

4. Eli is being very optimistic when he says that a better mobilization of the "high yield of savings" (p. 132) would free Korea of "foreign creditors". Eli doesn't even explain why and how money is saved in Korea, nor where the money saved is channelled to.

All in all, this work is thoroughly readable literature for all those who would like to get an idea of the Korean economy since 1962-63. However, in no case can it be considered a successful analysis of the Korean economy, since there are too many deficiencies, inexactitudes, and scarcely any formulation of questions.

Sung-Jo Park

PARK YOUNG-KI: *Labour and Industrial Relations in Korea: System and Practice*. Seoul: Institute for Labour and Management, 1979. 189 pages, \$ 6.00.

(To be ordered from: Institute for Labour and Management, Segang University, G. P. O. Box 1142, Seoul, Korea)

The Republic of Korea has become well-known for its remarkable growth rates, but equally renowned for its notorious violations of human rights, particularly the basic rights of workers. Long working hours, bad working conditions and wages at the bare subsistence minimum have guaranteed the inflow of foreign capital and rapidly expanding exports. Even extreme examples of 19th century Manchester type capitalism have become known, such as the case of the Dong-il Company, which last year hired a gang of thugs who threw human excrement at trade union members, rubbing it into the hair, ears and mouths of women workers and injuring 70 of them. So what actually is the labour scene in such a country?

Park Young-ki, a Korean professor of labour management at the Catholic Sogang University in Seoul, recently published a book in English which analyses legal aspects and the practice of labour and industrial relations in the country. Park is a well-known expert in the field. He has been training trade union and business leaders alike for years, and at present serves as a member of the Korean Central Labour Committee, which settles disputes between labour and management and is the ultimate decision-making body in the absence of collective bargaining.

The first part of the monograph presents background information on the political, social and economic setting. The second part explains the relevant

government machinery and the legislation which affects labour. This is followed by a presentation of the manner in which workers and employers organize themselves, functional aspects of these organizations, and the statutory machinery for the settlement of industrial disputes. Many of the labour laws are not applied due to emergency decrees and the enterprises can thus circumvent existing regulations easily. This becomes clear in the fourth part of the book, which describes the prevailing personnel practices and the employment conditions at the plant level. Here recent figures on wages, working hours, industrial accidents etc. are provided. An appendix with English versions of important labour legislation is attached.

The author is careful in his own assessments, for the book was published under martial law conditions and had to pass the censor. It offers, however, comprehensive factual information, and the facts speak for themselves. The book can only be highly recommended to all those who want to inform themselves about the labour aspects of the Korean "economic miracle". It has, however, to be read carefully, and if the author writes (p. 118) that union-management relationships did not deteriorate due "... to the intensive care and close attention exercised by government", the reader does of course not know what the author actually means. However, the reviewer himself recalls at once the intensive care and close attention (i. e. complete control, intimidation, harassment, imprisonment of leaders, etc., etc.), which workers have received from the Korean Central Intelligence Agency for so many years.

Rolf D. Baldus

HANS-DIETER ROTH: Institutioneller Agrarkredit und traditionelle Schuldverhältnisse - Distrikt Dhanbad/Bihar (Indien), (Institutional rural credit and traditional debt relationships - district Dhanbad/Bihar, India). (Beiträge zur Südasiens-Forschung, Südasiens-Institut, Universität Heidelberg, Nr. 46). Wiesbaden: Franz Steiner Verlag, 1978, 364 pages (English summary).

This book results from empirical fieldwork in three villages in the coal district of Dhanbad and analyses primary and long-term agricultural credit. After a description of natural and agricultural conditions in the region, the research methods are dealt with. Then, in part II, the empirical findings are reproduced and commented on with respect to institutional, cooperative credit. In two of the three villages cooperative credit has not been able to influence