

Magyar Nemzet, November 17, 1957

The law of workshop democracy (Comments on the new
decree about Works Councils)

... On the basis of previous experience, we must first of all make it clear that the decree cancelling the Workers Councils expresses the wish of the great majority of the workers and intelligentsia in the factories and that the new decree sanctions a precise desire.

Without discussing the whole problem, we wish to draw the attention to one fact: according to the cancelled decree, the election of the Workers Councils had to be prepared by the Trade Unions. This was not done in any workshop. In most places the noisiest elements, the most active declasses disguised as workers, and very often habitual and common criminals took the lead in the Workers Councils. Those elements did not only harm the interests of the people's economy but deliberately corrupted the physical and intellectual workers. Those were open enemies of the workers' power and organized bases of the counter-revolution.

The previous system of leadership of the economic life had its faults and these faults were calling for correction. Already before October in eight machine factories a new system of leadership has been tested in order to find a more suitable form of self-government of workers giving the workers the feeling of being owners of the factory. The counter-revolution has delayed the solution of that important problem as it has also prevented improvement in many other fields.

The revisionist and fascistic fuglemen of the so-called Workers Councils, born in the mud of the counter-revolution, denied the leading role of the working class. The Works Councils are built on the leadership of the working class. It is no more chance that the Workers Councils lost month after month the confidence of the masses. We hope that the Works Councils will now regain this confidence.