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1957

News Background

YUGOSLAV NEWSPAPER SAYS POLISH COMMERCE  
IS VERY BADLY ORGANIZED

Munich, July 10 -- (STANKOVIC) -- Commerce is very badly organized in Poland, states "Politika's" WARSAW correspondent D. MILIVOJEVICH in a report published in the paper's July 6 issue. This is the reason why the "kolejka" (queue) "is a component part of the citizen's life in WARSAW", and why "the workers of the shoe factory in CHELMEK must travel to OPOLE to buy the shoes they produce".

MILIVOJEVIC said: "If a citizen in WARSAW wants to buy butter, ham or bread, he must wait in a queue. Along with the ruins which remind one of the tragic fate of this large and beautiful city, visitors to WARSAW are most unpleasantly struck by the queues."

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"Politika's" correspondent added that the existence of the queues in front of the shops in WARSAW has not meant that there was no bread, butter or other items in Poland but simply that "commerce is very badly organized". MILOVOJEVIC continued:

"The existing economic difficulties in Poland are especially increased by commerce because it is non-elastic and economically disinterested in better work. For employees in the commercial enterprises it is all the same whether they make in one day one million or only ten thousand zloty. Thus it happens very often that the buyers wait in the shop while the shop assistants chat or attend to their own business.

"The slowness of the waiters in the WARSAW restaurants has already become proverbial for the foreigners... In addition the present commercial system in Poland creates opportunities for all kind of speculations against which the authorities are struggling by employing various administrative measures..."

MILIVOJEVIC further said that "because of this situation in commerce great attention has been paid by the public to the so-called 'little reform' in commerce proposed by the government's Economic Council. Why is the reform called 'little' when it is known that the problems are great? The answer is that the essential changes in commerce cannot be introduced without changes in all other economic branches, in the economic system in general..."

"What will be provided for in this 'little reform' of

commerce? First of all the commercial enterprises will be allowed to make direct contacts with factories and other producers in order to make contracts with them. Until now the supply of commerce in Poland has been made through the distribution system. Instead of having between producers and consumers an elastic and capable commerce, one has distributors... Besides individual factories will be allowed to open their own shops... Certain 'experimental' enterprises have great success in this field. Thus it will not happen any longer that, for instance, the workers of the shoe factory in CHELMEK must travel to OPOLE to buy the shoes they produce."

MILIVOJEVIC added that "it is provided that workers and employees in commerce receive rewards and bonuses if their business is done without a deficit... Also it is said that a certain kind of workers' council is to be introduced in commerce. In the discussion about the 'little reform' for the first time the press has used the term 'competition' in commerce..."

In conclusion "Politika's" correspondent said that the proposals made by the Economic Councils are aimed at "removing bureaucratic chains and patterns".

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