicable.
- (10) Not applicable.
- (11) We liked one another in the family very much. My parents liked me particularly because I was the only boy not yet married. I visited my family two^{or} three times every year, arriving from Komlo with many presents. At those times, I took my sisters out dancing and tried to make their lives as nice as possible. The two sisters, as mentioned, are university students. One of them participated in the demonstrations of Szeged and was arrested by the police. She spent two weeks in jail.
- (12) Yes, I talked about political matters to my father. He was very much interested in politics. But I was not. So, as a matter of fact, it was a one-sided talk. He explained the ~~is~~ political

situation to me and I listened.

- (13) My father wanted me to continue my schooling, but finally he had to give in.
- (13b) No troubles concerning friends.
- (13c) No troubles concerning politics.
- (14) In our family the members were very close to one another. This was the situation with the other families I knew in Szeged. Needless to say I met a great many people in Komlo where the family life was not ^{so} ~~as~~ nice as ours.
- (14b) I don't know.
- (14c) I like any kind of amusement, ~~more~~ particularly sports, dancing movies.
- (14g) When I became a worker, I became free to do with my leisure time what I wanted.
- (16) In the Communist system, anybody over 18 years could marry without the permission of the parents. The result was that many young people got married and divorced pretty soon. For example the miners in Komlo worked for a year, saved some money, got married, then got divorced after a few months. The main trouble of married life was the money. The men never earned enough money for their women and they could never find a suitable apartment.
- (16b) There was a good comradeship between boys and girls. I have met many girl students at Szeged, ^{one} ~~was~~ couldn't say one bad word about those ~~girls~~ girls.

- (16e) There were many girls working in the mines who were common girls. They went to bed every night with a different fellow. This was quite common in Komlo. It was quite common in Budapest, too, where the so-called Ilkovics girls lived. The situation was quite different in Szeged.
- (16f) I don't know. Nobody paid any attention to what the Communists thought about such matters.
- (16h) There are no more illegitimate children. If a ~~xxxx~~ girl in Komlo had born a child, the birth certificate was made out always with a father.
- (16*xy*) No information.
- (17) I do not know any exact data, but I have heard many stories. For example, one foreman in ^{the} mines ordered the carpenters to make a dog house for his pet. When he wanted to take the ~~2~~ dog house out of the mines, the watchman would not let him go. He was immediately reported and fined ^d 500 forints. I know that in agriculture, a great deal of stealing was going on. For example, a Party secretary in ~~xx~~ a small village had 1,200 forints as his monthly ~~xxx~~ salary. After two years, he ~~xxx~~ built a house for himself. The people notice^d it and accused him of stealing. He was arrested. Even more stealing went on at the tractor stations. Even the newspapers wrote about it. In the so-called People's Stores, which are owned by the state, embezzlement is of daily occurrence. * According to some ^{people,} really big sums are embezzelled there, Several

2 thousand or even hundred thousand forints.

- (17b) As mentioned above, many hooligans were at Komlo and the police had a hard time finding them. The hooligans did not want anything except to bully the other people. ~~But~~ They caused a great many fights and brawls in Komlo. The best thing was to avoid them. If I saw any of them in a tavern, I never went in.
- (18) If you wanted to find friends in Komlo, you could find them either in the workers' hostels or in the taverns, but it was very important to ^{se}lect one's own friends. There was a saying according to which one-half of the workers in Komlo were peasants and the other half scoundrels. The best thing was to keep away from those scoundrels. In my case I did not have any great need to find friends there since my uncle and his family were living in Komlo. Anyhow I became ~~friendly~~ friendly with two peasant boys. One of them was on the soccer team with me and the other one lived in the ~~at~~ same room in the workers' hostel. Young people could meet friends in the youth league. The youth league was a great sham. Its main activity was to arrange balls and dances and to maintain a ^{drama} ~~sports~~ group. There were ^{two} dance halls at Komlo. If somebody frequented them he would meet there a couple of hundred chums.
- (18c) We spent our leisure time together.
- (18g) He should be honest, he shouldn't be a Communist.
- (18i) See above.
- (19) My family was Catholic.

(19b) I was Catholic, too.

(20) When I was in the third grade, we had religious instruction for awhile, but then it ceased altogether. About the same time, people stopped going to the church because at their place of work or in the school there was great pressure against those who went to church. By 1956, the religious feeling simply died out of the ~~some~~ people. For example, I went to the midnight mass at Christmas time, but no other times. My Mother still went to the Mass every Sunday, ^{but} except ^o for old women nobody went to the church. As a result the moral feeling died out of the people. ^{ality} Immorality ~~became~~ became general since nobody talked morals to the people. A 14 year old girl became a mother and the same immorality turned up even during the Revolution. They committed horrible things with those few people who got captured. The ~~priests~~ priests disappeared from the streets. Outside of the church, one could not see a priest, if a priest had to go out, he wore civilian clothes. In Szeged there were many priests all the time. However, I knew only one of them, a religious teacher. I haven't met any other priests there. I don't know whether there are any nuns in Hungary still.

(20b) Communism tried to stamp out religion.

(20c) No information

(20f) Nobody was jailed because he ~~didn't~~ attended church services, but it was a bad point. This is one of the reasons why students never went to church.

- (20i) Old women attended church and nobody else.
- (20k) Religion is less important to young people. Let us not forget, however, that even the old people were not too religious. My father did not go to church in the old days. My mother went alone.
- (20l) I don't know. I do not think that the church played any important part in the ~~war~~ opposition.
- (21) Mining, mechanics, engineering are good occupations. ~~But~~ Anybody could go into such kind of occupations. The trouble was that few of the youngsters became skilled workers. Even youngsters with a high school education became simple laborers.
- (21b) He should either learn a trade or become a Communist.
- (22) The Party members were well off. The unskilled ^{workers} ~~men~~ were in a very poor plight.
- (22a) I belonged to a third group - the 3 group of the miners who had a much better lot than the average population.
- (23b) Except for a few bigwigs in the Communist Party, everybody is equal in Hungary. There is not much difference between a miner and a foreman. I think not even a Party secretary is much better off than the average working man.
- (23d) I can't answer this question.
- (23e) No information.
- (23g) I do not remember of hearing the old addresses such as Ur or hearing the greeting: kezet fogokolom. Polit~~ic~~ness disappeared and I was greatly surprised when I came to England to see the difference. The

difference is by no means simple. In Hungary for example, a youngster will give his seat on the streetcar to a lady or to an old man, whereas, it is not so in England. On the other hand, the English people are very polite. For example, the office people treat everybody like a gentleman. This is not so in Hungary. In Hungary there is no special ^{greeting} ~~thing~~ or prestige given to the older people. In the mines, I ~~was~~ addressed everybody under 40 years of age as ^{Pe.} ~~Max~~. The young people in Hungary are no longer polite. I was no exception either, particularly in the mines I was not polite. It was quite a different case within the family. Within the family, for example, in face of my uncle I gave the necessary respect to everybody.

(24) No information.

(25) The Jews were in the leading positions of Communism. I could name a long list of names. They ran the country and that was a great ~~big~~ trouble.

(25c) I did not have any Jewish acquaintances. At Komlo ~~at~~ I did not see any Jews, ^{although} ~~there~~ there might have been a very few of them in the office. There were not many Jews in Szeged either.

(25g) People did not like the Jews but there was no anti-Semitism. We heard about it pretty much and we heard what great troubles anti-Semitism had done in 1944.

(25h) I have no ideas on that point.

- (1) I have never been interested in ~~xxx~~ politics. Politics is the only x thing in which I have never been interested. Politics is usually for older ^{people} who like to talk about it and like to read the political pages of the newspaper.
- (2) I always ~~have~~ disliked Communism.
- (2a) Not applicable.
- (2b) I dislike Communism because our family had to suffer so much ~~because~~ ^{under} the Communists. That was perhaps the most important point. But I don't know anybody who liked Communism. None of my friends, not ^{any} of my school mates liked Communists. The miners at Komlo did not like it either.
- (2f) Never interested in politics.
- (2h) People had to obey Communism whether they liked it or not. The Revolution showed what would happen if people disobeyed.
- (3a) All items of the list are equally important but the three most important ones were: in ^{ter} ~~inter~~ference with civil rights, inadequate opportunities to get ahead and overwork.
- (3b) The religious question was the least import except for the old old & women. All other questions were equally important,
- (3c) No information.
- (3d) Over-taxation.
- (3e) Over-work
- (3f) There was something ~~terrible~~ ^{good} in Communism too, every political system

must have some good points. The Communists, for example, were good in carrying out large-scale construction work. The health insurance system was good and the general care given to the health. Let us not forget that the health care of the miners has never been so good as during the ~~the~~ Communist system and let's not forget that during the Three Year Plan, a new metropolis was built amidst the Puszta.

(4) ~~The~~ real power was with the Communists.

(4f) There was a tremendous bureaucracy. Let's suppose that I wanted to visit my parents in Szeged while I was working at Komlo. In that case, I would accumulate my days off for a few weeks so that I should have four or five days to spend with my parents. But in this case I had to go and see the personnel office once a week. Finally they gave me a slip which entitled ^{me} to take four or five days off. So I left for Szeged. When I returned, I learned that the office had lost my ~~slip~~ slip and they wanted to penalize me for absenteeism. Then it took another long explanation and several trips to the personnel office before the whole matter could be cleared up.

(4h) No information.

(5) I do not remember exactly when I became a member of the ~~the~~ Youth League. But it happened in the 7th grade of the school. Even before that I had been a Pioneer because it was compulsory to be a Pioneer. Then one day, perhaps in the 7th grade, the secretary

of the Youth League came into our classroom, distributed the membership application forms and we had to sign. Everybody became a member of the Youth League. As long as somebody was in the schools, it was necessary for him to belong to the Youth League. In 1951, I quit the school and began to work, then I was no longer a member of the Youth League for a while. But at my place of work I was bothered so much that I signed up again. At Komlo every youngster who took up work there received his Youth League membership card at the same time as he was hired for work. I was not only a member of the Youth League there but I became elected to one of the committees and later on I became secretary even of that committee. For a while I was working with the so-called Amusement Committee and our main job was to arrange balls. Then I became the secretary of the Athletic Committee and I was mainly in charge of the soccer. I liked the Committee work pretty much because it made ^{sense} ~~sense~~ However, I never attended the political meetings of the youth League although the Youth League tried to invite famous speakers, for example, members of the Parliament or writers or newspaper ~~men~~ men. Nobody attended the political meetings so later on the political meetings were simply dropped. Nobody was interested in politics. Consequently the Youth League later established the Petöfi Kör which arranged many meetings with out-of-town speakers, but could not create a ~~gr~~ greater interest than it had been before. The Youth League at Komlo was a big organization, having perhaps 15,000 members.

It was run by several so-called independent secretaries, that means full time employees of the Youth League. Those secretaries were young men in the age group of 22-25. They had good schooling, usually a university education and they discharged their military ~~at~~ duties. All of them were Party members, but very few of them were enthusiastic Communists. They did not want to introduce much politics into the functions of the Youth League. They were rather interested in giving a good program in athletics or amusements ~~as~~ such as dances and even concerts. The Youth League invited quite a few musical bands from Budapest and from other cities. They played good music and we liked those concerts ~~very~~ much. There was no politics in it. On the other hand, if a good picture was playing in the local movie house, nobody showed up at the house of the Youth League. Many workers participated in the sport and cultural activities since they were not connected with politics. The Youth League had its own drama group and this was a separate one from that maintained by the Mining Trust. So we had two drama groups at Komlo and every month one play was produced. Some of them were really good and they drew a great audience. Every month there was a ball. So actually the leadership tried to give amusement to the ~~wor~~kers at Komlo.

- (5a) I did not experience any draw-backs in membership in the Youth League.
- (5d) See above.

- (5e) See above.
- (6) There were many Party members at Komlo. Not among the workers but among the leaders - very few real workers joined the Party. This was the general situation ~~in~~ all over the country. The workers were against the Party. Very few of them became enthusiastic Party members. Some of them joined in order to get advantages, ~~for~~ ^{for} example, to get promoted or to get transferred to another job. Among the leaders, almost everybody was a Party member and they talked about Communism all the time. Youngsters were not supposed to be Party members, they were supposed to belong to the Youth League. If someone did an excellent job in the Youth League, he was recommended by the Youth League for membership in the Party. In this case, he was supposed to serve a six months observation period when he was really watched by Party members and real Communists. After that he had to do quite a lot of paper work in order to become a member. Few youngsters wanted to undergo such a torture and few of them became Party members.
- (6e) Most people became members of the Party in order to make more money. For example, quite a few of the tough guys out of the ~~is~~ ^{murderer} ~~gang~~ ¹ gang became Party members. It is true that later on they were kicked out of the Party. The ordinary good people never joined the Party.
- (6f) I suppose that many Communists became dissatisfied because they hoped for more money and they did not get it. However, they couldn't do anything else but stay in the Party. It was impossible to leave ^{the} Party voluntarily.
- (6h) No, I was never a member of the Party.

- (6r) The Party was run by Rákosi and a few other people of his kind.
- (7) I was a member of the Trade Union. Everybody had to become a member and had to sign the paper for membership at the same time that he was hired. Our main duty was to pay the fees every month. The fees were deducted from our pay so whether we wanted it or not, we had to pay.
- (7c) The Trade Union was another Communist organization. It had the same purposes as the Party.
- (7d) See above.
- (7e) I did not do very much. I did not attend the meetings. A meeting was held once every month, but it was very easy to slip away because the shifts in the mines worked at different times and it was impossible to check on the members. The Trade Union consisted of at least 24,000 member. However, at the time of a meeting only 200 or 300 people showed up. Those people ~~had~~ either had a complaint and wanted to speak up or they could not slip away.
- (7g) Nobody liked the Trade Union. It was not hated so much as the Party but people did not like it either. There were some good points in it. For example: the health care program and the summer vacations. Altogether, however, people did not like it.
- (7f) The local Trade Union had a huge office. Later on a special building was erected for the Trade Union. It consisted of at least 25 rooms. The meetings were not held in this building but all the paperwork was done there. Our Trade Union files were kept there.

If somebody wanted to go for a summer vacation, he had to report there. If somebody had any trouble with their health insurance system, he had to go to that building.

- (7m) See above.
- (8) Very few people really believed in Communism.
- (9) We know well how it happened. None of the members of the Youth League were Communists, they were just ordinary people. They did not go along with the Party.
- (10) The AVO functioned both at Komlo and at Szeged. My family did not really feel the AVO as long as I was in Hungary. But we heard about it very much. The AVO barracks at Szeged are situated about one kilometer from the city at the main highway leading to Budapest. It has underground cells for the political prisoners. The AVO people did really horrible things. If somebody became drunk and began to talk politics, he was taken to the AVO prison and beaten to a bloody pulp. I have heard many stories of this kind, since such people came to work at Komlo. Most of our workers were unreliable from a political point of view. Many of them had been arrested by the AVO and were watched by the political police even during their stay at Komlo. They told me and the other fellows their stories. Most of these people were just simple ordinary folk like we were who began to talk politics in the tavern and the result was that they were arrested by the AVO. Everybody dreaded the AVO. The regular police were unable to keep order at Komlo - only the AVO could achieve this aim - even the tough

guys were afraid of the AVO.

(10b) I have no personal information on this point.

(10e) No information.

(10j) I know that the regular police disliked the AVO police. I have heard it from them several times when I was at Komlo. One could meet a regular policeman in the tavern and one could talk to him, but it was impossible to talk to an AVO man.

(10k) The AVO was a branch of the Party, they were just the same.

(11) None of my close friends or relatives were arrested except for my sister who was held for two weeks at the beginning of 1957. I don't know very much about this affair because ~~by~~ ~~the~~ that time I was no longer in Hungary. All I know is that she was at the notorious Csillag jail at Szeged. It was really a shame because in old times, that jail was only for men.

(11b) Those who talked too much.

(11g) No information.

(12) Not applicable.

(13) I could cite my own example. I was never arrested, also I was not better either than the other people. However, I never talked about politics with unknown people. If a fight broke out in the tavern, I left immediately. I did not look for any trouble.

(13c) Yes.

(13d) No.

(13f) Yes, at Komlo many people were arrested because they stole from the

mines. They stole everything. For example, boards, shingles, and even coal. I think it was a stupid thing to steal because the risks were too great. I did not want to get into trouble, consequently I never stole anything.

(14) No information.

(15) The ~~Soviet~~ Soviet Union was all-important in Hungarian affairs. The Soviet Union made the decisions ~~and~~ and Hungary^y had to do it according to the orders received from Moscow.

(15d) No. There were lots of people supervising the mines. However~~xxx~~ those Russians were ⁱⁿ Pecs at the headquarters of the offices of the Mining Trust. I have never seen them but I know that from time to time, they came out and ~~visit~~ visited the mines. Some of the miners at Komlo talked to the visiting Russians. One of the Russians spoke good Hungarian.

(15e) Everywhere.

(16) Everybody talked only to those people whom he knew. For example, ten of us lived together in one room at Komlo. After half a year, we talked freely among us about Rakosi or Stalin or anybody else. On the other hand, there were rooms where a spy was planted and it was impossible to talk freely. It was no good to start a discussion, if I did not know somebody and he started to talk about politics I did not give any decisive answer. I was afraid of ~~the~~ the AVO like everybody else. But everybody had two or three friends whom he trusted and could talk to them.

- (16c) See above.
- (16d) One could be more candid about anything that was not political. About politics one was not candid except in the company of friends.
- (17) Yes, I have seen many ways at Komlo. For example, somebody was fired because he had not shown up for work in due time. So the fellow hung around and talked to the different Party secretaries and asked for their intercession. In many cases he succeeded and was taken ~~by~~ back by the Mining Trust. As another example I could mention the case of our soccer team. We went away to play games at different cities and during that time we had our expenses paid by the Mining Trust. So everytime, we wrote up more expenses than those which really occurred and made some money in this way. Nobody was honest about keeping the official orders of the Communists because those orders were so stupid. They were good enough for the Russians who are like a herd, but not good for Hungarians who want to use their common sense and live accordingly. The official orders of the Communists had no authority before the masses. Whenever new orders came out and appeared in the paper, the people laughed about ^{them} ~~it~~. Nobody wanted to keep those orders.
- (18) The Russians were the strong ^{hold} ~~point~~, who maintained Communism in Hungary. The weak point of the system was its general unpopularity.
- (19) Everybody hated the Communist system but nobody did anything about it because it was impossible to do something.
- (19b) All groups are equally hostile except for a few Party bigwigs.

- (19e) There ^{were} ~~are~~ no groups which were least hostile.
- (191) No information.

- (1) We got most of our information from the radios and from gossip.
- (1e) Radio was the most important. Every evening people draw the curtains on their windows and listen^{ed} to the foreign radio stations. At Komlo it was impossible to listen to the foreign newscasts because of the many spies who were at the workers' hostels. We could listen, for example, to the musical program of a foreign radio, but nobody dared to turn up the ~~new~~ newscast coming from London.
- When I was at home at Szeged, I sometimes listened to the American radio. We had a small radio at home and the ~~reception~~ reception was rather poor. However, my father liked it very much and listened to it every night. This was his greatest relaxation. It was the great relief ~~in~~ after the day's stress and work.
- (2a) Every workers' hostel ~~in~~ at Komlo received the newspapers and several magazines. We could read them in the common room of the hostel. I read the sport ~~and~~ pages only and I bought the sport newspaper several times, particularly on Mondays. Every youngster subscribed to the newspaper called Szabad Ifjusag. It was the best paper produced in Hungary at that time. I bought sometimes the radio and movie magazine. I do not ~~know~~ know anything about the other magazines.
- (2g) No.
- (3) There was one movie house at Komlo and several of them at Pecs and Szeged. I went to the movies almost every week, once a week.
- (3b) I looked for entertainment and disliked the propaganda films.
- (3c) Many Soviet-Russian films were shown. I saw some of them at Komlo

not because because I loved them, but because there was nothing else to be done. They were awfully stupid and boring. I could not recall the titles or the plots any more. But I know that the audience often laughed when the film was supposed to be a very sad story. The Russians liked to make sad stories about how people suffered under the Tsar or how people become improved because of Communism. I remember an excellent Czech film entitled: "Professor Nero". It was a huge success. I saw it twice. There were a few good Italian films, but one couldn't see such good films as here in England. I still cannot understand the English films, but I enjoy them very much. They are much superior to anything shown in Hungary.

- (4) There was a public library and a bookstore^{store} at Komlo. One could find many books by the Soviet authors or by the so-called People's Democracies¹ authors. For example, one could see the books of Marx in the shop window of the bookstore. Nobody bought it, of ~~course~~ course. What we really wanted to read were those books which we couldn't find in the bookstore or at the library. For example, I wanted to read the novels of Morics, Zsigmond since I had heard ~~fx~~ very much about him from my sister. I couldn't get hold of his books. I still haven't read them. Actually this is my great desire- to read a few good Hungarian books. I know that Hungarian literature is really excellent and I feel sometimes that I'm very stupid in this field. It's too bad that here in England, we have no access

to Hungarian books. While in Komlo I read many books but usually the stupid cheap books which were published in old times. If we could get hold of such an old book, it went from hand to hand because everybody wanted to read them. They were ~~mainly~~ mainly detective stories and even stories of the American wild West. Then ~~sometimes~~ sometimes I read Russian novels about the heroic deeds of the Russian soldiers in the different world wars. I never bought any books in the bookstore. I went there only to buy the records of hit songs, since we had a record player at the workers' hostel. If we had records of our own, we could use it.

- (4e) I couldn't say that I had any favorite writers. My sister was very much interested in literature and she talked about it very much. However, I never came to read the books recommended by her.
- (5) At the workers' hostels I listened to the radio pretty much. I liked dance music and the sport programs. I was not interested in anything else.
- (5e) It's difficult to say how many hours a day I listened, it depended on the program. If there was a good sport program on a Sunday afternoon, I listened for two hours.
- (6) I never liked the foreign radio stations, although my father was a great fan of them. If somebody told me about the news he had just received from a foreign radio station, I listened to him but I was not too much interested. Now I know that the BBC was the only foreign radio station which never lied and never tried to harm the

Hungarians. I know that the other foreign radio stations lied just as much as the Hungarian radio.

- (6a) See above.
- (7) People were always talking but those rumors were never proved. I remember one day somebody came into our workers' hostel with the news that Rakosi died. At other times we could hear rumors about Revolutions against the Soviet system or about America preparing a war against Russia. Then came the Hungarian Revolution and America did not go into the war. The rumors were just ~~talk~~ tales born out of the fantasy of the people.
- (8) The political pages of the newspaper were entirely unreliable but it did not make any difference to me, since I was not interested in politics and never read the political pages.
- (8a) Never believe anything that comes from the Communist Party.
- (8e) There was no difference except for the BBC.
- (9) No.
- (9) My friends and all the other youngsters were not too much interested in the news, particularly not in the political news.
- (10) Not asked.

- (1) Communism must go. Communism must be entirely abolished. That's what all the Hungarians want.
- (1a) Anything that is not Communism must be kept and will be kept.
- (2) Yes, there must be political parties in every democracy. However, the parties should be freely elected by the people.
- (3) Yes, all the people should be free to say what they feel. The freedom should be the same as it is here in England.
- (3c) No.
- (3d) No.
- (4) Yes, people should be free to participate in meetings. Here is the Hyde Park in London where everybody can get up and state his opinion. Even the Communists can hold meetings there.
- (4b) I couldn't answer this question.
- (5) I don't know anything about economy. I couldn't answer this question.
- (6) A part of the industry is nationalized here in England. I think this is a good system and Hungary should follow the English example.
- (6b) I don't know.
- (6c) Private profit is good.
- (6e) I don't know.
- (7) No opinion.
- (8) No opinion.
- (9) The state should not ~~not~~ interfere with the beliefs of the people. Everybody should be free to believe in what he likes.

- (10) Every citizen must pay taxes and serve in the military forces.
- (10e) The government should promote ^{the} ~~the~~ welfare of the citizens.
- (11) I don't know how it was in old times, all I know is that most of the miners agreed that they have never had such a good health care.
- (12) I do not know how it was in old times.
- ³
(13) The same answer.
- (14) I don't ~~z~~ know.
- (15) I don't know.
- (16) I have never thought about this problem. I'm not very good in ~~about~~ politics.
- (16a) No ~~information~~ opinion. I do not know who manages the factories here in England although I think the English system is pretty good.
- (17) The ¹collective ~~forms~~ farms must be abolished right away. They are bad in every respect and hated by everybody.
- (17c) The land should be returned to the peasants.
- (17h) There are no kulaks. The kulak is a peasant like the other ones.
- (17i) No, the large landowners should not get back anything. They are not entitled to it.
- (17j) I ~~sk~~ don't know.
- (17k) I don't know.
- (18) The church should be free to do anything it wants and the state should be free ~~what~~ to do what it wants. The churches should not interfere with politics and the state should not interfere ~~with~~ religion.

- (18f) I don't know.
- (19) Some Party members must be punished because they have committed ~~xxx~~ horrible crimes. For example, the AVO people must be punished in the same way as they have punished innocent citizens. Some of them really deserved to be hanged. On the other hand, not every Party member was a Communist and was a bad man. Not everybody should be punished, but everybody should be judged according to his merits or his ~~xxx~~ crimes.
- (19e) The Youth League members are innocent people.
- (19f) The AVO people must be punished.
- (19j) The policemen were usually quite alright fellows.
- (19h) Some people were hanged or even put to death during the Revolution. The trouble was that ~~xxxx~~ often the innocent people were punished and nothing happened to the real culprits. None of the real Communist leaders were hurt. The Revolution actually did not do justice.
- (20) I haven't got the necessary education to answer this question .
- (21) There is a Hungarian national character which is quite different from the English one. When I walk on the streets of London, I can immediately recognize another Hungarian fellow. I recognize him simply x by his way of walking.
- (21e) I don't know.
- (21f) I don't know.
- (22) I cannot answer this question. I don't know anything about history.
- (22f) I know that there was no social equality in Hungary before 1945, but

there was no social equality under Communism either.

(23) I don't know, ^{perhaps} ~~but~~ the borderlines are not very ~~important~~ important. But if I think of the Hungarian Soviet border and I think how in '45 ^{the Russians came in,} I must come to the conclusion that the border lines are after all very important.

(23d) I don't know.

(24) I have never thought of this problem. I couldn't answer it.

(25) I think the Russians are not bad people but they are just backward. Sometimes I think that 500 years ago even the Hungarians behaved liked the Russians behave now. The Russians are not Europeans, ¹ since I have been here in England, I can really see what Europe means. The Russians are primitive like the Hindus or the Chinese or the ~~the~~ other people outside of Europe. It is true that a Russian doesn't know what a toilet bowl is and how it should be used. But the same thing is true in China or India. The Russians themselves are not cruel either, the cruelty comes from the Communist system. ~~system.~~ The Russians could be much better without the Communists.

(26) Marxism is a ballyhoo which was invented for the deception of the people. Nobody believes in it, not even the top Communists. The top Communists say that Marxism is what is ^{it} ~~their~~ will.

(26g) I don't know.

(26h) I think democracy exists here in England. As it is here, it is alright.

- (26i) In this case I think Hungary has never been a democracy.
- (26j) I don't know very much about Tito. He is better than the Communists but not too good either.
- (27) I don't know anything about it.
- (27e) I don't know who is a good Hungarian patriot. Everybody has his own interests and tries to promote his own interest - that's life.
- ⁸
(28) Many people liked Imre Nagy and without the Russians he could have stayed in power. People say that he would have brought many changes.
- (28b) I don't know.
- (29a) Good.
- (29b) I don't know.
- (29c) There is no class struggle.
- (29d) I don't know.
- (29e) Bad.
- (29f) I don't know.
- (29g) I don't know.
- (29h) I don't know.
- (29e) The kulak is a peasant and a peasant is just as good as any other kind of people.
- (29j) I don't know him.
- (29k) I don't know him.
- (29l) I don't know him.
- (29m) I don't know him.

- (29n) My father liked him very much but I have never formed an opinion of him.
- (30) I don't know, perhaps a peasant party.
- (31a) Less.
- (31b) Less.
- (31c) Don't know.
- (31d) Less.
- (31e) I don't know.
- (31f) I don't know.
- (31g) More.
- (31h) I don't know.
- (31i) I don't know.
- (32) I couldn't answer this question although I think the peasants were better off.
- (33) I couldn't answer this question.
- (33a) The peasants and the workers are the same. Many peasants were working at the mines. At home they were peasants and at Komlo, they were workers.
- (33b) I don't know.
- (33e) There is no conflict between them.
- (33f) I don't know.
- (33g) I don't know.
- (33i) Don't know.
- (34) The United States does not want to occupy Hungary so I do not see

why it would be dangerous.

(35) Nobody except for the AVO people and a few big Communists.

(36) My opinion hasn't changed.

- (1) You must know what your purpose was with this conversation. I think I could not give you any information. There are many Hungarians who know much more about the country than I do. I have never been interested in education.
- (1a) I like to talk about Hungary.
- (2)a) My family keeps writing me letters and calling me back. They describe the situation in Hungary as quite good. They say it is much better now than before the Revolution. Of course, I do not know how much truth there is in these letters. Now ~~ix~~ these people are not free even when writing letters. Anyhow I haven't made up my mind. I don't want to return right away but I see that life here in England is not so rosy either as we expected it ~~w~~ back in Hungary. There are many difficulties and my ~~stay~~^{pay} is rather low.
- (3) It would be good to talk to those people who know more about Hungary and who have more education.