

ISHIA BULLETIN

No. 8 ● 5 AUGUST 1988



The resistance of Petrol-İş is going on.

The general Congress of I L O

1 Kg. Bread Costs 3 Hours of Labour

The new Labour law

Unions did not accept the new minimum wage

MONTHLY BULLETIN OF LABOUR MOVEMENT
AND TRADE UNIONS NEWS FROM TURKEY

ISHA BÜLTEN

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ISHA Haber Ajansı adına sahibi ve
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Baskı: Bizim Ofset

editor's note

Dear Readers,

The 75th General Congress of ILO, this past June, was very instructive for the labour representatives who participated for the name of Turkey.

Union members from Turkey waited hopelessly to see a trace of democracy, that would at least patron ILO principles ilks of western businesspeople, and government representatives who participated in ILO workshops, congress decisions and organisation meetings, during the discussions of vital problems of Turkish labour class.

Those who remain silent throughout the systematic corruption (which also leads to gradual disappearance) of union rights and freedoms in Turkey (These westernar misters) have proved again how hypocritical and so-called democrats they are, by rejecting Turkey to be in special paragraph.

Today, the image of ILO in Turkey, is in the level of a discussion platform which has no determination. But, it is also a test platform that shows to the labour that is insufficiently represented, and how far the european bourgeoisie can remain democratic.

The employer in Turkey, who has been hindering the Turkish labour class from the fundamental labour rights and freedoms which has ben gotten away for years, government speakers and westernar colleagues in this point, and agreed on this platform Douptlessly, there are some lessons to be learned here, by not only the Turkish labour class, but also the westerner workers. In the meantime, this crocodile flock who seemed crying for the lost Turkish union rights in the past, was not late to detect new and appetizing hunts:

In Turkey, Minimum Wage Establishment Committee, a counselors group made up of employer and government representatives, in which the labour representatives were in minority, and in the end left the meeting, have decided the minimum wage to be TL. 83,700 (\$ 54) per month. RESULTS: It was understood that the cheapest labour would work for \$ 54 per month and ten million unemployed ant the most treacherous bourgeois representatives live here in Turkey. These results are presented to the information of the information of the freedomist (!) western bourgeoisie. On the other hand Turkish labour class, with their over ten million objective numeric existence, and with everyday struggle, are maraging one by one all the obstacles offered and are going in their own path. This reality is offered to the information of westerner class brothers.

EDITOR.

A PRE-AGREEMENT IS REACHED BETWEEN TUHIS AND BELEDİYE-İŞ

- A pre-agreement is reached for the 40.000.- workers of the municipalities of Ankara, Istanbul and Adana during the discussions of the collective bargaining negotiations.
- Municipality workers protested Burhan Özfatura, the president of the Metropolitan Municipality, by wearing black shirts. Mr. Özfatura rejected the agreement.

As the collective bargaining negotiations didn't reach an end, 52.000 workers of the municipalities of Ankara, Istanbul, İzmir and Adana started protest actions. Due to this, agreements were made in Istanbul, Ankara and Adana, but the one made in İzmir is still invalid.

A few months ago the discussions made between Belediye-İs and TUHIS gave no result and there occurred a disagreement. At the same days, Burhan Özfatura, the president of the Metropolitan Municipality of İzmir, made collective bargaining agreement with Belediye-İs. However TUHIS didn't accept this and Mr. Özfatura was obliged to oppose some of points of the agreement. Therefore the directors of the sections of Belediye-İs in İzmir decided to start the action of wearing all black. The representatives of Belediye-İs, all in black, made a press conference and said that the real protests would begin on 14th June.

The head of section no.1 of Belediye-İs, Kasim Yorulmazbaş, wanted the Public Employers Union not to spoil the agreement and he said: "Our workers were very patient, but none can imagine what can happen when this patience ends. We shall use all legal ways of protest." More than 6000 workers attended to the action. Meanwhile, having decided not to work in the weekends, many workers of the Administrations of Cleaning Works, workshops and Garages didn't pick up any garbage in the weekends. The Municipality tried to give this duty to the private sector, but failed in picking up the garbage. As a result, small heaps of

garbage began form all over the city and started to threaten the public health.

The directors of Belediye-İs told that no garbage would be picked up unless an agreement was made. Soon the bus drivers in Ankara supported the workers in Istanbul and İzmir. They drove slowly and disturbed all the transportation. It was announced by Belediye-İs that resistances would spread out and go on until the agreement was made.

As a result of slowing down discussions between TUHIS and Belediye-İs started again and pre-agreements for Istanbul, Ankara and Adana municipalities were made. Hüseyin Pala, the President of Belediye-İs Union told some important points about the agreements: "We accepted 40 % increase in wages for the first 6 months; 29 % for the second; for the following year these rations are 20 % and 16 % respectively. We wanted 20 % for the second year, but they refused it. However, we managed to take everything we demanded by social aids. Finally minimum daily payment is determined as TL 3800.- and TL 4760.-" Mr. Pala also said that they hadn't discussed the collective bargainings of İzmir and would wait Mr. Özfatura to keep his promises. However, municipality-workers-opposed-the pre-agreement made between TUHIS and Belediye-İş. They said the doors and the directors of Belediye-İş. They said the doors and the directors of Belediye-İş had fallen under the limits that had been determined beforewise.

news

1 Kg. Bread Costs 2 Hours of Labour

WORKERS' WAGES ARE DECREASING CONTINUOUSLY

- John Evans, the General Secretary of OECD Trade Unions Advicing Committee, said that Özal Government was exerting pressure on the working people.
- According to the calculation made by Türk-İş based on the data of Public Employers' Union, food consumption of a family of 4 people is 169.101 TL. in May.
- The year-book published by Petrol-İş Union clearly reveals that one should work for 15 hours and 28 minutes a day in 1987 in order to get what he received in 1980 with 8 hours of work a day.
- According to the statistics gathered by Anka Agency, while there is an increase of 64.8 % in the income tax paid by workers, the increase paid by employers is only 56.1 %.

John Evans, the General Secretary of Trade Unions Advicing Committee (TUAC) within the body of Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said that the economic policy of Prime Minister Özal was exerting pressure on all the working people and the real wages of workers were being decreased in a very systematic way. To Mr. Evans what should be done is to put a tax on the rich but he added that Turkish Government never took such a decision because of political reasons. Meanwhile in June various reports and researdches were published about the workers' wages in Turk-İş, Petrol-İş Union affiliated to Türk-İş and Anka Agency; living conditions of the waged and finally about the tax share of limited income group.

In the statement Jhon Evans made in Geneva in 11 June, he said that Özal Government was following an economic policy exactly suited to the suggestions of OECD, IMF and World Bank. He then declared that Turkish Trade Unionism had faced extremely strong pressures and restrictions after the military coup in 1980.

Havin had attended to the meitings held by International labour Organization (ILO) in Geneva, Mr. Evans told about his ideas on the report of TUAC made after the investigations in Turkey and said: "The Government is decreasing the real wages of workers since 1980 in order to be able to pay its external debts. There is more than 15 % of unemployment and 50 % of inflation and interest

rate. To decrease the rate of inflation and to invest all the profits are the main problems of Turkish economy at this stage. The Government can not find a solution to inflation problem and the deficit in budget."

In the report that will be presented in the meeting of Council of Presidents of Türk-İş between 30 June-1 July, taking the data of Public Employers' Unions into consideration it is mentioned that a worker family of 4 people pays 169.101 TL. to be able to have a balanced and sufficient nutrition.

In the report of Council of Presidents, it is emphasized that in Turkey where the income level is too low and the distribution of wages is unbalanced, consumptions aren't planned according to the measures of humanity but to the capacity provided with the income. These opinions are included in the report:

"Even if the inflation rate drops to 50 % by the end of the year, annual average increase is estimated 70 %. When the annual increase is considered, inflation rate transferred from 1987 to 1988 is 56.4 % according to the consumption index of April 1988. Being an inseparable part of daily life, increase in prices are putting the living conditions of the limited waged into difficulty. When the collective bargaining agreements are examined, there is an average increase of 32 % in the wages in 1986, but it has dropped to 25 % in 1987."

Also according to the investigation made by Türk-İş, a worker working for minimum wage has to work 2 days to buy 1 kg. of meat. It is shown that working hours of a minimum waged worker are increased in order him to buy some main food stuff. Although a worker could buy 1 kg. bread after working 1 hour and 54 minutes in May 1987, he could buy the same amount in 1988 if and only if he works 1 hour and 54 minutes.

Petrol-İş Union affiliated to Türk-İş, published a year book on 20 June including economical, social and cultural developments regarding to the workers. Evaluating the statistical data the reality that the wages in Turkey are lower than the ones in Chili, Brazil, Tunisia and South Korea has come to the day light. For example, for 1 kg. bread automobile workers work 28 minutes in Korea, 18 minutes in Brazil, 10 minutes in Tunisia but 33 minutes in Turkey. Also a petroleum worker has to work 30 minutes and a averaged waged worker 48 minutes.

Researches used in the year-book of Petrol-İş Union prove the highest degree of poverty of the workers in Turkey after 1980. For the wage received by 8 hours of work a day before 24 January 1980 a worker now has to work 15 hours and 28 minutes taking the data of 1987 into consideration.

In the private evaluation report published with the signature of Münir Ceylan, General President of Petrol-İş, these important points have been stressed regarding the content of the researches in the year-book of Petrol-İş:

- When the year-book is examined, one can easily see that workers and all the working people are living the hardest time of the history of the Republic. If a worker overworks for 7 hours and 28 minutes a day, then he can reach the real salary of the previous 8 years.
- In Özal Government it is necessary to work 11 hours and 38 minutes in order to receive the same

amount of wage in 1983 by working 8 hours a day. All these calculations show that extra work for nothing and overworks in the weekends have increased.

- According to the values of 1987, an averaged waged worker works 61 minutes for 1 kg. bread, 6 hours and 8 minutes for 1 kg. of beans, 13.5 hours for 1 kg. meat and 33 days for the rent of his flat. His monthly wage is far from covering his rent.
- The real net wages of 1987 are 54.9 % below than the ones in 1963.
- Among OECD and EEC countries Turkey is the only country where the real wages between 1978 and 1985 continuously decline and the decline in wages is the highest.
- While the real wages dropped 50 % in the period of 12 September the real index of sales revenue doubled.
- In 1987 new reductions were added to the wages like compulsory savement, SSK (Social Insurance Association) deduction, etc.
- Officials' salaries decreased by 48.6 % in the period of 12 September going parallel with the wages of workers.
- According to the data of Ministry of Labour and Social Security the rate of syndicalization is 63.2 % However, it is only 1.3 % according to the calculation made based in ILO principles.

In a research of Anka Agency, the income tax paid by the employers has increased 56.1 % and by the waged and salaried it has gone up 64.8 %. Meanwhile the ratio of the tax collected from the employers increased only 27.4 % but the increase for the waged was 100 % since it was directly cut from their wages.

For the period of January-April it was stated that the real success achieved in the budget was from foreign commerce, consumption tax, taxes taken from the waged. As seen clearly taxes from the employers had just a small portion in the whole.

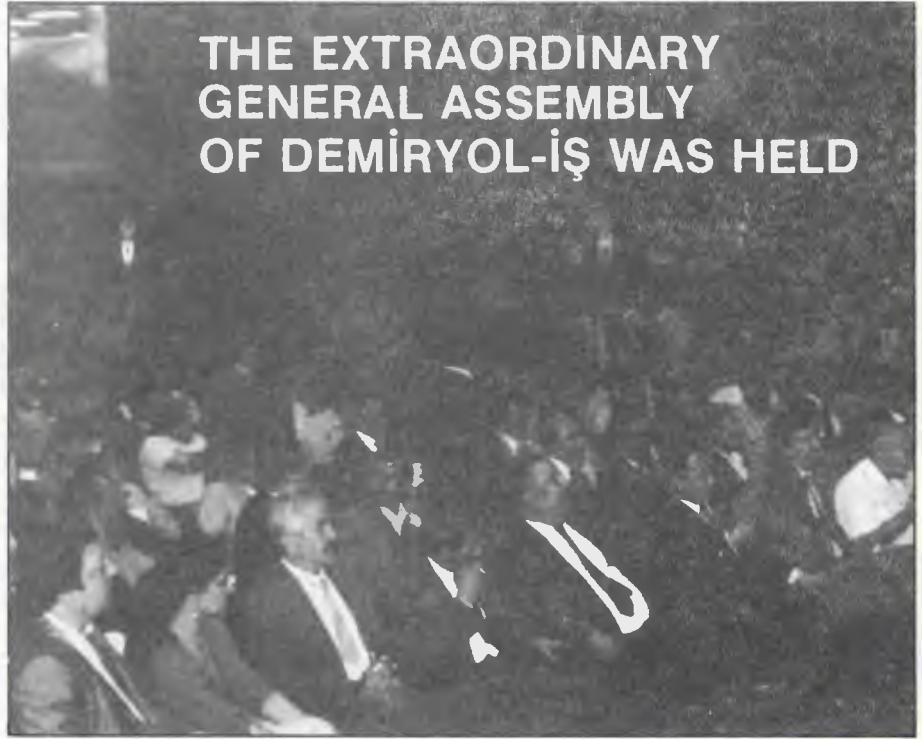
THE WORKERS OF THE ISTINYE DOCKYARD HAVE PROTESTED TRANSPORTATION MINISTER PAKDEMİRLİ

Three ships which are constructed in the Halic and Istinye dockyards of Turkey Ship Industry were delivered to their owners by a ceremony to which Ekrem Pakdemirli, the Minister of Transportation has also accompanied on 13th.6.1988. As the Minister Pakdemirli has began speaking, 800 workers left the meeting area by shouting slogans.

Mustafa Cikrikci, the branch secretary of Dok-Gemi-İs Union, said "a massive unionship understanding with a concrete example of a unity of labour was given at the struggle of democracy and bread. And it has been a protest in which the power and the spirit of the workers and the unionists has been concrete, on the day that huge

ships which are been constructed just for getting the wages of misery. The workers which left the area by shouting the slogans: "We are hungry", "How could you come here without a shame", "Our wages are insufficient even for the rents", "We don't need charity. We want our rights", have gathered at the sport area.

Cemal Özgül, The Dok-Gemi-İs Union, Boğazici section president, for the name of workers, said: "The employer doesn't give the rights which were gained by collective bargaining. We couldn't get the aid of cleaning, soap and fuel yet". Complaining the worseness of the meals, the workers said: "They cooked special dishes for the visit of the minister", and refused to have the meals.



The extraordinary General Assembly of Demiryol-İs was held in the meeting hall of TSE (Turkish Standards Institute) on the 25th of June 1988 and Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Turk-İs, has elected as the chairman of the Assembly by the votes of all delegates without any exception.

The opposition showed a great reaction since the union signed the 12th Collective Bargaining Agreement, at the stage of going on a strike. The Branch Presidents of Eskişehir and İstanbul resigned. By the help of Turk-İs, acting as a mediator, the Union held the Extraordinary

General Assembly.

Mahmut Kılıç, the Branch President of Haydarpaşa, İstanbul, said as a representative of the opposition that cooperating with the Government, the Administration of the Union signed the collective bargaining agreement and let them to condemn their friends to exile. Then taking the words for the Administration Numi Pekkarpuz, the Branch President of Konya, accused the opposition of breaking down the discipline of unionism.

Elections took place on 26th June. Mehmet Acidereli and his team won.

SECTION CONGRESSES OF KRİSTAL-İŞ HAS BEEN HELD

The Topkapi Section Congress of Kristal-İs which is affiliated to Turk-İs has been on 18th of June 1988. The workers, as the members of Hurcam-İs Trade Union which is affiliated to DISK, whose activities were forbidden by 12th September Military Invention, passed to Kristal-İs in 1983. In that branch, during the last four years, four congress have been held and the management has changed for six times.

news

MALNUTRITION IN A COUNTRY OF AGRICULTUR: TURKEY

In April, the expenses on food for a family of four persons were TL. 169618 (\$124.2)



According to the study carried out by the Türk-İş Confederation Work Economies and Statistics Department, the expenses on food has increased to TL. 169,618. The increases on food has reached 29.2 % over the first four months of 1988. According to the statistics a family of four is fed healthily in the capital city (Ankara), at least TL. 169,618 should have been spent in April.

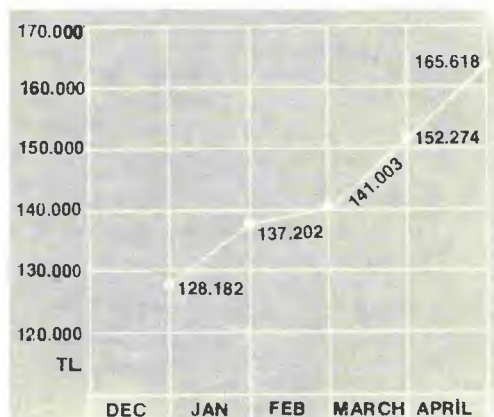
According to the market determinations made by Türk-İş, the price of fuel-oil rise had the greatest affect on fruit and vegetable prices. The increase rates, compared with the month before, has been 56 % on vegetable prices and 19.3 % on fruit prices.

As a result of the price-rise of meal milk products, the cheese prices has increased by 20 % and meal prices by 19 %. Only the egg prices compared with the previous month have dropped because of summer season.

The following opinions are considered in the study of Truk-İs confederation. "The expenses on food which was TL. 128,182 on December 1987 has increased by 29.2 % over the last four months and reached TL 169,618 in April 1988. Considering the fact that TL. 152,274 should be spend on food in March 1988 than the pricerise in the last month has been 8.8 % which amounts to an extra expense of TL. 13,344. The necessary

food expenses calculated based on scientific facts, considering the payments in the country average, the picture is much against the workers.

The existance of a very unjust structure is noted. in such an unjust structure, "to benefit the good: of civilization" is only possible for certain classes of the society.



THE RESISTANCE OF P



Changes that have been made in the law about collective bargainings, strikes and lock-outs on 27th May 1988, put out strike prohibitions in the branches of natural gas and petro-chemicals; and have been valid on 2nd Juna 1988 by the publication of the Official News.

These prohibitions on strike in many branches, brought with discussions and resistances against them. Opposing to these prohibitions against the rights of collective bargaining and going on strike, workers and the representatives of trade unions began making passive resistances.

The Administration Committee of Turk-Is reproached for this prohibition and made a declaration.

"It must be known that if obstacles continue to exist on the reorganisations that are totally against ILO principles; they will surely receive the answer they deserve; these will create serious problems."

Munir Ceylan, the General President of Petrol-Is, also said: "The rights of making collective bargainings and strikes behind the stolen rights, sentences all the workers to hunger; "and he added: "We don't aim to destroy the economy, our only aim is to resist against injustice and to get enough wages for just living. We don't make anything illegal. Workers are more sensitive and responsible than the Government for the economy of our country. The strike prohibition that

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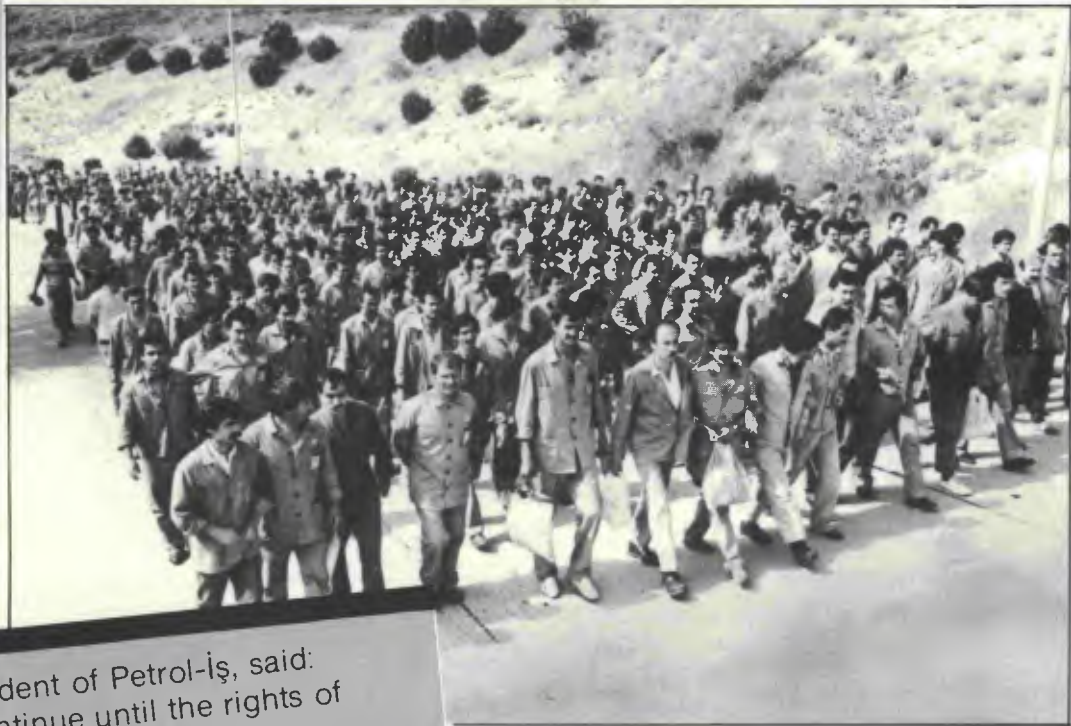
Munir Ceylan, the General President of Petrol-Is, stated: "Our passive resistances will continue until our members are paid".
— Workers at Tupras, Pet-Kir and BP slowed down the work. We claim to be the champion of democracy. We shall demonstrate our real face by the abolition on 1st Juna of the strike prohibitions and going strikes. We shall continue our passive resistances.

has been stated in 1982, is enlarged by the recent arrangements. We're against this. It's obvious that strike prohibitions create problems on the relations between the bosses and the workers."

Munir Ceylan stated that the employers acted as if they had made up their minds beforewise and didn't pay the premiums of the workers. "Authorities say that they couldn't pay the workers since there's no order from the minister of state, Kazim Oksay. We shall go on our passive resistance until our members get their rights back."

When the ideas of the workers were asked about the resistance, they said: "The government which claims to be the champion of democracy, have demonstrated its real face by the abolition of the workers' rights to go on strikes.

PETROL-IŞ IS GOING ON



ident of Petrol-iş, said:
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Mobil, Shell, Petrol Ofisi and
orkers: 'The Government that
emocracy, have demonstrated that
e workers to have the right of
e to resist till we get our rights'.

We shall continue to resist until we get our rights and we hope that other workers who work in our branch will support us". The directors of Petrol-İs, having asked for support, received the aid from ILO and ICEF.

The pasive resistance first began in the plants of Tupras. Then the workers of Pet-Kim, Petrol Ofisi, Mobil, Shell and Bp slowed down. They also answered the prohibitors by making other actions: They didn't get on the service buses, didn't eat their lunch, made marches, etc. By the support of some factories at Gebze, the action spread 12000 workers. 7000 workers at Tugsas. (Fertilizer Industry) who hadn't got the additional increase in wages, increased the number of resistants.

Slowing down the work and the actions of workers must have affected the employers to such a degree that the Vice-President of TİSK, Refik Baydur made a declaration: "Strike

restrictions, the way they are used in Turkey, make no good for the satate, for employers and workers. The cost of resistances in the branches that strikes are restricted, is much more the strikes".

On the other hand, workers want them to calculate this cost by taking to the reality of the workers' way of living into consideration.

The resistance started by Petrol-İs, didn't stay only in this branch. Because of the low wages "passive" resistances started in the branches of Belediye-İs and in the Nitroqen Factory at Elasiq.

The proleteriat, struggling by slowing the work down and by the new ways of resistances both gains many things and gets the support of the international proleteriat. Micheal D. Boggs, the General President of ICEF in his massage that he to Shell, Mobil and BP said: "We the representatives of 6 ion trade unions of ICEF in chemical and oil branches in the countries, protest your attitude of not making collective gainings with our member in Turkey Petro-İs"

Resistance of Petrol-İs geos on. For this, the Prime Minister Ozal said: "The punishment for illegal resistances is marsh. I have to express this"

However workers say that they government to rob their natural right of making strikes. They also add that in a country where strikes are prohibited there can't be an democracy.

interview

INTERVIEW WITH HÜSEYİN PALA

A summary of interview of the president of trade union of Municipality Workers is given below.

- UP TO NOW WE MADE CONTRACTS APPRECIATED BY WORKERS. BUT WHAT WE HAVE GAINED DISAPPEARED WITH THIS HIGH INFLATION.
- WITH A NEW LABOUR LAW, JUST CLEANING WORKERS OBTAINED THE RIGHT OF STRIKE, BUT BUS DRIVERS STILL PROHIBITED OF STRIKE.
- WITH THE DISAPPEARANCE OF COMPETITION OF TRADE UNIONS WE OBTAINED AN INCREASE OF 33 % MEMBER.

ISHA: Could you tell us about your trade union?

Huseyin Pala (HP): We established a federation by combining nine local trade unions in 1983. Those local unions have become branches of federation. At that time we had 45.000 members. Today there are 140.000. We have 72 branches. With the Coup d'Etat of September 12th, 60.000 members of Genel İş affiliated to DISK participated to our Union. Up to now, we gained 30.000 workers who have been out of unions.

ISHA: Within five years, by an increase of 33 % you succeeded to have 140.000 members. What is your comment on it.

H. Pala: Before the participation of Genel-İş to our trade union there was a great competition. They tried to convince our members to resign and be their members; and of course, we tried to do just the contrary. By unification such a competition disappeared. We struggled to obtain new members. We got 35.000 workers who have not been members of any trade union previously. This is the cause of increase of 33 %. I want to state that, now, another trade union tries to steal our members, and practice different ways of pressure. There is no profit for workers in such actions.

ISHA: Since the October of 87, there has been a collective negotiations. Could you give some information about them?

H. Pala: We finished many of negotiations by consensus. The number of negotiations which are addressed to YHK (High Arbitrator Commission) don't exceed 10 %. Now, there is conflict just in one municipality. We make contract with municipalities more than 920. These negotiations

continue whole year, one after another. Some of these municipalities have 3 or 4 members, some 4.000 or 5.000. In all of them, we follow the same procedure.

ISHA: What were your demands and what did you get?

H. Pala: We got increase of 45-79 % for some of them. As I've said previously, we make contracts separately with each municipality. The financial power of them are not the same. In general, there's no disadvantageous contract done by us. All are in profit of workers. Undoubtedly, inflation is a great handicap for contracts done 4 months ago. In some municipalities we have realised one year contracts. However, I haven't got a specific number now with me.

ISHA: In four of the greatest municipalities (Istanbul, Ankara, İzmir, Adana) negotiation could not reach to consensus. What is the situation now?

H. Pala: These four municipalities are members of Public Employer's Trade Union. That is why, we have negotiated with these trade union instead of municipalities. We demanded 70 % increase for the first year and 75 % increase for the second year and rise in social supports. But they proposed six months increases of 30, 20, 15 and 15 %. And they didn't accept increase in social supports either. This is not a positive attitude. They must take opinions of municipalities too. However, they prevent municipalities to declare their views. The Trade Union of Public Employers take orders from government. Turkey is sinking, economy is sinking. It is a phenomenal event. They just gave up the affairs of government and



Life story of Huseyin Pala (President of the Trade Union) He was born in 1926. His father was a farmer. He is married and graduated from primary school. He has been working since the age of fourteen. He had different positions in trade unions. Now, he is president of Belediye-Is (Trade Union of Municipality Workers) He is one of the founders of Turk-Is Confederation.

struggled against workers on whether or not they will gain 10.000 TL. increase?

ISHA: In the new law of strike and Collective Negotiation, there are rules concerning strike prohibition in your sector. What is your opinion?

H. Pala: Cleaning workers get rid of prohibition.

However, they are only members out of prohibition. Bus drivers are still prohibited. This is not fair. There is no country on the earth with such a prohibition in this sector. 21.000 workers in four great municipalities will strike if there is no consensus

ISHA: Thank you.

SSK IS UNDER THE INVASION OF THE GOVERNMENT



SSK, the association which gives service to 2,878,925 workers and 1,170,040 pensioners, lives in poverty with its wealth.

The 41th General Assembly of SSK was held on the 27th of June 1988. In the meeting Imren Aykut, the Minister of labour and Social Security, made a speech and declared that their aim will be ready for the 2000's but the audience was curious about the solutions of problems in social security today. Imren Aykut said that the law about SSK would be changed once more. The

representatives of both employers and workers wanted SSK to be saved from the government pressure.

Emin Kul, the General Secretary of Turk-Is, talking in the name of workers, declared that no one could say that there was a social security system in Turkey. He said in his speech:

"The only financial source of SSK is the premiums paid by the workers. Governments never give a cent, but they always attack SSK although they have no structure to do so."

Kubilay Atasayar, the General Secretary of TISK said:

"We, the employers believe that SSK is an association of computation. Which change in laws and which subject related to the association must depend on clear computations. Nothing must be done before the possible conclusions are estimated. Therefore the social security policies must be well determined. The system shouldn't be damaged according to the political choices and interventions.

THE NEW LABOUR LAW HAS BROUGHT A NEW STRIKE RESTRICTION

- While setting up the Labour Law, proposals of Türk-İş and the opposition parties weren't taken into consideration.
 - The right to be re-elected was given to the unionists with the new law.
- Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Türk-İş: "I will complain about the Government to ILO."

The sketch of labour law which put some changes forward in the laws of labour life, trade unions, strike, lock out, collective bargainings was accepted by the votes of ANAP Representatives on 26 May even though Türk-İş and the Opposition Parties were against it and showed a great reaction to it.

When it was announced in the Parliament on 5 May, Türk-İş and the Opposition Parties, SHP and DYP, reacted to it. After it was revealed to the public opinion, Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Türk-İş, stated that none of their own demands and proposals took place in the sketch of the law.

In the meetings held between the government and Türk-İş on 30 April the government determined that it would make changes in the laws numbered 2821 and 2822 for the benefit of the workers. However, in the law passed in the Parliament neither the proposals of Türk-İş nor of the Opposition were not taken into account. It seemed clear that the government had some concerns about passing the sketch which contained some prismatic changes in the Parliament before June in order to make the stipulation come true and prove this to ILO.

After the voting, the Opposition parties both SHP and DYP stated that they would propose a change in the Constitution and Şevket Yılmaz, the General President of Türk-İş said that they would complain about the government to ILO.

The right to establish a trade union without *üstsatır iptal*

The rights which Türk-İş demanded to be included in the sketch of Labour Law are generally as follows:

- the right to establish a trade union without pre-condition
 - the right to become a member of a trade union
- the incomes of the unions are kept, they could make social aids as long as they aren't more than

union without any exception

- the right to organize and shape rules and regulations
- the right to elect the directors freely and independently
- the right to arrange inner regulations freely.

However in the law passed in the Parliament, there are no points stressed in the reports of ILO. The only restriction which does not exist any more is the interdiction of being re-elected.

Here are some changes in the law of trade unions:

1. While all restrictions to become a director of a union are kept as in the law, the condition of having worked for one year is abolished.

2. One should work for 10 years to be elected for a director of a union and for the workers who have worked abroad, 5 years of their work will be added.

3. According to the change made in the 21st article, students and imams will have the right of being a member of a union.

4. If the workers become a member of more than one union, the latest membership will not be taken into account any more. The union should send a copy of a membership registration card to the Ministry in 15 days. For a member who resigns from membership of a union, his membership will be saved for 3 months and he can be a member of a new union after this period.

5. The duty of a representative will not end by the end of collective bargaining agreement but by the end of the union's authority.

6. Political restriction put on the unions by 37th article of the law is still valid with its all harshness. However, only the explanations and actions aiming to protect economical and social rights won't be accepted as political.

7. While the restrictions about the may of using passes.

3. While the strike restriction in thermic power

5 %.

8. By the change made in 61st article, the employer could receive contributions with the new authority certificate of the unions and their will even after the collective bargaining agreement is over.

9. By changing the temporary article 4, trade union directors on the date the law is put into process and the ones who have worked for more than 4 terms will have the right to be elected for another 4 terms.

Changes made in the laws of lock out and collective bargaining agreements:

1. Unions which don't have 10 % majority in a work shop won't be able to oppose to the powers of the other unions.

2. According to the change in the 22nd article, for the disagreements reached in the collective bargainings before the negotiation periods of 30 an 60 days, it isn't necessary to wait until this time

plants is still valid, it is abolished in the other lignite managements. A new strike restriction has been brought in petrochemical work shops starting with natural gas and naphtha.

4. In the article 53, president of DPT ise abolished from the Supreme Arbitration Board. The majority in favour of the government is kept.

5. In the article 59 the salaries of formal interveners are left to the Court according to the stage of disagreement. Problem of application isn't clarified.

6. In the article 78, 50-100.000 TL. punishment is proposed for the work shop in strike having workers worked in place of workers without permission and 150.000 TL. high rank of punishment per each.

7. The authority of the government to cancel the strike temporarily and the judgements that will be applied in extraordinary conditions and during martial law are kept the same.

UNIONS DID NOT ACCEPT THE NEW MINIMUM WAGE

- İmren Aykut, the minister of Labour and Social Security, stated that the determination was based on scientific principles.
- Türk-İş representative, Mustafa Başoğlu, the General Educational Secretary of Türk-İş and the representatives of the other unions participated in the Determination Committee of the Minimum Wage. Left the meeting of the committee.

The Unions did not accept the minimum wage that has been recalculated after a year. The brut minimum wage of TL. 74,250.- per month is recalculated as TL. 126,000.- per month is The new brut minimum wage for the agricultural sector is TL. 117,000.-

The Türk-İs representative in the Minimum Wage Establishment Committee and also the General Secretary of Turk-İs, Mustafa Başoğlu and, other Union representatives left the Committee meeting. The decision was passed by the employer and the government representatives.

Minister of Labour and Social Security İmren Aykut, claimed that the recalculation was based on scientific fundamentals, but she did not make any explanation on how it was scientific. Türk-İş General President Şevket Yılmaz quoted "People who run the economy in Turkey could not manage to settle the minimum wage problem, like the other problems of the country"

Mustafa Başoğlu stated that none of the principles offered by them was taken into account.

Hak-İş Confederation General President Necati Çelik said "The minimum wage wich is very far from the expectations and living conditions of our workers does not meet any demands, nor it is clbse to being convincing"

Various administrators have also severely criticized the new minimum wage. There were also some union members who evaluated Türk-İş representatives' action of leaving the committee meeting as a tactic to seem nice to the labor.

The calculation of the minimum wage is based on a person getting 3500 calories per day. The number calculated is regarded as 44 % of the minimum wage, and 100 % is calculated, but the main problem in here is that, the prices taken into account in those calculations, are far behind the reality.

Some 650.000 insureded workers get the minimum wage, while much more is working without any insurance. The net money that the worker get from the TL. 126.000.- minimum wage is only TL. 83.766.-

DISCUSSIONS ON TURKEY AT ILO

- Şevket Yılmaz: Unfortunately nothing has changed.
- İmren Aykut, the Minister of Labour and Social Security:
Turkey's main aim is the respect to human rights and justice.
- In spite of all the efforts of the workers, Turkey wasn't taken to the "black list" at ILO meetings.

75th General Assembly of International Labour Organization (ILO) held in the beginning of June in Geneva ended on 23 July. Trio-committee formed by the representatives of workers-employers-government attended to the General Assembly of ILO for Turkey was put in the agenda of the Assembly by the Application Committee since Turkey ignored syndical rights and didn't follow the ILO agreements thought they were signed. The decision regarding Turkey was accepted and put into process after the meetings in the General Assembly.

In the Application Committee's meeting in the evening of 7 June various representatives of workeremployers-government from different countries discussed about the premier list of the countries that would be put in the agenda. At the end of the meeting, 58 countries including Turkey were placed in the agenda of the Application Committee because of the unworking labour laws.

TURKEY'S POSITION

It was claimed that Turkey didn't obey the agreement regarding collective bargaining and organization number 98. Authorities stated that applications about syndical limitations and collective bargainings were contrary to the judgements of ILO.

Jeff Houthays, President of Workers Group in the Application Committee read the decisions about the discussed countries in the Committee since they didn't obey the principles of ILO and there was an obvious infraction of the rules of agreement and talked about Turkey's position specifically just before the approval.

Jeff Houthays suggested on behalf of the Workers Group to put Turkey in the "black list" and said: "Turkish Government has been giving promises for many years, but nothing is changing in practice. Nothing is done to keep the promises

and engagements. Syndical rights don't have any chance to exist in Turkey."

WHAT DID THEY SAY?

Making a statement in the Application Committee on 7 June Şevket Yılmaz complained of the Government to ILO. Mr. Yılmaz emphasized that the principle of syndical freedom was one of the main principles of the Constitution of ILO and the countries in full membership were obliged to follow these principles. Pointing out that nothing has changed in the labour lifewith the new arrangements in the labour laws, Mr. Yılmaz said that syndical freedoms were strongly restricted in Turkey since 1980 and added:

"In the speech I made here last year I expressed that we couldn't go any where with the Trade Unions Law no. 2821 and Collective Bargainings and Strike Laws no.2822. This year unfortunately I must say that the recent passed laws certainly restrict the rights and freedoms of workers and prohibit Turkey from applying its international responsibilities.

1982 Constitution, the laws no.2821 and 2822 totally ignore the freedom of establishing a trade union of all working people without any exception, the right to set up its management and programme and therefore in other words, they abolish the main principles defended by ILO and its reasons of existence."

In the statement made by İmren Aykut, the Minister of Labour and Social Security, she said ILO was satisfied with the laws arranging the labour life and although Turkey was taken to the agenda because of the will of the workers group, its main aim was the respect to human rights and justice.

Making a speech in the session of the General Assembly on 9 June, Miss Aykut stressed that getting affected by the economical problems of the world, Turkey's main problem was

unemployment just like the other ILO members. Then she went on her words and said:

"As a developing country Turkey unfortunately isn't out of this problem. Although the Government has taken the danger of rising unemployment problem under control, the decrease hasn't come to the expected level. One of the visible reasons of our 100 years of struggle is the progress in the relations of workers and employers. In the democraticalization period labour law has gained a collective dimension and Turkey has faced a fast transition in the stage of organization and collective bargaining."

At the ILO meetings employers and the representatives of the Government in a perfect harmony, showed a great effort to prevent Turkey from being in the black list. Criticizing the statement made by Şevket Yılmaz in the General Assembly, Kubilay Atasayar the General Secretary of TİSK (Turkish Employers Union) said: "In Turkey there is no restricted right that is offered to have. Giving a wrong idea about Turkey doesn't benefit anybody."

ILO'S DECISION

According to the principles of ILO criticisms about the abolition of syndical rights and a summary of the Government's defence took

place in the decision regarding Turkey. In the final section it was required that Turkish Government should keep its promises and establish new labour laws without restrictions and being convenient to the decisions of ILO about syndical rights and freedoms.

At the same time it was mentioned that changes in laws made by the Government just before the General Assembly of ILO had nothing to do with the syndical rights determined by the authorized committees of ILO. Since these laws weren't examined by the committees of ILO before they were passed, the duty to investigate the laws was given to the authorized committees.

Although it was expected that, before the General Assembly Turkey would be in the "black list" of ILO and the workers group tried hard, it didn't happen so because of the votes of the employers. Jeff Houthays, President of the Workers Group in the Application Committee said that even though they decided to put Turkey in the "black list" they weren't able to do it since the employers group didn't accept it.

Coming back to Turkey after the end of the meetings, Miss Aykut said: "Turkey had to face terrible attacks, but we managed to overcome all, thank God."

STRIKE IN TMO

900 workers as the members of TEZ-KOOP-IS who in the 297 different places of TMO (Agriculture Products Office) have gone on strike.

The General President of Tez-Koop-Is, Kenan Gürbüz has started the strike by wearing the "strike-watchman" shirt, first in general headquarters of TMO in Ankara.

On the other hand, the employer has announced lock-out against the strike in TMO. Later, Tez-Koop-Is Trade Union, organized a press conference, and declared that they protested the lock-out decision.

THE ILLEGAL OBSTACLE AGAINST THE UNIONISING RIGHT OF THE WORKERS

All though the application of employing contractual personnel is put on the agenda of Constitution Court, it becomes widespread day by day. Some workers of PTT complained that they are threatened by being dismissed and complained about restraints over them. In some PTT branches these illegal restraints continue with some official documents as it is seen in PTT.

It is given writing to the drivers, who work in Motorized Vehicles Administrations of PTT, for being transferred from the statues of worker to the statues of contractual personnel. Those are who do not accept these orders are dismissed.

AGREEMENT FOR 10.000 WORKERS

The contract was signed for 10.000 Citan workers. The collective labour contract has signed between the union of Public Administrations Employers and Cimse-Is Trade Union yesterday in Ankara.

This contract has signed for 22 cement factories and 4 soil plants.

The general has made a declaration as follows: "We have taken a rise in wages over 200 % within two years. It was not enough against the continuing rise in prices."

THE PRESIDENTS COMMITTEE OF YOL-IS HAS PUBLISHED A COMMON BULLETIN

The presidents committee of Yol-Is Trade Union has suggested that "the labourers has been slaved" in the common declaration that was published yesterday; and it is pointed out that although both the government and capitalists continuously attack on the labour class, they succeeded in organising a complete unity and cooperation for "food, peace, freedom" and "democracy", and it is said that "everything has reached the limit"

SYNDICAL FREEDOM FOR EEC

The European Trade Union Congress (ETUC) Executive Board claimed that Turkey can't enter the EEC if continuing the serious restrictions on basic syndical rights and freedoms.

ETUC Executive Board said that, "Turkish Government, still, have not been paid due attention to the wishings of international organizations and have been continued to protect the worths which creating by september 12, Militarist Administration in this way, " in their explanation.

Önder Aker, Türk-İş representative who spoken in the meeting said that, "Turkey undertook that will realize syndical rights and freedoms in the way acceptable to ILO in 1986-1987, but the government avoid to do that. "Türk-İş representative continued his words, it is tried to be settled that impression of syndical freedom

with last moment law changing, but it was only as a make-up.

SHP Representative Ismail Hakkı Önal who attended to the meeting behalf on DISK which closed on 12 Eylül Operation also pointed that during the discussions about Changings of Trade Unions, Collective Labor Contracts and Strike and Lock-out Laws in the Grand National Assembly of Turkey the opposition was always obstructed by the government.

At the result of discussions in ETUC Executive Board was decided to applied pressure to Turkey because of restricted basic syndical rights and freedoms. In the decision in writing mentioned about of continuing eight years of DISK Action to be called to the organizations which Turkey is member of them apply pressure for come right frame of principles which undertook

DIFFICULTY AGAINST WARNING MARCH

Union branch directors were stopped by the police in İzmit trying to march with the demand that the Türk-İş administration to fight more efficiently. Six union members were placed under police supervision.

With the intention of protesting the government manners against labour, and also Türk-İş administration for a more efficient fight for labour rights, many branch administrators wanted to march in June 23rd, 1988. From the unions connected with Türk-İş, the Kocaeli branch of Harb-İş union, the Kocaeli and Hereke branches of Çimse-İş union, the Gebze branch of Kristal-İş, Kocaeli branch of Tümtiş union, Gebze and Kocaeli branches of Petrol-İş, Sakarya branch of Belediye-İş, Kocaeli and Hereke branches of Teksif Union, and the Sakarya branch of Tes-İş,

protested Türk-İş administration, and the government manners.

The actions were held in the Adapazarı and E-5 İzmit road. İzzet Çetin, Hüseyin Miralay, Bahtiyar Demir, Bekir Yurdağül, Cemil Şimşek and Zihni Taştemur, placed under police supervision by the Sakarya Red-Hand courts were decided to be freed afterwards. Türk-İş area representative Halil Güloğlu said the decision would not tie Türk-İş, since it was made by the union branch directors.

Police authorities said that the march was unlawful. The freed union branch members that are connected with Türk-İş in their common explanation stated that they marched in order to protest Türk-İş for not showing a serious effort against the laws that limit the fundamental fights and freedoms of the labour.

THE TURK-IS GENERAL PRESIDENT ŞEVKET YILMAZ HAD A HEART ATTACK

The Turk-İs General President Şevket Yılmaz, being taken in Istanbul, and being clinically checked by a group of doctors from Houston-USA. Despite the fact that the angiogram showed no significant illness in the heart, he seemed to be exhausted at the visit of ISHA correspondent. He made a declaration to the labourers, and said: "I wish to all the labourers a healty life, and to go on the struggle; the victory will be the labourers" President General Şevket Yılmaz showed a nervous reaction for the opposing unionists brought strange comments to his heart illness, for his illness took place in the very before of the Turk-

İs meeting of General Assembly; and for the Minister of Labour and Social Security, İmren Aykut, said that he was "playing tricks". Mr. Yılmaz said:

"Is it humanistic to accuse a man who's got a grove illness, by playing tricks? Her Prime Minister's playing tricks in fact, and they, themself ves. All the members of the Government playing tricks, it would make a great success and money if ever they all gathered to make a picture in soap operas I suppose. I turned out to be a heart-patient just in the struggle of my labouring brothers' rights, against this Government."