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EAST GERMANY

Hier Irrt Der Redakteur.

SOURCE BERLIN: "Freie Presse," ZWICKAU, 29 September and 3 October 1953. Following are excerpts from both editions of the Communist newspaper.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: as above

EVAL. COMMENT: A nice propaganda angle.

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Freie Presse, Edition No. 220, 29 September 1953:  
"Why Anita WINTER Can Marry One Year Earlier."

Two pounds of sugar, one pound of flour, the butter and the bread - is still all, or do you want anything else?" Anita is asking the customer lined up in front of me....." We have very good cheese imported from Denmark and we have rice from China and oranges too. Yes, the New Course has moved into our store."

This way the sales girl, Anita WINTER of the coop-shop in ZWICKAU and WIESSENBORN, not only tries to consider the wishes of her customers, but also offers whatever benefits the New Course of the party and of the government have brought for us.

"It looks as if you have now more pleasure selling things," I began offering a little conversation to her. "I have always enjoyed my work," she answered, but all the items available now, consumer goods for instance, things which were not to be had three months ago, they of course, add to my pleasure considerably."

Finally it turns out that Anita has quite a personal and important reason to feel joyful about the New Course. Because of the salary raises granted to employees in categories one to four, Anita is going to get 45 Marks more each month. Quickly she has figured out what that means for her; she will now be able to marry one year earlier than she had thought she could. Full of joy about her salary raise, Anita already bought for herself half a dozen wonderful knives, forks, spoons and table spoons for 21 Marks.

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"A present from the New Course," she says smilingly. While Anita was capable of saving 150 marks each month previously, she will now be able to save 200 every four weeks.

With all her heart, Anita appreciates and supports the New Course, because it not only ensures an improvement of our lives, but also because it will bring the East and West of our fatherland together."

"Freie Presse," Edition No. 230, 3 October 1953:

"In our edition No. 220, dated 22 September, we published a contribution: Why Anita Can Marry One Year Earlier."

"In numerous letters, our readers have protested against their home paper picking out such an extremely unusual case of how the life of the working people have been improving ever since the New Course was implemented.

"Our readers are quite right in criticizing this contribution sharply. Not only will such a contribution appear unbelievable to many readers; it will also serve the enemies of our democratic reconstruction who are attempting to add value to their lies, published against our Social press.

The responsible editor, comrade Paul BRUECKNER, has been degraded to assistant editor "Hilfsredakteur."

The "Freie Presse" failed to state more detailedly why readers protested against the first report and what Anita WINTER had to say about it.

End.