

HEINRICH SENFFT In Honour of Erich Kuby

Shortly after his death, Erich Kuby (1910-2005) was awarded the Tucholsky prize. This text is the laudatory speech delivered by Heinrich Senfft. Senfft reflects back on the courageous life of the journalist Kuby, and asks: Are there any more of these archaic beings? Is anyone listening? So that something changes? So that not everything goes down the drain? Who still wants to scream and be heard, so that, at the least, most of what was attained, is preserved, to prevent the situation from getting worse?

HEINZ-J. BONTRUP Economic Democracy Rather than Shareholder Capitalism

Despite all of the trade union struggles that have been fought, the parliamentary-democratic structures of the welfare state collide with an autocratic and paternalistic economic power structure. Since the early nineties, the situation has become even worse. As a consequence of radical liberalization, national domestic policy is being entirely determined by the markets. Only through democratisation of the economy, the author says, will there be a transformation toward a social society for working people.

STEFAN SJÖBERG Collective Accumulation of Capital in the Hands of the Workers

The worker's movement in capitalist societies knows two ways to fight for economic democracy: the one aims at participation in decision-making, while maintaining capitalist ownership; the other challenges private ownership itself. The author reflects upon various efforts undertaken in Sweden and Germany to create worker's collective ownership, as a means of winning a higher degree of participation in the decision-making processes.

MICHAEL OPIELKA Justice Through Social Policy?

Referring to John Rawls' »Theory of Justice« the author discusses the possibilities for truly attaining social – and more generally, political – justice through social policies. He describes various views and models, and pleads, in the end, for the concept of »guarantism«, which – by resuming the basic civil rights – »guarantees« the social participation of all. Switzerland's »Citizen's Insurance« could serve as an example of such »guarantism«, as could also the demand for a »basic income«.

KATJA KIPPING, MICHAEL OPIELKA,
BODO RAMELOW
Thesis for a New Social State

»Realists« often discredit social politics as »illusionary«. To describe another approach, the authors, a scholar and two Left Party/PDS activists, present their concepts of a »New Social State«. Basically, it aims at replacing the German, wage-oriented insurance system, established in the period of Bismarck, with a modern »citizen's insurance«, which should be combined with an »integrated basic income«.

DIETER ZAHN
Basic Income Must Be Needs Oriented

The German government's Second Report on Poverty clearly indicates that poverty is increasing in the country. This, explains the author, is why concepts of basic income must be given higher priority. New structures for social security are necessary. Also necessary is to eliminate the repressive aspects currently characteristic of these structures and to seek solutions to the diverse needs of various groups in the population, some, completely excluded from the work process, others, receiving a sub-subsistent wage.

TOBIAS SCHULZE
The Internet and Brecht's Radio Theory

Following the innovation of new technical means of communication, a discussion develops about their political significance. A good example is Brecht's Radio Theory. It has always been a question of what role these new means of communication can play in promoting social change? The author presents an explicitly materialist approach to the internet, as both a means of communication and a means of production, which he finds has too long been neglected.

FRITZ KLEIN
A Case Study of Special Appeal
On the Biography of Wolfgang Steinitz

The author reflects upon the book »Ich hatte unwahrscheinliches Glück« (I was incredibly lucky), which presents different texts concerning the outstanding (East) German scholar, Wolfgang Steinitz (1905-1967). Linguists, sociologists, historians and folklorists regard him as an exceptional teacher and colleague and, with his background as member of the German intelligentsia and a Jewish communist, his life could provide a particularly appealing case study of the history of 20th century sciences.