

Munich, November 28, 1962 (Non Target Area Analysis - GDR/Dorothy Miller) -- From the official East German press, it is difficult to gather a clear picture on the development of wages in the GDR. From the repeated slogans of "increase of work productivity, competitions, new more effective wage forms" to the recent government decision of a sharper control of norms, a possible lowering of wages might be surmised, though it has not been stated explicitly by GDR sources. On the other hand, Western correspondents (such as the "Neue Zürcher Zeitung", November 8) have reported dissatisfaction among the workers from factories surrounding Berlin because of the raised norms, and the lowered wages. Refugees reaching West Berlin all have reported substantial decreases in workers' wages, ranging between 5 per cent and 40 per cent. The following are a few specific examples*:

1. State-owned enterprise "Hans Beimler", Henningsdorf: the hourly wage of a driller at a welding machine was formerly DM 3.80 to DM 4.10. His current wage is DM 2.50, which is a wage cut by approximately 40 per cent. A carpenter who used to earn DM 4.40 per hour now only receives DM 2.90, a cut of 33 per cent. In the varnishing section the wages dropped by about 10 per cent.
2. State-owned enterprise of building mechanics in Niederneuendorf: From October 1961 to June 1962, wages for engine fitters sank by 20 per cent to 27 per cent.
3. State-owned electrical plant, Berlin-Lichtenberg: since the institution of catalogues for optimal working times, the norms have been raised by 30 per cent to 50 per cent. Workers who used to fulfill their norms by 220 per cent, are therefore receiving 20 per cent to 25 per cent less wages.
4. Enterprise for signal and safety techniques, Berlin: Since April of this year, tool makers are earning DM 0.50 per hour less.
5. State-owned assembly plant in Potsdam: masons have experienced a cut of 25 per cent in their wages due to the raising of the norms.

All eye-witness accounts therefore seem to coincide, and general lowering of wages is reported which is not to be found in any official publication. Contrary therefore to the Party's repeated assurances that wages are to be proportionate to the output, the above examples indicate that wage cuts are implemented in order to attain a better relationship between work-productivity and wages.

* From RIAS, West Berlin, November 12, 1962, based on refugee statements.

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