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THE REMOVAL OF MARSHAL ZHIGAREV

The Scotsman (17 October 1959) reported that the dismissal of Marshals Zhigarev and Zhavoronkov from their posts as Chief and 1st Deputy Chief of Aeroflot was due to Khrushchev's dissatisfaction with their inefficiency in competition with foreign airlines (see Background Information, 21/10/59, Evolution of Aeroflot). Be that as it may, according to the new Chief of the airline, Col.-Gen. E. F. Loginov, the number of passengers carried in the first seven months of 1959 was no less than 43.8% higher than in the corresponding period of 1958¹, a satisfactory performance by any standard.²

The answer given to one of those inspired questions which find their way into the Soviet press (Party Life, no. 18, September 1959, pp. 71-72) suggests another possible explanation for their removal by insinuating that Marshal Zhigarev engaged in an attempt to bribe the secretary of Aeroflot's Party Committee, contrary to standing orders (see Appendix I below). The principle at stake is obviously of vital importance to the Party, since any enterprise director could otherwise tame his Party watch-dog by providing "bonuses" of sufficient magnitude and frequency on the understanding that the apparatchik concerned would report favourably on the director's work.

This is one of the basic reasons for the regulation that full-time Party officials are paid out of Party, not out of enterprise funds. The ruling few must appear to be sea-green incorruptibles, and hence they can only be awarded bonuses at the behest of the Party's Central Committee. Marshal Zhigarev must have been fully aware of the relevant edicts, which were the "subject of repeated Party directives". So it looks as though he must have made a deliberate attempt to corrupt his local apparatchik, since inadvertence at these levels can virtually be ruled out.

There is no indication as to the part that Marshal Zhavoronkov played in this intriguing affair, which may perhaps explain the reason for his bewilderment, as reported by the Scotsman, at his sudden dismissal. But it is not unusual in the USSR for innocent subordinates to suffer for the misdemeanors of their chiefs. Zhavoronkov's amazement may have been genuine.

r.r.g.

¹ Sov. Flot, 22 August 1959.

² See also, Daily Telegraph, 27 October 1959)

CAN THE HEAD OF AN ENTERPRISE OR INSTITUTION GIVE BONUSES
TO THE SECRETARY OF THE PARTY ORGANIZATION?

Partiinaya Zhizn

No. 18, September

The editors of the magazine have received a letter reporting that by order of the director of the USSR Council of Ministers Chief Civil Air Fleet Administration, a bonus was given to Comrade Yarilov, secretary of the Party committee of this administration. The writers of the letter ask whether such a practice is permissible and whether the head of an institution, agency or enterprise can give bonuses to the secretary of the Party organization.

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A check revealed that on the occasion of the celebration of Air Force Day a money bonus was given to Comrade Yarilov, secretary of the Party committee of the Chief Civil Air Fleet Administration, among other officials, by order of the director of the Chief Civil Air Fleet Administration.

Did the Director of the Chief Civil Air Fleet Administration act correctly in giving a bonus to the secretary of the Party committee and did Comrade Yarilov act correctly in accepting the bonus? No, they acted wrongly. They violated repeated Party directives on strict observance of the independence of Party officials from economic agencies. The secretary of the Party organization knew that his name had been entered on the draft order of awards on the initiative of Comrade Kondratyev, chairman of the local trade union committee, but he lacked the steadfastness of Party principle to insist that his name be deleted from the order. Comrade Shaposhnikov, assistant director of the political administration, also knew about it, but instead of reminding the comrades of Party discretion and the Party directives prohibiting such awards, he likewise tacitly consented to the proposal by the chairman of the local trade union committee.

Of course, the political administration and the Party Committee of the Chief Civil Air Fleet Administration are going to draw the necessary conclusion from this fact, to inspect closely the existing practice of material incentives for Party officials in their agency and to invoke Party order in this matter. By making this fact public, the editors wish to warn other Party officials against repeating this kind of mistake.

Why is it inadmissible for secretaries of Party organizations to receive bonuses, awards and other forms of monetary incentives from management officials for the fulfillment of their Party duties? Because this degrades the role of the secretary of the Party organization, makes him dependent on the managerial official, restricts criticism and self-criticism and leads to violation of the norms of Party life. The least violation or loss of the independence of Party officials inevitably results in their becoming prisoners of the managerial officials, losing their character as Party officials and being unable to carry out their proper functions.

The autonomy and complete independence of Party organizations from Soviet and economic agencies are prime requisites if the

former are to be able to consider questions objectively, to exercise leadership, to improve the work of the institutions' apparatus and to indoctrinate managerial cadres properly. The Party watches out strictly for the maintenance of the Party officials' independence. As is known, full-time Party officials are paid out of Party funds. They are forbidden to receive from economic agencies salaries or bonuses in any form for Party work or to avail themselves of other material benefits and advantages not enjoyed by the personnel of the collective.

The work of a secretary of a primary Party organization can be evaluated only by a Party meeting or by the higher Party agency. Only the appropriate Party agency has the right to give bonuses to the secretary.

The system of bonuses for full-time Party officials is determined by decisions of the Party Central Committee. They may receive bonuses for Party work that secures victory for an enterprise in an all-Union or republic socialist competition or in a competition of enterprises subordinate to economic councils, as well as for successes achieved in mastering and introducing new machinery. Bonuses are given to full-time Party officials upon recommendations submitted by district or city Party committees for decision by province or territory Party committees or Central Committees of the Union-republic Communist Parties.

A worker who does part-time service as a secretary of a primary Party organization cannot receive bonuses from a managerial official for carrying out public duties. But he can receive bonuses for his production achievements on the same basis as any other person working in production. It would be wrong to deprive a Communist who knows how to combine successful production work with an elective Party job of this type. But even in this case, to prevent mistakes in awarding bonuses for production achievements to these part-time secretaries of Party organizations, a preliminary review of management's proposal on this question by the Party committee or bureau would be advisable.

The existing system for giving bonuses to Party officials protects their independence and promotes correct operation by the Party organization, and the development of criticism and self-criticism.

The above considerations apply equally to officials of trade union and Young Communist League organizations at enterprises, institutions and agencies.