

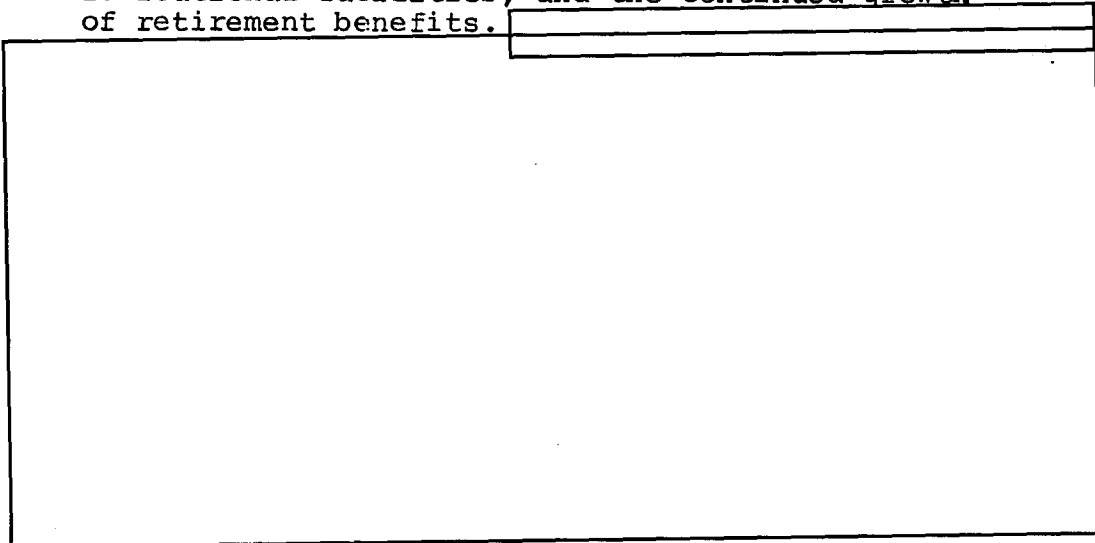
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Czechoslovakia: A recent plenary session of the Trade Union Central Council decided that the unions would, for the first time, exercise their political power separately from the party. Acting in effect as a new political pressure group, trade unions intend to put up candidates in general elections and will participate in the new policy-making National Economic Council. Trade unions will help to establish elected workers' councils in enterprises, thereby gaining a role in management.

When reduced working hours are put into effect this fall, the trade unions plan to take steps to prevent a reduction in real income. Unions are also becoming more active in social matters, helping to formulate and promote legislation providing for increased allowances for children, expanded recreational facilities, and the continued growth of retirement benefits.

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