

RUMANIA  
June 22, 1960

The abolition of taxes and the changeover to a shorter workday are not only important for the peoples of the Soviet Union and the socialist countries; they also have great international significance. Workers of all countries see in these great social measures an example of the concern of a socialist state for the welfare of the people. There has never been, and there cannot be, a capitalist country which could abolish taxes on the population. Should it decide to pass such a law, it would sign its own death warrant, because no bourgeois state can exist without taxing its working population. The implementation of this most important social measure will begin this year and will be completed in 1965, when all workers and employees will be free from taxes.

We see clearly the time when Soviet people will live in a country without taxes; a country with the shortest workday and the highest living standards is not far away at all.

There can be no doubt that similar measures will be implemented in all the socialist countries in the near future. Our parties are interested in all aspects of improving the life of the citizens in the socialist countries.

Take the housing problem, for instance. It is one of the most vital problems in any community. How is this problem solved in capitalist and socialist conditions? I shall give you some data. In the richest of the capitalist countries, the United States, 444,000 apartments have been built by the state through the state housing construction plan, which was started in 1936, and only 7 percent of the slums have been cleared during this same period.

Even the American bourgeois press admits that at such a rate it will take 280 years to liquidate all the slums in the United States. In the Soviet Union, in the first year of the seven-year plan, a total of 80.4 million square meters of housing, over 2.2 million apartments in towns, and over 0.8 million in rural areas, have been built in towns and workers' settlements. In all, 15 million apartments will be built during the seven-year plan.

To give you a better idea of these figures in regard to the scope of housing construction, I shall tell you that this is equivalent to construction in the Soviet Union of 180 new towns, each with a population of 250,000, in the seven-year plan period. During the seven-year plan period new dwelling houses will be built with a total living space more than three times as large as all the town housing facilities in Russia before the revolution.