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ZSUZSA FERGE:

A CRITICAL ASSESSMENT OF THE SOCIAL LAW

A proposal for the coming Social Law was put on debate in a former issue of *Esély* (5/1991). Since that time the new Social Law has improved in many respects and has come close to Western European standards. There are however some „holes” in the concept, as well. The author analyses in detail the weaknesses of the new concept like the absence of adequate provisions for those who are not entitled to insurance-based benefits, and the still unsolved problem of young unemployed, just to mention some of the most important ones. The author points out that the modifications of the former concept have contributed to a better satisfaction of needs and interests of the users of the system.

IMRE LENGYEL:

OUR DEBTS AND CREDITS

The author gives a sophisticated picture about the indebtedness of the population living in the depression zones of the country. As it has become well-known by now, the number of people being indebted and the rate of unemployment is at least three times higher in the Northern-Eastern region of the country than in the more developed parts of Hungary. The workless population largely consists of unskilled workers who have slim chances to find a job in the neighbourhood of their homes due to the industrial, infrastructural and cultural underdevelopment of the territory and the lack of educational possibilities.