

Srečo Dragoš

THE POLITICAL HISTORY OF POVERTY IN SLOVENIA

(PART II)

Sociologist Dr. Srečo Dragoš is assistant lecturer of sociology at University of Ljubljana School of Social Work.

The main reasons for the emergence of great poverty of the working class in the period between the world wars in Slovenia cannot be sought in exploitation as a necessary consequence of an »inherent logic« of the capitalist economy. In Slovenia, the worst poverty indeed coincides with the consolidation of capitalism, but this doesn't mean it was caused by the capitalist economical system. Therefore, poverty also could not have been abolished by the rejection of capitalism, as was demanded by both communist and catholic actors of the time. The author argues that its emergence was conditioned by the combination of four elements: (1) the split of political actors, which grew into an irreconcilable conflict, (2) the blocking of the syndicate movements through the monopolisation of the political space, mainly by official Catholicism, (3) overattachment of syndicates to political parties and (4) dysfunctional interventions of the state into the relation between work and capital.

Damjan Korošec

PROFESSIONAL CONFIDENTIALITY IN SLOVENIAN LEGISLATION
BETWEEN THE PROHIBITION AND THE OBLIGATION OF DATA DISCLOSURE

Lawyer Damjan Korošec is assistant lecturer at Chair of criminal-law science of University of Ljubljana Faculty of Law and Head of Council of Europe Basic Library of Human Rights at University of Ljubljana Faculty of Law.

The author approaches the problem of professional and official secrets from the standpoint of penal law. The reasons for incrimination of their disclosure and of the failure to report a criminal offence are cited, as viewed from the standpoint of the human rights doctrine in contemporary material criminal law. Particular attention is paid to the relation among the criminal offences of unauthorised disclosure of a professional secret, disclosure of official secret and failure to report a criminal offence or offender, according to the processual provisions of the Penal Code of the Republic of Slovenia concerning the privilege of silence of certain witnesses. In analysing the core of those criminal offences and unlawfulness, the paper discloses several paradoxes and points out the different criminal law positions of individual professions or work posts with regard to the obligation of the protection of secrets and the reporting of criminal offences.

Tanja Lamovec

THE GOALS AND ACTIVITIES OF EUROPEAN PSYCHIATRY USERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Psychologist Dr. Tanja Lamovec is professor at University of Ljubljana Faculty of Art, Department of Psychology, and chairperson of the Advocacy section of ALTRA - Association for innovations in mental health.

A short survey of the development of European psychiatry users' movement is presented as an introduction to the results of a research whose purpose was to determine the goals, the activities and the circumstances in which the users' associations have been established. A content analysis is performed on the info sheets that the delegates of the 2nd European Conference of Users and Ex-users in Mental Health (Denmark, 1994) handed out. 23 European associations were analysed.

ABSTRACTS

In conclusion, some crucial dilemmas of users' associations are pointed out and attempts were made at their resolution. The issues of power, equality, responsibility and the scope of changes they should aspire to achieve are mentioned. As for the last issue, the suggestion would be: Think big but proceed in small steps.

Peter Stefanoski

CONSIDERATIONS ON THE PROFESSIONAL BASES FOR THE WORK WITH DRUG USERS AT CENTRES OF SOCIAL WORK

Social worker Peter Stefanoski works at Centre of Social Work Ljubljana Šiška with the people in distress which involves the use of alcohol and illegal drugs. He is therapist in a club of treated alcoholics. Under the title »Who's afraid of drugs?«, he lectures to parents and teachers at Slovenian elementary and secondary schools. He also holds a 24 hour workshop of the same title for teachers.

In his considerations of what are the premises of social work with drug users, the author does not seek its goals and methods in »specific characteristics« of drug users but in the discourse of social work and in the methods of professional conduct and principles of social work, and offers some practical directions for work with drug-users at centres of social work.

Viktorija Bevc

PREPARING SPOUSES FOR SUBSTITUTE PARENTHOOD IN THE PROGRAMME OF PREVENTIVE AID TO CHILDREN

Social worker Viktorija Bevc has years of experience in the field of adoption. She is head of the project of preventive aid to children at »Deteljica«, association of adoptive families of Slovenia.

The Code on Marriage and Family Relations legally defines the conditions of child adoption but does not mention the contents. Here, the profession of social work steps in, seeking the appropriate forms of helping the couples who wish to adopt or foster a child. The author presents her work with substitute (adoptive or foster) parents in the project of preventive aid to children under the umbrella of the association of adoptive families »Deteljica«. The project consists of a programme of preparing childless spouses who wish to adopt a child to their future situation. The circumstances that gave rise to the need of the programme and the practice of group work are described. The results of her work are presented, including the realisation that the search of suitable parents cannot be effective if reduced to talking with the couple alone or to visiting them at their home.