

- (1) Hungary wants independence. The Soviet troops should leave.
- (2) Actual fighting broke out on the evening of October 23rd.
- (2a) There was no preparation, only a student demonstration preceded it.
- (2b) We expected great changes at the death of Stalin and afterwards again when Rakosi fell. But we did not have any real leader.
- (2c) No, only as I mentioned when Stalin died and when Rakosi fell and when Rajk was rehabilitated, then we were waiting for a change, but nothing happened.
- (2e) I don't know about this, I have heard something but I was too much occupied with my household and with my job so that I could not keep in step with the outside events.
- (2f) Some newspapers were prohibited one time, so I thought it must be something interesting going on, but I did not have time to read newspapers.
- (2g) At the beginning of September in 1956 they finally succeeded in getting me to the Party seminary. Up to that time I always found excuses and succeeded in avoiding to go to those dull and uninteresting sessions. But, as I said, in September last year I went to 2 of them. To my greatest surprise, I heard questions put to the lecturer which scared the guts out of me. For instance; "Is it true that Stalin was holding

up and plundering the mail wagon?" and "Is it true that Lenin was shot by the wife of Stalin?" and "Is it true that Stalin became completely nuts at the end and that his son-in-law did make all the politics in the Kremlin?". I thought that the AVH will take away right away those people who asked such questions, but instead of this the lecturers took great pains to answer them very patiently. They explained, for instance, that it is true that Stalin robbed the mail wagon, but he did it for the poor people and for the Party and he has distributed everything among the people. I must mention ~~EM~~ that all this happened in the so-called open Party seminariea, to which everybody could go and, in fact, was exhorted and often pressured to go. The so-called closed Party seminariea were a different thing. There only Party members could go and the proceedings were kept secret to the outsiders.

- (3) The main cause lay in the Russian oppression and in the exploitation as the consequence of that foreign oppression.

For example, the Russians in 1945 had order^{ed} to dismount and pack the machinery of the Csepel Paper Mill and then they sent it to the Soviet Union. Among the shipments was one of the most valuable and up-to-date great machine. The engineers who did the dismounting and packing did not enclose the plans with the machine so that the Soviet engineers were apparently unable

to ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{reassemble it.} Whatever happened, in 1950 among great fanfare and celebration ^{the} & workers of the Csepel Paper Mill received from the great Soviet Union a brandnew machine as a present. But how great was the surprise when from the cases slowly parts of the same machine came to the light which was taken away 5 years ago.

In the pipe factory where I was working, they have carried away the best machinery and left us only the old ones.

(3b) Because the point was reached when even those did not believe any more who were entrusted with the control. See the behavior of the police and of the army during the Revolution. Then you have to realize that there was hardly a family in the country of whom at least one member would not have been dragged away by the Russians or by the AVO since 1944 and in all these, desire for revenge was burning and waiting only for an opportunity.

(3c) They did not want an armed Revolution.

(3f) I don't know of such. In Csepel everybody wanted the 14 points and the independence of Hungary.

(3g) Nobody.

(3h) "Ki az oroszokkal!" (Out with the Russians) "Független Magyarországot akarunk!" (We want an independent Hungary). Later, and especially during the demonstrations on January 13th 57, the people shouted: "Vesszen Kádár!" (Down with Kádár).

- (3i) Everybody was mad at the Communists, because they have delivered the country to the Russians. ~~That~~ Thus it is only natural that the Revolution was anti-Communist.
- (3k) Because at this time even the Communists have been disappointed. The old idealist Communists who were arrested and went through prison and suffering, because of their convictions during the previous regime, now realized that this was not that kind of Communism which they always wanted. ^{Many} ~~Many~~ of these people had been put in jail again as "reactionary".
- (4) On October 23rd I was working in the factory. Around 11 p.m. three trucks arrived from Budapest and people jumped down from them shouting that in Pest a Revolution broke out and anybody who is Hungarian should go along with them. I was tremendously curious how a Revolution looks like and therefore I went also along with them. I witnessed the pulling down and destruction of the huge ~~Stalin~~ Stalin statue.
- Next day there were fights going on already in Csepel. There was some kind of an incident at the Military Headquarters and then from the Party headquarter the daughter of the president of the council was firing on the people. Also the AVH men started to shoot out of the windows but the people did not ~~want~~ disperse, instead, attacked the Party headquarters. Finally the AVO had to withdraw into the basement, but they were forced out from there with the water hoses of the

local fire department. They were not killed, only handed over to the police. From there they disappeared. The police has behaved very passively in Csepel, many of them sympathized ^{with} the people and the others were afraid from the people. If somebody was arrested and taken to the police station, then the whole workers and the entire population went out and surrounded the police station and did not move as long as they did not release their prisoner. This continued to take place even ~~in~~ after November 4th.

The Russians have then moved forwards against Csepel. The Revolutionaries have occupied the police headquarter which was handed over to them without resistance by the police. And there, they found also an arsenal so that they had then some weapons to fight with against the Russians.

But even before the Russians reoccupied Csepel, on October 24th, actually the first full day of the Revolution, the people have attacked the Party headquarters, as I mentioned before, and have completely sacked it. The office of the president of the council, a man named Kalamár, was burnt out completely. This Kalamár disappeared for a while, but he was later discovered in the basement of a school where he operated a small radio set ~~with which he informed the Russians~~ with which he informed the Russians about everything happening in Csepel. Thereupon the people have beaten him to death.

Because of the great shortage of apartments, many people,

among them my daughter, and my son-in-law have moved to the Party house. These people were given the nickname honfoglalók (this is the word for those ancient Hungarian warriors who have occupied the present-day Hungary). To give you an idea how big the Party headquarter in Csopel was I want only to tell you the fact that 64 families have found home in it.

My husband became member of the Revolutionary National Guard and after the Russians reoccupied the police headquarters, we went also to sleep in the Party house with our daughter and her family. One day, early in the morning, everybody was awakened by tremendous shouts and had to go down on the stairs with raised hands. Even the small little children had to raise their hands. At the foot of the stairs in the huge hall AVO men, armed to their teeth, have been waiting for us holding their submachine guns against us. On their question who had arms with him or in his room in the building a woman in Red Cross uniform freely gave away 8 men. These men were picked out from the crowd and carried away. She denounced also 2 women who were standing on the stairs with us. One of these who was maybe 17 or 18 years old when she passed this denouncer she slapped her forcefully in her face. For this, the girl was beaten almost to death by the AVO and we had to watch this horrible scene. I was standing right beside this woman and was ready to jump on her and kill her in case ^{she could give away} my husband too. She was looking at me several times nervously, but finally she

did not dare to denounce my husband. (This woman was later thoroughly beaten up by the Revolutionaries, but because she had 2 little children they did not kill her.) All factories remained idle since October 24th and only fire guards kept duty. We went every 2 weeks for our salary. Only the electric works worked with reduced personnel in order that we should have at least electricity. This strike continued for many weeks, even after November 4th. For instance, in the pipe factory we started really to work only in January, but even then not ~~100%~~ 100%. If somebody in the meantime dared to go in to work, the others posted themselves around the gates and have beaten him up when he returned. Later, some people went in for 1 or 2 hours, but ^{even} on January 23rd when I was dismissed they did not have a regular job done, entire factory work shops were still standing idle.

During the further course of the Revolution fighting broke out again in Caspel. After November 4th we had even more serious and bitter fighting. Tremendously many Russian tanks had occupied the island. My husband became again National Guard Man and I started to work in the kitchen for the National Guard. Quickly, we reoccupied & again the police headquarter. This became again our headquarters since this was anyway the most centrally located and best public building in Caspel. It was equipped with radio broadcasting system and all kind of news receiving devices, telephone-exchange, etc. You just cannot imagine the terrific bitterness of the people. Thousands

came to us, even small children, to ask for fire weapons.
 Food ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~^{was} brought in, in full baskets in large quantities from everywhere. There were days when we fed 4,000 people from there.

One day, it was a Thursday, a Russian and a Rumanian ship came to anchor in the industrial harbour of Csepel. This ship had brought reinforcements and supplies for the Russians and also food, namely the Russian soldiers had been starving to such an extent that they were willing to give 1,000 forints, or even sometimes a tank for a loaf of bread. And often they came with an entire tank column for nothing else but to steal some cabbage and carrots from our gardens. One squad from our headquarters went out in order to sink those ships. They, however, did not succeed. Next day, there was a tremendous mortar-fire and we had many casualties. Then the Russians ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ launched a general attack from all sides. We had no more ammunition to defend ourselves with. So Csepel was fallen again.

After this, as I have mentioned already before, there was a general strike lasting for weeks, or rather for months. I was dismissed from the pipe factory on January 23rd. The reason, as I have found out, from a woman acquaintance of mine, who had better inside information, was that the factory has received instructions to dismiss quietly those workers who were known to have taken active part in the Revolution.

But in vain there have been stationed Russian tank columns everywhere, in vain were people treated with rubber-

truncheons by the newly reorganized AVH. If somebody was abducted either by the Russians or by the AVH, even in December and January next morning the news spread throughout the whole Csepel and the people would run into the Imre Square before the police headquarters and even if the Russian tanks moved against them they would not leave as long as the arrested persons were not freed. There was a wonderful solidarity of the people manifested during the long great strike. The great families and those who had been especially poor and living in misery were helped by the other workers in order that they could hold out in the strike. It is not true, that people were breaking into stores and shops and have been stealing. During all the time of the fightings only one haberdasher's shop has been burnt down and only the books and pamphlets of the Red Star Bookstore ^{were} ~~were~~ destroyed by the people. The show windows of the stores and the wooden stalls of the market place had been broken to pieces ^{by} the mines, but nothing of the goods disappeared. On January 13th was again a hell of a row. Pay increase was promised for January, but when the time arrived, the government did not want to know anything about it. In addition, they made impossible the work of the ~~the~~ workers' councils, whereupon the latter have announced ^{their} ~~the~~ voluntary ~~dissolution~~ dissolution. On this news a new strike wave broke out in Csepel and then spread to Budapest to the greatest factories like the

Ganz Electrical Works, the MAVAG Works, and also the great plants in Ujpest. When the newly reorganized AVH, the so-called Karbatalai men, appeared at these plants, there were actual fights developing. The workers have thrown stones at them and beat them out of the territories of the factory with iron bars. The gates of the above mentioned factories and plants were barred and the streets leading to them were barricaded by turned-over trucks and buses and even streetcars. Many people thought that the Revolution was just about to start anew. It certainly looked like it. In our factory, even the women have attacked the Karbatalai and have beat them up. Finally ~~XXX~~ ^{through} many arrests and other ways of intimidation and also by a new pay regulation they succeeded in taking the dangerous winds out of ~~the~~ a new rebellion's sails.

This January 13th has cost many workers and many karbatalai policemen their lives. In our factory alone we had 4 dead. From early morning up to late afternoon the hand-to-hand fight continued where even workers who belong to the Party have beaten the karbatalai police. The regular police of Csepel has behaved passively just as the Russian themselves did not interfere. Actually, the Russians remained outside ~~of~~ observers and only laughed heartily, enjoying tremendously that now Hungarians were beating up each other.

~~Kakimukit~~ Following this, on the next day, January 14th, my name was, with many others, put on the blackboard which

recently that I was to be dismissed. It remained there for over a week until finally on the 23rd of January I was actually fired.

(4b) Of course, we had many among us.

(4c) No.

(5a) Yes.

(5b) Yes.

(5c) I was looking for them, but not only that, I went out with a shopping bag and found out about the position of the Russian troops for the Revolutionaries.

(5d) Yes.

(7) In Csepel there was only one great group.

(7a) I don't know.

(8a) There was a difference between those troops who had been stationed a longer time already in Hungary and those who were just sent to Hungary from the Soviet Union. The former ones often handed over their arms, even their tanks and quite a few of them took the side of the Revolution and fought with us. The later reinforcements, coming fresh from the Soviet Union, have been turned to booties by great quantities of vodka and rum and the propaganda they have been given. They were looking for the Suez Canal and for American soldiers in Hungary. At theorthy Liget airfields in Csepel (this place has naturally a new name already, but people still call it

Barthly Liget and I can't even remember right now what is the new name which was given to it by the Communists) the newly arrived Russian troops had been fighting with the older troops for days.

(8c) I know of one Turkish and several Greek Revolutionaries in Csepel who have been fighting on our side.

(8e) See under letter (8a). I have not seen such personally.

(9) At the beginning they came for us into the factory. Later, when the factories stood already still they came to our apartment and have given us all the news.

(9abc) From our headquarters people always went into Budapest and at the headquarters we received reports from these people about the events. And in addition, of course, we have listened all the time to the radio.

(10) In Csepel the Party did not function during the Revolution. Everything was dissolved and the Party headquarters were occupied by the so-called "honfoglaló" (see under question 4). Under the stage of the auditorium of the Party headquarters over 200 weapons were found. This was one of the reasons why it was attacked and occupied by the people and that everything was searched over and turned upside down in it. But of course, the main incentive for the attack was the provocation by the daughter of the president of the council who has started to shoot from the window and the other AVH man who

joined her in this act against the people.

(10a) I don't know.

(10b) It was dissolved.

(10c) They behaved passively or rather they have handed over their arms to the national guard.

(10g) I don't know.

(10h) It was dissolved.

(10j) The arms of the police and its headquarters.

(10k) The Revolutionary councils.

(10l) In the great sport hall of Coepel a general convention was called. People were asked about the candidates. If they liked somebody, and wanted him, gave him an applause. When they did not like, they gave a whistle. Finally the elected council had about 10 or 12 members. This was for the whole of Coepel.

In the factory itself we elected our workers' council by secret balloting from among the candidates.

(10m) Independent and socialistic democracy.

(11) I am thinking of it every moment. Only if they would give arms into our hands and would hold back the Russians from ^{a new} intervention into the Hungarian situation, I would go back immediately and we would do it now.

(11a) It was useful. It has opened the eyes of the world and now everybody can see that, in fact, we did not want the system, we were only forced to live under it.

(11b) Naturally, if the Russians would not have received re-

inforcements from home.

- (11c) And how? After all, they have promised it! Especially arms were needed and expected by us, since we had to fight often with sticks against the tanks. But even at least, they should have prevented the Russians to send new forces into Hungary.
- (11d) Everybody wanted Lure Nagy. He was dragged away by sheer force from Hungary.
- (11e) Kaler.
- (11g) The youth, the workers, the soldiers, and the intelligentsia.
- (11h) Yes, after all they have been always at the fore-front. In the old times, already, they had been the first who have gone out for demonstrations.
- (12) On January 23rd. We crossed the border on January 27th.
- (12a) I was fired from the factory and I received confidential warning that the police is after me.
- (12b) With another couple, with whom we came together.
- (12c) No.

- (1) I was a factory worker.
- (2) Between 1929 and 1939 I was a domestic servant serving in different places both in the country and in Budapest. After that I was a sales girl in a dairy shop. Then I worked in a factory manufacturing wooden heels. Then I worked in a canning factory which made fish-conserves. During the last years of the war I worked in an ammunition factory.
- My husband made clippers and after the war we made ourselves independent. In the morning I went to the market and in the afternoon we delivered the leftovers to different shoe shops.
- Due to bad business conditions in 1952 both of us went to work into the roughing-rolling mill of the Gospel Iron Works. However, both of us were fired in September of the same year already, because we offered only 400 forints for the peace loan instead of the usual 1-month salary which would have been 800 forints. We tried to explain that we are planning to build our house and therefore unable to pay more than that. But all this did not change the situation. In February 1954 I went in again in the Gospel Works and got a job in the pipe factory where I remained up to January 27th 1957.
- (2a) See under question (2).
- (2c) See under question (2) and below under question 3.

(3) I liked my job.

(3a) I liked to work and I made good money there.

I was a brigade leader at the pipe repairing works. The factory has manufactured steel-pipes 8 to 10 meters long for oil pipe lines etc., also for export. Those ones which have been faulty were brought to our workshop and we had to repair them with pneumatic grinding machines. I had 7 to 10 women working under me.

I became the leader of the brigade after 6 months of work when a third party ^{was} organized instead of the 2 which have worked before. I was a good worker, I could handle the crane the best, even better than many of the skilled cranesmen and, besides, I was already a mature woman as far as most of our workers in my workshop have been as yet young girls.

(3b) The pipe factory used to be famous because of paying well its workers. But this has changed by now. Formerly, only men were working there, but nowadays men don't want to take jobs which the pipe ~~was~~ repair shop, because it is a very heavy and very dirty job. Thus all of us working there have been women. But even so, the pipe factory had to struggle all the time against lack of working power.

In Hungary today many male jobs are performed by women and the men grumble lots because of this. But it must be admitted that the women made the same money as the men.

In the plants of the Csepel Iron Works there were

working at least 40 000 people. The pipe factory was also enormously big. Several thousand people have worked there and this itself had again many workshops. In the finishing workshop, where the last checking and polishing and painting and numbering took place before the shipping, about 14 men and 3 to 14 women have worked. As I said before, we, the women, have done the necessary repairs.

Health protection was satisfactory. We were given protecting glasses and had to wear them under the penalty of punishment in order to prevent accidents. We had several first aid stations and medical dispensaries within the factory. If the smallest accident happened, an ambulance appeared in no time and the person was brought to x-ray examination and into Mész hospital and received ~~sickness leave~~ sickleave and sickpay, with one word, nothing could be said against the health protection, because it was, indeed, well organized.

Our working place was filled always with gas, it was filthy, very near to the furnaces. In vain, we tried to clean it. It remained always dirty. During winter time it was cruelly cold, all of us have suffered in rheumatic and arthritic illnesses of the joints.

It was a very old and obsolete workshop. It was even called so "régí Csőgyár" (the old pipe factory). New plans ~~were made~~ were made all the time that it would be rebuilt that even heating system would be introduced. But ~~it~~ ~~seems to me that~~ it seems to me that

they did not think it to pay, because all this remained always only a promise.

There was also an eternal darkness just as in a crypt. At the same time, the blinding sparks of the grinding and the glowing light of the red-hot iron ruined one's eyes completely.

The machinery was entirely obsolete, old, German-made machinery, many of its pieces had been collected from the scrap-iron dealers after 45, because the new machines had been discounted and taken away by the Russians. They did not care much for the maintenance and upkeep of the machinery. They did not repair them much, because if they would have done, the work should have been stopped for a while and this was of course, out of question, because all the pressure was put on us, in order to increase the production.

- (3a) I lived nearby, so I walked to work. It took me only about 1/4 of an hour.
- (3b) 8 hours.
- (3c) 4 days.
- (3d) I did overtime in the last part of each month, depending how much they have been behind the plan. At such occasions I had to work 12 hours. I found it especially exhausting to work during the night-shift. Overtime was paid and for work performed during the night we received 10% extra. After 8 hours of ~~regular~~ regular work we received 25% raise.

(3i) If we worked on a Sunday, for instance, usually the last Sunday of each month, because the factory was always behind its plan fulfilment, for that we received 100% pay increase. On the other hand, for the official Communist state holidays on which we did not work, we had to work on a Sunday for the regular pay without the usual Sunday bonus. (In Hungarian "simában")

For the double paid work on Sundays others ~~xxxxxxxx~~ ^{than the last} Sundays of the month, usually Party members were chosen or such workers who had paid more liters of wine to the foreman, since he was a drunkard (Nagy-piás volt) and thus they received this favour from him on friendly basis (haveri alapon).

(3j) 12 days.

(3l) Of course, if one was late 10 minutes they deducted half an hour from one's salary. If one was late half an hour then 1 hour was deducted and one received besides a terrific scolding even if the traffic was faulty, for instance, there was a jam ~~with~~ with the streetcars and so it was not the person's fault. To stay away from work was punished very severely. For one day, the worker not only lost his day's wages, but he lost a day from his paid vacations. He received a disciplinary punishment and probably in addition a fine between 50 or 100 forints. He did not get premium that month and if there was a distribution of prizes (this happened usually every 3 months) he lost that

too. So that it really did not pay not to go to work, because one day could have cost about 400 to 500 forints, Besides, the shame to receive a disciplinary punishment. They have hold court on him just like the people's tribunes and his name would be an eyesore for a month on the blackboard of infamy.

(3m)

The norms were changed very frequently. If we had overfulfilled our norms, then we received premium. Of course, we had to overfulfill the norms because if we would have worked only as much as it was prescribed by the norms we would not have made enough for living. So, we overfulfilled our norms, usually by 150 to 160%. Of course, when we had some trouble with our machines which happened quite often, there were days when we were able only to make 80% of the day's norm. But sometimes we made even 200%.

As soon as they saw that we were able to overfulfill our norms, they raised it. So it happened that once we beat up badly the "normas". The result was that he was transferred to another factory and we received a new normas.

(3n)

There was always a rush and ~~harassment~~ ^{constant} harassment and the norms were steadily raised. See under letter (3n).

(3o)

My pay was one category higher than that of the rest of the ~~brigade~~ brigade, but for that I have worked also more. I handled the machines and also the administrative work of my brigade, besides, that I have performed the

same work as they did.

I received health insurance, but I never got to a real vacation, since I always have taken out my 12 days little by little during the year.

- (4a) There were all kinds of people. We had peasants, and intellectuals also, Party members and non-members.
- (4b) The superiors were generally friendly. The foreman could be bought for a glass of wine and he was very much biased and unfair, but else the engineers and other people in the leading positions were all friendly and ready-to-help and one could talk with them. The director of the pipe factory was also a friendly and informal man to whom you always could go in. Our first normas was a pig, but as I have told you, we have beaten him up and the next normas was already a better man. Among the workers the relationship was good.
- (4c) I was in good friendship with 2 of my working women colleagues.
- (4d) One of them was not interested in politics at all. The other who was unmarried but had 3 children was a Party member with whom I used to argue quite a lot. At the end I discovered that she was a member of the Party only out of opportunism, because she received apartment and also many other favours from the Party. People in the workshop have been speaking about politics only in secret and in a whispering tone. As times went by everybody was already afraid of the other, because

there were many informers planted among us. If somebody dared to say his opinion openly in spite of everything that man could look forward to something! Right away he was disqualified and could not be anymore a "good worker". They were no more satisfied with his work. He could not get any more overtime work. He would not get premiums, no prize and no allotments whatsoever would be given to him anymore. I have an actual example before my eyes. This was the case of a worker colleague of mine who was working there already for 8 years and finally wound up with all these ^{that} ^{to} I just said you about the punishments of those who could not keep their mouth shut.

- (4e) Of course, they received better jobs, more prizes or, at least, they received it more often.
- (4f) Everybody had to join the trade union. Everybody had to pay the dues. If somebody died, the family received 75 forints. If somebody was ill over 6 weeks, he received some kind of a social aid. Nothing else was done by the trade unions. They have been entirely in the hands of the Party and their importance was equal to zero.
- (4h) One of my colleagues whose husband was a member of the factory council (ÜB= Üzemi Bizottság) has received from the mediation committee the difference in her pay which was due to her. In other cases, however, they have talked, debated, and turned upside down the cases until finally they always came to the conclusion that the worker was not ~~fix~~ right and his claim was not justified.

- (4i) In our place everything was handled mostly by the ÜB= Üzemi Bizottság (factory/or workshop council/or committee) together with the director, but the Party secretary had a very important role too.
- In the ÜB, the Party, the trade union and the workers were represented. The secretary of the ÜB was on bad terms with the Party secretary. Finally he was degraded to be again a simple worker amongst us. The workers liked him because he tried to protect our interests.
- (4k) Naturally, if one had good connections or could speak well, would get ahead even if he was completely illiterate. In fact, they would never be able to convince a decent, honest, seriously thinking man, so they had to be satisfied with good-for-nothing idlers and verbose windbags. These were then promised heaven and earth.
- (4l) No, the Party secretary was hated by everybody anyway. In vain, he would preach something, nobody would believe him or do anything for him. He was a charlatan without any morale. He was about 32 years old, married, but if a woman whom he wanted would not go along with him, then he would try to ruin her in every way possible. He was called among us the "bull of the pipe factory".
- (4n) The faithful Communists, the Party organizers and the shop foremen who all had been members of the Party.
- (4p) I don't know of any in the workshop where I was working. On the otherhand in the factory we had the so-called "rendészet" which was the factory police. But besides, we had also Party headquarters where there had been

AVH men in uniforms of the army officers.

- (5) There was no possibility to change one's job, because if I would have left I would have received my workbook with the remark that I left voluntarily. In such case I could get only badly paid and dirty jobs like masonry work.
- On the other hand, if somebody received his workbook with consent upon a medical certificate, in such case his medical report sheet was sent after him to his new working place so that again he was unable to get a ^{good} ~~new~~ job.
- If somebody was dismissed because he did not work satisfactorily then again this was the barrier preventing him of getting a new job.
- Finally if he was dismissed on the disciplinary way then his workbook was sent into the ~~sammisikrex~~ council and from there he could get it only after paying around 50 forints. In this case it was out of question that he would get a new job.
- All in all, ~~xxx~~ we had been very much in bondage, because it was not so simple to change one's job.
- (5b) I would have liked to become an innkeeper. The time when I went to the market, I was selling wine secretly and I liked this very much.
- (5e) I would ~~be~~ buy for my money a big house with a great beautiful garden and in my free time I would tend cattle and small livestock.

- (5g) I wished my child should work something easier than I, because my job in the pipe factory was very heavy, very dirty work and during the winter we almost froze to death from the biting cold.
- (6) Our life was very hard. If we bought something or if we spent money for some entertainment we had to save it on our belly.
- (7) In 1947 we had been independent artisans. We worked with 12 workers. That time we made good money. In 1952 I made about 800 to 900 forints monthly. In 1955 I made 1100 to 1200 forints monthly.
- (7b) Considering that I was a woman this was a very good salary.
- (7d) Alone. In 1954 we parted with my husband and since then we lived separated. My daughter has worked ~~xxx~~ only for 3 months, then she got married.
- (9) Living conditions and especially housing conditions were awful. From 1954 I lived in a small furnished room for 200 forints monthly together with my daughter and later also with my son-in-law. When it rained the water was dripping on us through the ~~xxx~~ roof. Finally in the summer of 1956 I received a small place from the housing board. It was only one room 3 times 3 1/2 meters. Even this was without any appliances. I

had to paint it and to install electricity to it which has cost me 500 forints. We had to live again three of us in one room without kitchen or any other comforts, but we had to be happy ^{that} at last we have our own "apartment".

As I told already, during the Revolution my daughter and her husband have moved to the Party house and after, when they have been evicted from there, my old apartment was assigned to them again. But this was used already for a garage. The floor boards were ripped up and the door and the window was removed. The owners who are Party members and have a car, try everything to chase away my daughter with her baby and husband in order that they could use it again as a garage.

(9a) I did not have to, because I have sent everywhere my pregnant ~~daughter~~ daughter.

(9b) Meat, lard, bread, kerosene, soap, sugar, flour, and even potatoes were all articles for which you had to stand in line. But it was the same story also with wine and cigarettes and eggs and fruit.

(10) It deteriorated all the time. It became worse and worse. They took away everything from the peasants, so that they lost all their interest in cultivating their fields. Many of them left their fields behind and went to work to the towns. I have an aunt of mine who has five yokes, she has offered this at least 10 times already in

- writing to the local TSZOS (the kolkhoz), because she simply could not stand anymore the constant harassments.
- (10c) It was much better those times.
- (10cii) It was already worsening that time. You had to go already out ~~to the~~ to the country with a bag and try to barter for some food (baty~~ni~~ni).
- (10d) It has worsened.
- (10f) They have helped some small tradesmen and artisans, they even gave them loans, but in the minute they started to profit, they have struck down at them and nationalized them again. There is not much independent artisanship and trade anymore in Hungary.
- (10g) Some got better.
- (11) The greatest cause in fermenting the general dissatisfaction was the Russian oppression and exploitation. We would have been even satisfied with our salaries, if only we would not have to see all the time all the Russian weapons around us and to know that everything will be taken away from us and shipped to the Soviet Union. Everybody was strongly convinced that every thing would change for better immediately if the Russians would leave the country.

- (1) I had 6 years of elementary school and after that I went 3 years to the continuation school courses, but that time I was working already. I went to school in the small country town of Tompa where we had been living that time.
- (1a) It was obligatory.
- (2) I would have liked to get more education, but we could not afford it.
- (2a) No.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) They want to educate the youth to become Communists.
- (4b) (i) It is not effective.
(ii) They are different. There are some who are loyal to the Party, but there are some who are secretly enemies of the regime.
- (5) I was born in 1919. In 1921 my mother died and in 1924 my father followed her. I was raised by my grandmother. All my family was living on the land.
- (5a) My family had once more land, but later there were 10 yokes of land and 2 yokes of vineyards which remained.
- (5f) We had a difficult life. There were many tragedies in our family and many burials.
- (5g) I lived with my grandmother who had 7 children (actually

9 but 2 of them died still in childhood) and 2 step-children.

(5h) Only 2 are still alive from all this great family. My grandmother is now 88 years old and since 1946 entirely blind.

(5i) With my pregnant daughter and my son-in-law.

(5k) It was neither to my advantage nor to my disadvantage.

(6) Yes.

(6a) Independent slipper-maker.

(6b) From 1939 to 1954, then we separated.

(6c) One.

(6d) 16 years old.

(7) We loved her.

(8) We have been talking with her about everything. I raised my child always against the Communism, we taught her also religion and she went to the First Communion too.

(9) She was obedient and followed my words, only I would have liked her to study more, but she did not want to.

(9b) We had some arguments on this account. I forbade her to maintain friendship with certain persons and she followed my advice. However, she has chosen her husband by herself, I did not interfere in that. On the other hand, my husband and also the parents of the boy have

been very much against this match.

- (10) No.
- (11) Not applicable.
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) Not applicable.
- (14a) With my daughter our relationship was very close. On the other hand, we could not get along with my husband.
- (14b) No, generally people lived quite orderly and clean family life in my neighbourhood.
- (14c) In the household, doing some housework or sewing and sometimes went to the movies with my daughter.
- (14g) Yes, except once in a week we had to go to the production conference where we were kept for hours without end.
- (15) They have loosened. We have learnt much immorality during the last years and also the Russians have ruined many many families.
- (15e) Both parents are working and therefore cannot give enough attention to their children. To send them to the nursery or to dayhomes is quite expensive. The dues are set according to the parent's salary, but they usually amount to quite large sums, so that parents with more than one child usually cannot afford it and

thus the children grow up on the street.

- (16) They became very much depraved and without morals.
- (16a) Usually between 18 and 19.
- (16b) It is changing according to the individual character.
- (16c) There is lots of it. More than before, only they do it secretly.
- (16f) They did not persecute immorality as such, but only work-shyness as a public danger, so that if a prostitute had some other job besides, then everything was all right.
- (16g) Abortions are very frequent. They are now permitted officially, but 300 forints have to be paid according to a recent order for each case.
- (16h) Yes, nobody is discriminated against because of this fact. But there are not many any more. Either the parents of the girl are registered as the parents or they look for a father for the child. The man has to pay alimentation for the child.
- (16i) A woman if she is living in the same household with a man for a certain time, can use his name without being married to him. The women are entitled to any, even the heaviest job. This is very bad in my opinion.
- (17) It sank.
- (17b) In the factory stealing is wide-spread. They steal even clothes, watches, etc. from each other in the

locker rooms, but they are stealing also from the property of the factory almost everything in spite of the fact that there is a search at the gates. Last year the ^{physician} head ~~manager~~ of the factory was caught because he and his gang had been stealing even some smaller motors from the factory. This time they made a search even at the apartments of the cleaning women and everything which was found to be from the factory was taken away.

- (17c) For instance, our foreman with some wine.
- (18) In the factory during work.
- (18c) We were speaking about our families and about things in the factory.
- (18g) I appreciate sincerity most.
- (18i) They came from among my coworkers in the factory.
- (18l) That girl with 3 children whom I mentioned above. From among all my women colleagues (in all 3 shifts they were about 28 to 30 altogether) only she belonged ^{to} the Party.
- (19a) Roman Catholic.
- (19b) I love my religion and I think that belief in God is necessary.
- (20) Naturally.
- (20a) Mostly the Catholics.
- (20b) I don't know.

- (20c) There were sincere people and also jerks among them, just as everywhere among people.
- (20d) They have dragged away the monks, the nuns, and also many secular priests.
- (20e) Churchgoing was regarded disfavorably and discouraged by all means.
- (20f) Mostly women. They have not ^{been afraid} ~~afraid~~. In my opinion, in spite of the persecution, more people ~~went~~ went to church than ever before.
- (20g) Naturally, because they ^{don't} receive anymore religious education.
- (20h) I don't know.
- (21) Medical doctor.
- (21a) This is the most beautiful profession. It is just wonderful to be able to help the other men. That is the reason why I have joined the Red Cross and became also a blood donor.
- (21b) He should learn a lot and should not meddle with politics.
- (22) The AVO was the best off, then the Party secretaries, then other leading members of the Party, then the members of the Party, and finally the working people.
- (22a) Workers.
- (22b) Workers.

- (23) Workers, peasantry, and intellectuals.
- (23d) It is only natural, this always remains.
- (23e) Greater.
- (23f) Good.
- (23g) Good manners survived to a certain extent.
- (24) For example, the great landowners and the so-called kulaks.
- (24a) The Party members.
- (25) They have not been persecuted. On the contrary they made a nice deal with them.
- (25c) My Communist colleague was a Jewess. She was rather because of material interest than out of idealism for the regime.
- (25g) People hate them just as before.
- (25h) I don't see it.

- (1) I was never interested in politics, because my attitude was "one swallow does not make a summer".
- (1a) Very little.
- (2) We were always expecting better and we were always getting something worse.
- (2a) With the Social Democrats. I felt that they had been the most on the side of the working class.
- (2e) I have always despised and hated Communism. Why? The Russian "liberation" has shown us what Communism meant.
- (2f) ~~Excess 1~~ and ~~Excess 11~~.
- (2h) Naturally, since the terror was such that it was impossible to resist.
- (3) The misery of the housing condition. I was running for years almost every day to the authorities in order to get that miserable little whole. Before that, when we were working on our own, then again the excessive taxation has made our life unbearably miserable.
- (3a) (iii), (vi), (xii).
- (3b) (i), (v), (xi).
- (3c) (xv), (x), (ix); (vii).
- (3d) (v), (vi), (xiv).
- (3e) (iii), (vi), (xii), (xv).
- (3j) When we won on the toto or when we saw a beautiful movie.
- (4) In the hands of the Soviet and of the Hungarian Com-

marists.

- (4f) There was a tremendous one.
- (6h) Most of the time they have sent to us entirely unknown people, heaven knows from where. If somebody knew how to applaud and cheer the Soviet troops loudly, he would be made even prime-minister whether he could read and write or not.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) Mainly they received more salary, better jobs, and all kinds of other advantages, for instance, they were taken to wonderful outings.
- (6f) Many have been finally disillusioned during the Revolution when they saw, at last, the real face of Communism.
- (6h) No.
- (7) To the Red Cross.
- (7c) Health protection.
- (7d) It was organized within the factory.
- (7e) 5 forints due was taken each quarter year. I had no other duty to perform.
- (7g) The men were very much angry because of the many women's organizations, for instance, the MNDSZ. But the women did not like to go ^{to} the meetings either.
- (7i) They were all stagnating.

- (7a) They only took the dues from us, but have given nothing in exchange. For example, according to the paper, we should have received new working clothes each 6 months, but because of their material saving competition championship we received new clothes only after 2 years. Up to that time we could work in the old ones which were already rather rags than clothes.
- (8) Perhaps 2 %.
- (9) I don't know much about the DISZ, I don't think it did matter at all.
- (10a) Everybody was afraid of them.
- (10b) Their duty was to intimidate the people in order that the rule of the Soviet Union over Hungary could be kept up indefinitely.
- (10c) I don't know.
- (10d) They worked together before the Revolution. Afterwards they did not trust each other any more. During the Revolution great many of the police came over to our side and, after everything was over, these people were afraid from the Karkatalai men.
- (10k) Even the AVH was directed by the Party.
- (11) Yes, my new life companion who deserted from the army. He spent 37 months in jail. Szazsackhat Also before, that he was carried away to Russian when he was 16

- years of age and spent 3 years there in forced labor.
- (11d) Anybody who has spoken up against the system.
- (11g) My Communist colleague was also arrested and spent 10 months in internment. She told me that they were beaten up quite often by their women guards. Most of the time she had to work hard work in a KESOS kokkhoz where they received hardly any food, so that they were almost starving.
- (12) Not applicable.
- (13) I would ^{answer} ~~answer~~ with the Hungarian proverb: "ne szólj azás, nes fáj fejed" (do not speak, you won't have head aches).
- (13a) Yes.
- (13b) It does not matter. However, to come from ^{family} kulak is a very great disadvantage.
- (13c) Definitely.
- (14) Yes, in 1953 there was some loosening up. Then again in 1956 there was a change for the better.
- (15) She was the ringleader, in Hungarian Ékolozpon, the supreme director of everything. We had to dance on the tune she was whistling.
- (15a) On the military field was the strongest.

- (16) They were whispering behind their backs.
- (16a) The workers have been sincere among themselves, and then they have found it out soon who was an informer because such had been planted everywhere.
- (16b) You could not speak openly about politics.
- (16c) In the last months even the foran has spoken more openly against the regime.
- (17) There was not much possibility. If a peasant tried to ^{throw} chest with the delivery, he was ~~xxxxx~~ into jail. There was strict control everywhere.
- (18) Its strength was the terror. Besides that also the ~~xxxxx~~ cowardice of the people, since the Revolution should have started long time ago.
Its weakness is that it had extremely few true and convinced believers.
- (19) With slowdown or even with complete stoppage of work. Even before the Revolution there happened more than once that in case they did not give us something that the workers wanted the whole work was stopped, sometimes for half a day.
- (19a) Mostly the workers, because they desire most ardently the withdrawal ~~xxxxxxx~~ of the Russians from the country and the fall of Communism in order that they not be ^{should} exploited and tortured any longer.

- (190) The Farby members have who have enjoyed all the advantages.
- (191) I have no explanation for this.

- (1) From the radio.
- (1a) The radio, especially Radio Free Europe.
- (2) Before the Revolution I was not interested in the newspapers. After the Revolution we read the Népkarat in order to be informed about the government decrees and orders concerning the workers.
- (2a) See question (2)
- (2g) I have seen each during the Revolution at the police headquarters.
- (3) Once weekly.
- (3b) Entertaining films. I enjoyed especially the ones with real dramatic stories.
- (3c) Good French films. They could not have dragged me to a movie house to see a Russian film even if they would have beaten me to death.
- (3d) No.
- (4) I have read quite a few books.
- (4a) Mostly love dramas. I could not remember titles and writers.
- (5) We have listened to it.
- (5a) We liked the musical programs, especially the one which was entitled "heart is sending to another heart". When it started to broadcast news we simply turned it off.

After the Revolution when Kádár was speaking, in our whole neighbourhood the radios remained silent.

- (6) Radio Free Europe, Voice of America, BBC.
- (6b) We believed most the British radio, although earlier we have very much believed the Radio Free Europe.
- (6c) We were called to the police because we were denounced. For 3 months they have sealed our radio so that we were not able to use it and they warned us that in case we will be caught again listening to the foreign radio stations, they will take our radio away.
- (7) Of course, we were whispering all the time.
- (7a) There were always such news going around that at this time and that time will the Americans come.
- (8) Not at all.
- (8a) Only to the extent to which we were able to establish facts from the foreign broadcasts and activities. After the Revolution in Csepel the newspaper vendors have offered the Népszabadság with the following shouts: "vécére, csomagolni, itt a Népszabadság!" In English, for toilet, for packing, here you have the popular tin. The workers took away from them their bundles of newspapers and piled them up in great stacks. Then we stood around and warmed our hands at the fire of the official papers. This happened before

the eyes of the police who did not dare to do anything against us. It is simply impossible to tell how heroically behaved that small nation in those months and, especially, the so-called "Red Gospel".

(8c) The EEG.

(8f) No.

(8g) No.

(8a) No.

(9) They did make efforts. Everybody was listening to the radio. Those who did not have one went to their acquaintances and listened there to it.

- (1) Milit troops should be withdrawn. The workers should be given arms. We will take care of the rest.
- (1a) The CPI, that is the sick insurance and the other social services.
- (2) There could be a peasant party and a workers party. For example, the Smallholders Party and the Social Democratic Party, but there could be also a third party for the intellectuals.
- (3) Yes, there is no need for limitations.
- (3a) No.
- (3b) No.
- (4) It is correct.
- (4a) It is justified, if the people is exploited and oppressed by terror.
- (5) The deliveries forced upon the peasants should be abolished. The workers' pay should be increased or the prices should be lowered. For the housing of the workers cheap apartment houses should be built, instead of putting millions into the Budapest metro which never was finished. The norm system should be abolished and a fixed hourly wage should be introduced. Women should remain at home with their families and in the household. Many women are completely ruined and became old next at an

only age because of the heavy work. I myself, suffered
 because of the
 very much ~~indeed~~ elongation of my spinal
 column from overstraining myself. According to the
 x-ray picture taken from me, my spinal column was
 stretched by 1 1/2 centimeter. However, I was not placed
 in the straitjacket, because I had no open wound nor have
 I had fever.)

- (C) I think that it is right.
- (26) I don't know. I know only so much that as long as the
 Weiss Manfred Works in Csepel, or the great textile
 factory, have been in private hands the workers received
 any advantages. For example, they could ^{buy} things, almost
 anything, for instalment paying. Today buying on instal-
 ment is almost entirely unknown in Hungary. Only during
 the last years did they offer for such instalment buying
 a few wares which were so bad that they could not sell
 them otherwise. So I think that in the interest of the
 workers private ownership is better.
- (26) Of course, after all you have to work for that too. It
 is definitely right in the small industry and small
 shops. Of course, in such a big factory like the Weiss
 Manfred where 50 000 to 60 000 workers have been working,
 it is in such cases not necessarily good that one man
 should have everything.
- (26) I don't know.

- (10) Actually had, because they have invested the money in the grandest things and the waste was tremendous.
- (9) In the family life and the education of the children.
- (10) There is, for instance, taxes, military service, etc.
- (10e) To protect people, to defend their lives and their xxxxxxxxxxxx possessions.
- (11) Yes, see Section W.
- (12) There are more theatres and more movie houses today, so there is more opportunity. For Russian movies they brought into the factories tickets for 1 forint and even that you had not to pay immediately. It could be deducted from your next salary. But no nobody wanted to buy them, but sometimes when they insisted too much and bothered you too long with it, you bought them but did not go to the movie after all.
- (13) No, if they eat they cannot dress.
- (13a) Better.
- (13b) I don't remember.
- (14) No. If they dress they won't have anything to eat.
- (14a) No.
- (14b) I don't remember.
- (15) ~~It has still not reached the production level of 1.13.~~

(15) It has still not reached the production level of 1938. As I have said already, in 1945 they have carried off our good machinery and we had to work with scrap-iron machines. In spite of this, industry has developed quite a bit since 1945, but the quality was very bad. There was no raw material and everything was made out of scrap-iron.

(16) The worker has no great demand. He should remain worker. On the other hand, there should not be so many administrators, for every worker a slave driven to the extent that we were unable to work enough just to keep them.

(16a) One director in a factory and one vice-director should be enough, instead of all those varnishes.

(17) Very bad. Everybody wants to give orders and nobody wants to work. The most beautiful rice fields are covered by weeds.

(17a) They should be dissolved and distributed among the small peasants.

(17b) Yes.

(17c) The very big landholdings should not be restored, only to a certain extent should they be given back to their former owners.

(17d) If the forced delivery system will cease then it won't be any need for this. At the most, they should give some machinery for the use of the peasants and should

grounds: the improvement of the livestock.

- (17a) The plowing and trashing by the tractor station is not a bad idea. This could be preserved.
- (18) They should come to an agreement through negotiations as independent and free partners.
- (19) To parochial school. There the children would learn only the best. I myself, have been going to nuns and I loved them.
- (20) The clergy should have regular pay and housing, but that immense land properties should not be given back to them.
- (21) They should take refuge in the great Soviet Union.
- (22) Nothing.
- (23) They should be called for accounting of their deeds. I myself, would send them to Siberia.
- (24) Therefore ^{also} pillaging should be punished, the others left free. For example, we have ^{been} warned to flee by a policeman. He has 4 children and has saved already many people. Why should anyone hurt him?
- (25) They should be kept under close watch, but should be admitted to the community of the people.
- (26) Hungary has held back for centuries with her own and the Turks from devastating Europe.

- (21) Yes.
- (21a) Yes.
- (21b) No.
- (21c) Yes.
- (21f) Yes.
- (22) The Horthy government.
- (21f) There had been significant.
- (21g) I was only a small girl, but I remember well that at Christmas time they have sent packages to the poor people. At St. Nicholas' Day there came autocars and have thrown little bags of candy to the children. There was order and peace that time. According to my knowledge, Horthy and his wife were liked by the Hungarian people. What particularly appealed to me that was the beautiful bodyguard around him.
- (21i) It was much better than afterwards, but even that time the Russians were already in and the country lay in ruins, so it was definitely worse than before the war.
- (23) Yes.
- (21d) Yes. For instance, the Russians, Rumanians, Serbians, and the Czechs.
- (24) I am rather for complete independence.
- (25) There are only human beings and they do what they are

ordered. I am and only on their leaders. They should go home and then we won't have anything against them anymore.

- (16) I don't know how to answer these questions. I think of the whole thing that it is just silly. We are Hungarians. We are not interested neither in Marxism nor in Leninism. They should keep it for themselves.
- (17a) Tito is a tremendous turn-coat. He is an awful cunning politician.
- (18a) I don't know.
- (19a) Never was yet and the thing which is now in Hungary certainly is not democracy, that is Stalinism.
- (20) It is double-dealing.
- (21a) Perhaps a few Communists could be, but not such as we have today, because this is not Communism.
- (22) I don't know.
- (23a) Yes.
- (24a) It could be both.
- (25a) Ind.
- (26a) Ind.
- (27a) Ind.
- (28a) Ind.
- (29a) Ind.

- (29g) Good.
- (29h) Bad.
- (29i) I don't know.
- (29j) I don't know.
- (29k) I don't know.
- (29l) Good.
- (29m) Good.
- (30) Certainly not the Communists.
- (30a) Ina Nagy or Malster.
- (31a) Less.
- (31b) Less.
- (31c) Less.
- (31d) Less.
- (31e) More.
- (31f) Less.
- (31g) More.
- (31h) Less.
- (31i) Less.
- (32) To business men, to artisans and shopkeepers, and to kulaks it was better.
- (33a-d-f) In harmony.
- (33g) Everybody looked upon his own interests. This was sometimes in harmony with others sometimes not.

- (331) about the same.
- (34) We have been afraid only that the US won't let us in, if we crossed the border and become refugees.
- (35) Only the AFI people and the Communist leaders.
- (35a) The great majority of the population.
- (36) No.

- (1) Well, I would like to ask a question, but I know that it is futile, namely I would like to know how could I get to the United States as soon as possible.
- (1a) I don't know what you will use it for. If for good ends, then I am glad that I was able to tell you all this and that promote your studies. If something more permanent will result of these studies, I will be very proud that I contributed to it that even future generations will learn about the Hungarian events correctly.
- (1b) You did not ask our opinion about the West, the West which has promised us heaven and earth and then left us alone in our greatest need. I can answer this right away.
We are very angry with the West.
- (2) Yes, if I will be able to immigrate to the United States, perhaps I won't go back any more.