

LL  
31 August 1951  
NL

POLAND

YOUTH  
Students

Students in Poland complain of a complete lack of privacy and of a low standard of living. About 60 per cent are granted scholarships of 210 Zloty per month. A student pays 15 Zloty for his billets at the Students' Home, 15 Zloty for social insurance and 10 Zloty for various contributions. In the students' homes, only lunches are available, at the price of 2.40 Zloty. The homes are overcrowded, and rooms must be shared with three to five other students. All this makes serious studying very hard.

The students' homes, previously run by students' mutual help organizations, are now in the hands of the "State Company for Students' Centers" also having the holiday centers under its management. The members of the administration are nominated by state authorities.

The students' organization "Związek Studentów Polskich" (ZSP - Union of Polish Students) is now under the control of ZMP (Union of Polish Youth.) The smallest unit of the ZSP, composed of 30 members, is headed by a board of five people chosen by the ZMP, under a chairman called "Starosta." The latter is responsible for the students' regular attendance at lectures and for the good results of their work. His deputy, the so-called "Secretary of ZMP," is responsible for the political conduct of the group, and for fighting the so-called "guardism," which is a special movement among activists or ZMP members. These elements at the Communist Party's demand should not form individual groups outside the students' masses, but should infiltrate these masses with Communist ideology.

The three remaining members of the board, the so-called "Light Cavalry Brigade," are simply agents and denouncers in permanent contact with security office.

The discipline is enforced by severe regulations. A student absent for the first time from lectures without adequate excuse, is admonished. The second time a note is entered in his personal papers; the third time he may be relegated from school. The student may lose his scholarship not only for poor examination results, but also for "reactionary behavior," following a decision of the board of his group.

ITEM No 6003

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(cont'd)

These conditions of life and political pressure result in poor quality of learning, inducing many youth to give up their studies. Out of 600 students who entered the WROCLAW School of Economics in 1950, 28 per cent decided to leave school and about 40 per cent did not report for examinations.

Social discrimination is also very strong at universities and colleges, where sons and daughters of bourgeois parents may not obtain scholarships and have to pass more difficult examinations than their peasant and worker colleagues.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: Schoolyears 1950 - 1952

EVAL. COMMENT:  
Source : usually reliable;  
Information: confirmed by other sources,  
partially probably true,  
unconfirmed.