

Aug. 31

Conferences Best Way to Include Workers in Management

The Government and the Praesidium of the National Federation of Free Trade Unions passed a joint resolution on production conferences and rewards for workers and factories winning socialist labour contests. The preamble says that the socialist emulation movement is to be focused on solving the most important tasks facing the people's economy - technical development, the development of manufacturing technology, the development of up-to-date products requiring labour rather than materials, economical production, improved quality, the fulfilment of export tasks, and so on.

Production conferences are the most important media of drawing the workers into the direction and supervision of management and production, and of successfully solving the production tasks confronting the factories. Quarterly production conferences, at which the quarterly plans are announced, and half-yearly production conferences, to hear reports on the balance sheet, must therefore be held in every factory and enterprise. Additional production conferences may be held as necessary. Trade union organisations in the factories are responsible for organising the production conferences. The report must be read by the competent technical or economic leader.

The resolution says that the leaders of small production units must inform workers who have put forward suggestions of the fate of their suggestions within eight days.

Rewarding Outstanding Workers: Emphasis on Sustained Effort

The second part of the resolution contains provisions on rewards for workers who have achieved outstanding production or economy results in the socialist labour contests. Workers who achieve outstanding production or economy results over a period of six months or more, or who solve some major task successfully, irrespective of the time taken, e.g. the introduction of a new product are eligible for an "Ace Worker" diploma and a prize of at least a week's wages. Workers who achieve outstanding production or economy results for a year or more, or successfully solve a task of great importance, will be entitled to an "Ace Worker" badge and at least a fortnight's wages. Diplomas and prizes will be awarded on the recommendation of the competent economic leader and trade union body, endorsed at a production conference. Winners of these awards are not disqualified from entering future competitions. The resolution also contains provisions on suitable awards and decorations for those who, although they have not achieved outstanding results, work honestly and diligently.

"Ace Factory" Awards

The third part of the resolution deals with the title "Ace Factory". The financial award which goes with this title will vary between 5,000 and 250,000 forints, depending on the number of workers at the factory. As a rule the "Ace Factory" title will be awarded twice a year on 20th August and 20th February. Factories which most successfully fulfil both halves of their yearly plans, in accordance with the objectives determined by the Ministries and the Praesidium of the trade union concerned, qualify for the "Red Challenge Banner" awarded by the Council of Ministers and the Praesidium of the Trade Union Council. They also qualify for a diploma and the cash award which goes with the "Ace Factory" title. The "Red Challenge Banner" is awarded once in a year on 4th April. Assessments for individual contests and the contest for the title of "Ace Factory" are made as from 1st July 1957; assessments for the competitions for the "Red Challenge Banner" are made as from 1st January 1957.

An appendix to the resolution says that persons who have been awarded Stalhanovite badges, as well as "Outstanding Worker" and "Outstanding Worker of the Trade" badges may continue to wear them. The same applies to factories, which may continue to display awards won in the past. (Budapest 20.00, 3.8.57)