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RUMANIAN TU STATUTES ABOLISH SECRET BALLOT AT LOWEST LEVEL,  
GIVES PARTY CONTROL OVER HOUSING ALLOCATION

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The new statutes approved by the recent Rumanian Trade Union Congress show some slight but retrogressive changes from the draft statutes which were presented to the Congress.

TU Voting

One change abolishes the system of secret voting in the election of the organizers of trade union groups and the trade union committees in the sections of the various enterprises. These now have to be chosen by open vote.

Housing

Another change puts control of the maintenance and administration of housing into the hands of the enterprise managements and, indirectly, into the hands of the Party committees in the enterprises. Housing control was formerly directed by the enterprise TU organization. Control over social institutions within the framework of the enterprises (canteens, nurseries, cultural institutions) has also passed over to the enterprise Party committees.

It seems clear from the new TU statutes that the Party will be exerting a greater influence in the affairs of the enterprises. Article 41a states that the basic TU units in the enterprises will be committed to mobilizing the workers of the individual enterprises toward implementing the decisions of the Central Committee of Trade Unions, which is in turn pledged to implement Party and government policy.

Branch Unions

A further change in the new statutes makes the measures adopted by the Branch (Professional) Trade Unions mandatory --

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after confirmation by the Central Committee Trade Unions -- for all TU organizations of the respective branch. These directives had previously been binding on all TU organizations, regardless of branch.

#### Trade Unions in the Villages

Henceforth TU groups in the countryside will be organized according to profession. These groups will unite in turn to form the village "Sindicat", or basic TU unit.

#### Conclusion

The fact that the new Rumanian TU statutes abolish the secret ballot at the lowest organizational level and give the Party control over housing allocations for workers in the enterprises, indicates that trade unions in Rumania are to become even more puppet-like in their relationship to the Party.

There have been indications for some time that a struggle for administrative competence in the enterprises was being waged. The Party has apparently stepped up its efforts at winning this competence for itself.

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