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RIAPERTURA ANNO SCOLASTICO - 1968

Italy : New Scholastic Year Starts in Unprecedented Chaos

Anew, another scholastic year has started in Italy in a traditional -one would say by now - chaotical situation. The actual and more serious problems are those of the right to get basical school-education or not, and of authoritative actions from the part of the government, facts that have proved themselves more grave than ever this present year, mainly because of the augmentation of the school-age children. This can be easily recognizable by the long queues formed by parents before schools at inscription-time.

The school obligation-law has been respected in 1966-1967 by 86% of the boys and 78 % of the girls (as it is clearly illustrated in our scheme).

There are immense differences, as far as this fact is concerned, between city- and rural-population, between bourgeois- and workers-families in the cities themselves. We have recently visited one of the working-class sections of a big Italian city and have interviewd some youngsters. One young waiter told us:

Q.: How old are you ?

A.: Seventeen.

Q.: At what age did you start working ?

A.: At the age of twelve.

Q.: How many hours do you work daily ?

A.: Well, I don't know exactly, 13, 14, 16. I really can't tell precisely.

The children of workers, peasants and small-bourgeois who succeed in proceeding with further studies after basical schooling; are frequently obliged to "choose" well-determined types of schools, which can offer them a subaltern type of education: professional schools and technical institutes, so to say.

Those are the answers of a group of young persons after graduation/:

Q./: For joy what have been the motives for such a choice ?

A. / For myself the motives have been to improve my situation. I am working already.

A; : I thought that after obtaining a diploma I could be more independent. Before I worked and at the same time followed my studies.

A. : I think that technical-schools should in realitu be schools of the avantgarde.

In contrary now, people look down upon graduates from technical-schools and consider higher graduates from technical and classical high-schools.

In fact those visiting classical- and scientific high-schools come most of the time from privileged, socially, families.

At the University hardly a 13% of the students that enter come from workers- and peasant-families, and from those only a low 7% succeed in graduating.

Authoritative actions are most frequent than elsewhere at Italian Universities.

A most significant fact is that at the University of Rome iron-bars have been placed on the windows of the University buildings.

The struggle for effective guarantees for the right to basical schooling for all children makes an integral part of a more general struggle for a general and radical change in the struggle for a democratic and socialist society.-

8/10/68

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