

Marxist scholar discusses Yugoslavian experiment

By Charlene Bell
Of the Emerald

Yugoslavia is a country standing precariously at the political crossroads, a political and social guinea pig in the Eastern Bloc, according to Yugoslavian scholar Zagorka Golubovic.

It is a country carrying out an ongoing experiment in socialism, she says.

Speaking to students at a campus lecture Tuesday, Golubovic, said the world must examine this experiment through critical eyes and not fall back on a modern tendency to categorize so-called "socialist" countries into a clear-cut, geophysical and political mold.

Attempts to categorize Yugoslavia into a convenient mold are doomed to fail because of the uniqueness of the "Yugoslavian experiment," Golubovic said.

Golubovic's talk was titled "Socialism in Global Perspective: The Case of Yugoslavia," and was sponsored by the Russian and East European Studies Center, the Womens' Studies Center, and the EMU Cultural Forum.

A noted international scholar in sociology, and cultural anthropology, Golubovic is considered an expert in studies of Marxism and the political systems and societies of East Europe.

Not limiting her studies to scholarly research, she also has been an active participant of the Marxist group Praxis International. While teaching at the summer school of philosophy in Korcula in 1968, Golubovic was dismissed for political reasons and now works at the Institute for Social Sciences at the University of Belgrade.

According to Golubovic, Yugoslavs, like the independent-minded Poles, are not satisfied to live with the modified brand of Socialism that Moscow so willingly offers.

In 1948, Yugoslavia, which had been living under Soviet socialism since the end of World War II, finally broke with Moscow and left the Soviet Bloc. The break enabled Yugoslavs to look at the market system as a means of making production more efficient.

But the Yugoslavs found it hard to come to terms with bureaucratic logic, Golubovic said, and the policies of a centralized government left over from previous Soviet influence.

With this in mind, Yugoslavs in the early 1950s organized a unique and authentic liberation movement in the form of workers' councils which fought for worker self-management in the face of government control.

As the movement gathered momentum and support, the workers made strides in breaking the grip of centralized government control, an unwelcome result of post-war socialism borrowed from the Soviets. As a result, Yugoslavian workers gained control of the organization and results of production, control and distribution of 30 percent of earned income as well as regulation of personal income, and the right to control hiring on the job.

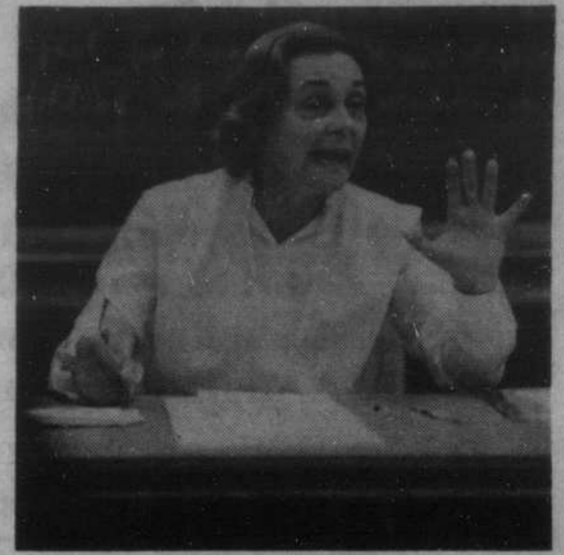
Yet unlike their Polish counterparts, Yugoslavian workers are not enjoying the benefits of self-management or a grass roots, worker-organized campaign headed by a Lech Walesa figure. This may be the reason that the fruits of their victory in 1952 are today somewhat bitter, Golubovic said.

All changes in Yugoslavian working conditions were brought about at the hands of the government and the Communist party.

As a result, an ironic "Catch-22" has prevented this "socialism at the shop level" from actually joining together the economic and political needs of the workers, she said.

"Any attempt to solve all problems from the top will produce completely unrealistic planning, as still is the case with the Soviet Union," Golubovic said.

"One cannot take full advantage of par-



Zagorka Golubovic

ticipation in economic planning if not allowed to decide vital, that is political issues," she said.

Golubovic said that one must equally take into account the failures as well as achievements of the Yugoslavian experiment as well as rely on the teaching of Marxian socialism, because this gives an opportunity to critically approach the question of socialism in Yugoslavia.

Watt must decide for himself; Reagan won't ask him to resign

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Reagan says he'll let James Watt decide for himself whether he should quit as interior secretary.

Reagan, asked in an interview with the New York Post if he thought Watt could still function as a member of the president's Cabinet, said, "I think that's a decision that he himself will have to make — whether he feels he has made it questionable as to whether he can be effective or not."

Discussing Watt's characterization of several appointees as "a black, ... a woman, two Jews and a cripple," Reagan commented in

the Monday interview:

"I think in all fairness we have to recognize that, yes, it was a very improper thing to say. But it certainly was not said in the sense of any bitterness or bigotry or prejudice.

"If I thought he was bigoted or prejudiced, he wouldn't be part of our administration."

While Watt has gained some breathing room on Capitol Hill in the battle to keep his job, the criticism over his latest controversial remark and his environmental policies shows no sign of abating.

Watt came under renewed fire

today from two congressional critics of his coal leasing program. Sen. Dale Bumpers, D-Ark., and Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., told the Commission on Federal Coal Leasing that Watt was ignoring the current over-supply of coal and glutted market to press forward with coal sales that have cost taxpayers \$100 million.

"The public and Congress can only assume that the department is more interested in protecting the interests of the coal industry than the interests of taxpayers," Bumpers said.

For his part, Watt continued to remain out of the public eye.

New deans appointed to Arts and Sciences

Two new associate deans have been appointed in the College of Arts and Sciences at the University, Dean Robert Berdahl announced.

Don Van Houten, sociology professor, was appointed associate dean for academic personnel. John Orbell, political science professor, was named associate dean for undergraduate studies.

Van Houten, who replaces geology professor Dan Weill, has been a member of the faculty since 1968. He served as head of the sociology department from 1975-78 and has been a member of the Deans Advisory Committee and the Faculty Personnel Committee.

He received his bachelor's degree from Oberlin College in Ohio in 1958 and his doctorate from the University of Pittsburgh in 1967.

Orbell, who replaces English professor Joseph Hynes, has been a member of faculty since 1967 and chaired the political science department from 1976-79. He has been director of the Institute for Social Science Research and has served on various University committees.

Orbell received his bachelor's degree from the University of Auckland in New Zealand in 1957 and his doctorate from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in 1965.

Weill is accepting a two-year appointment as manager of basic energy research in geosciences for the U.S. Department of Energy after serving one year as associate dean. Hynes, who has been associate dean for three years, will be on sabbatical during this school year.



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