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10 June
NL-106/874/ACZECHOSLOVAKIALABORWomenWorking ConditionsWomen Employed By The "Pardubicko-Jihlavské Mlýny" In
PARDUBICE.

SOURCE LONDON: A Czechoslovak refugee, who arrived in West Germany on 22 May 1952.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Until May 1952

With many men forcibly transferred to heavy industry in Czechoslovakia, women are obliged to take jobs, which do not only involve a strenuous physical effort but also require working in night shifts.

At the beginning of May 1952, the bakery of the Eastern Bohemian Pardubicko-Jihlavské Mlýny (flour mills) sacked almost all male employees, putting them at the disposal of heavy industry plants. The vacancies were filled with women, who now have to cope also with the hardest and most difficult jobs previously only done by men.

The women employees start work at 0200 hours which means that some of them have to leave their homes shortly after midnight and carry on until 1000 hours.

Our informant knows a particular case of Mme. SLÁDECKOVA (fnu), mother of five, whose job it is to load and unload heavy sacks of flour and carrying them on her shoulders to the storeroom. She is obliged to work in night shifts all the time and, in consequence, can never see her young children in the morning. They are left without any attendance, have to help each other in getting dressed and washed and then set off for a kindergarten called "Druzina."

The most ironical fact is that elderly women have to do all the heavy work, while Communist youngsters mostly are supervisors, ordering them around. One of those Communist young women, one GASPAROVA Marie, recently became a "qualified baker" after a short apprenticeship at the Center of Working Youth in HRONOV (E. Bohemia,) and pretends now to be the master in the field; her present job merely consists of issuing orders. She never touches a heavy load of flour or any other strenuous work. In her attitude toward women workers she is very arrogant, and calls women who are twice her age dirty names. Another Communist youngster, RADIMERSKA Jarmila, behaves in a similar way.

(Over)

ITEM No 7602/52

CZECHOSLOVAKIA

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The women, whatever their particular jobs, do not earn more than about 3,000 Kcs gross a month. Men who had previously employed by the bakery earned at least 25 to 30 per cent more for the same jobs.

EVAL. COMMENT: No confirmation available for subject case. Name of the mentioned enterprise is correct. Names of persons UNCONFIRMED. In line with general trend, urging replacement of men in such enterprises by women.