

G
23 May
1/10369

POLAND

INDUSTRY L7

INDUSTRY (1700)

Personnel and Management (1715)

Communist Party Intrigue Keeps Expert Out Of A Job.

SOURCE FRANKFURT: 41-year-old former weaver and later technical director in the CHELMSK SLASKI State Weaving Mill from 1946-1953.

Source was also employed as controller for textile goods by the Ministry of Defense, a job he got through a certain Capt. PERKOWSKI who was himself an inspector for the Ministry of Defense. Through him he met PERKOWSKI's father and personally observed the described developments.

Source is a quiet, intelligent man, who escaped West in January 1953.

DATE OF OBSERVATION: January 1953

EVAL. COMMENT: This very characteristic picture of intrigues and mismanagement has rather an anecdotal value. The weaving mill at CHELMSK SLASKI has never been reported before.

It is a well-known platitude that Communist Party backing and not ability determines whether a man is going to hold a job or not. The present story is a fair example of this truism and the consequent intrigues which are not only carried on against non-Party members but just as often among Party members themselves.

While working in a textile factory in CHELMSK SLASKI from 1946/1953 Source made the acquaintance of a certain Captain PERKOWSKI (fnb) who was employed by the Ministry of Defense to control factories which were making articles for the army. This man proposed to Source that he become an inspector of textiles for the army in addition to his other work. Source accepted the offer, and although he continued to work in the state weaving mill in CHELMSK SLASKI (Panstwowe Zaklady Przemyslu Lniarskiego) he went several times a month to other factories to control the quality of army textiles. In this manner he first came to know PERKOWSKI's father.

Amont other factories, captain PERKOWSKI inspected the quality of metal articles, such as canteens, saucepans, etc., produced by the Metal and Household Articles factory in OSSOWIEC (Fabryka Wyrobow Maszynych i Naczyn Gospodarczych.) He was a notorious

drinker, and squandered his entire pay in liqueur so that he was quite unable to support his sixty-three year old father. The old man was forced to live from the handout of friends, and as this finally got on his nerves, he looked around for work.

Old PERKOWSKI was an old Communist Party member from long before the war. In fact, he took part in the Communist Revolution on the side of the Bolsheviks and, like many old Party members, he was not very popular with the newer members. This old man was an expert designer in sheet metal, and hearing through his son in August 1952 that a position was vacant in the Metal and Household articles factory, he filled out the necessary papers - life history, master certificates, references, etc. - sent them to the cadre department of the factory and sat back, fully expecting to get the job.

But for the moment nothing happened. Finally the son discovered that the director of the factory MAZURKIEWICZ (fnu), also a Party member, was refusing to employ his father because he feared future competition from him as an old highly-esteemed Party member.

In reply to appeals from both father and son, the Secretary (NU) of the local Communist Party cell and the Secretary (NU) of the district Party Committee both intervened - still without success. Completely disheartened, the old man wrote in September 1952 to the Central Committee of the Communist Party in WARSAW, calling upon it for help. Privately he told source that he had completely lost faith in the Communist Party.

But the Party was not long in responding to the cries of one of its old disciples. At the end of October, a letter came from WARSAW with the assurance that old PERKOWSKI would be given the position he desired. At the same time, the WARSAW Committee sent a representative to OSSOWIEC to investigate the circumstances. One week after the arrival of this representative the director of the factory, MAZURKIEWICZ, was suddenly discharged; the secretary of the local Party Committee followed suit, and the old man was installed in his job in the beginning of November.

The picture changed completely. Old PERKOWSKI was assigned a comfortable apartment and former followers of MAZURKIEWICZ commenced fawning on the old man. Everyone fully believed that although old PERKOWSKI was so far only employed as master in the designing department, he would soon become director, as this post was still open in December 1952.

Source recalls a similar case in CHELMSK BLASKI in the weaving mill where he worked. The director BUCHMANN Jakob owned a textile

ITEM No 5482/53

2

shop before World War II and had actually no practical knowledge of weaving. He was however strongly supported by the Communist Party. Therefore repeated attempts to oust him on the part of the higher textile authorities proved completely fruitless.

In this case the situation was saved by employing a German weaving expert PAZLER Jozef, as technical director, and BUCHMANN confined his work to administrative matters and maintaining discipline.

Incidentally, this German expert repeatedly tried to obtain a permit to return to Germany but in vain. His services were considered too important to be dispensed with.

End.