

Miklos Somogyi on the Trade Unions' Tasks

In a leading article in 'Nepszabadsag', Miklos Somogyi, President of the Trade Union Council, said that the 19th Trade Union Congress had not only marked an important stage in the development of the Hungarian trade unions, but had also been instructive for the international trade union movement. The leaders of the WFTU and guests from 14 countries who had attended the congress had shared the Hungarians' joy at their enemies' "failure to tear a gap in the front of the international proletariat by trampling underfoot the power of the Hungarian workers". So far as the Party was concerned, it had shown greater understanding of and confidence in the organised workers than at any time since 1948, thereby giving the trade unions the status appropriate to the largest mass organisation of the working class. The work of organisation and enlightenment must now start among trade union members. While, on the one hand, the trade unions must concern

themselves wholeheartedly with the affairs of their members and must take part in drafting the laws and decrees regulating living and working conditions, the organised workers, on the other, must equally concern themselves with labour productivity, the correct organisation of work and economical production, as the principal way to raise the standard of living was to increase both the quantity and quality of production, and to do this more economically. (Budapest 11.00, 16.3.58)