

Albert Fonó, "The proletarian dictatorship and the engineers," *Magyar Mérnök- és Építész-Egylet Közlönye* 53 no. 13 (1919): 97.

The first People's Council of the Hungarian proletarian republic has instructed the citizenry to support the proletariat with all its strength.

I think I may answer on behalf of most engineers in what follows, both on behalf of those engineers who regard themselves as proletarian and those who regard themselves as citizens.

We eagerly regard the goal which the People's Council has undertaken to implement, the creation of a society in which all working people live in the best possible conditions, quite independent of any circumstance which has heretofore secured privileged opportunities to succeed.

In order to attain the greatest general welfare—assuming equitable distribution of goods—the greatest possible number [of goods] must be produced.

Raw materials and the means of production are needed for productive work, where the means of production are the products of finished work and consumed raw materials. For intensive¹ production we must therefore secure raw material, put as many means of production to work as possible, and have every person produce [*produkál*] the most valuable [goods] for the public in qualitative and quantitative terms.

Securing raw materials is a political task for us. We trust that success will be complete.

The means of production are in part at our disposal; proper management of production is needed in order to provide for the development of means of production at such a scale that from now on we will be able to attain with the least possible work that which until now we have gotten at the cost of great self-sacrificing work, if in the future we really want to achieve in full measure the human ideals which the People's Council, too, has inscribed on its banner.

The work that lies ahead is enormous.

We must restore what the world war has destroyed, make up for what we have failed to do, and above and beyond this we have to accomplish so much more: we must produce enough assets that along with fair distribution we can satisfy everyone's growing demands. What is more, we have to finish this great work with the dilapidated means of production resulting from the war.

We can only solve this enormous problem if everyone works as much as he can on the one hand, and if he finishes the kind of work which from the public's point of view is the most valuable. (The right man on the right place.) [sic: English]

Regarding the future we need proper education in order to provide for a high-quality workforce at our disposal.

At present double the work awaits those who can do high-quality work.

¹ "Intensive" in the economist's sense of employing greater capital and labor rather than increasing scope (cf. "extensive").

Enormous tasks await the engineering branch as well. Abundant work opportunities present themselves to every trained engineer. It follows from the nature of the matter that among intellectual workers the engineer's planning, preparatory, organizing, and economizing work will be needed. In this society the engineer will thus find a deserved opportunity for work and advancement.

The engineering profession [sic: *a mérnökség*] thus gladly suits itself to the new social order, because it knows that its valuable work will be valued accordingly, by suitable compensation on the one hand, and by offering a way for the public to utilize its knowledge on the other hand and not to have to fritter away labor power preventing incompetent and ill-directed measures, as often happened with capitalist production and as can happen with socialist production—especially at the beginning—if the organization is not perfect.

We are aware that political relations have made urgent the kind of social transformation which in other relations would have taken years to prepare, particularly with the regular teaching of the proletariat.

The new social order also cannot be perfect until we make up for the failures committed in the domain of people's education, until the average cultural level of the proletariat has reached the level of today's cultured bourgeoisie.

In the domain of teaching as well the engineering profession wants to play its part in the work. Every engineer is duty bound and happy to instruct all those with whom it is working together.

In order for everyone to produce [*produkál*] the maximum in quantity and quality that he is capable of producing [*termelni képes*], he has to work with ambition, he has to be a partner of the result of the work, and what is more, the finished work, in the ratio of quantity and quality.

Socialist society must be constituted so that it is in everyone's interest to produce the greatest possible value into his old age. It is not so essential how we solve this, but it must be solved if we want to achieve the greatest possible general welfare.

The engineering profession trusts that the People's Council will properly solve this problem, too, and at the same time it offers up its services for the great organizational work, as the kind of working wing of society which deals vocationally with organization.