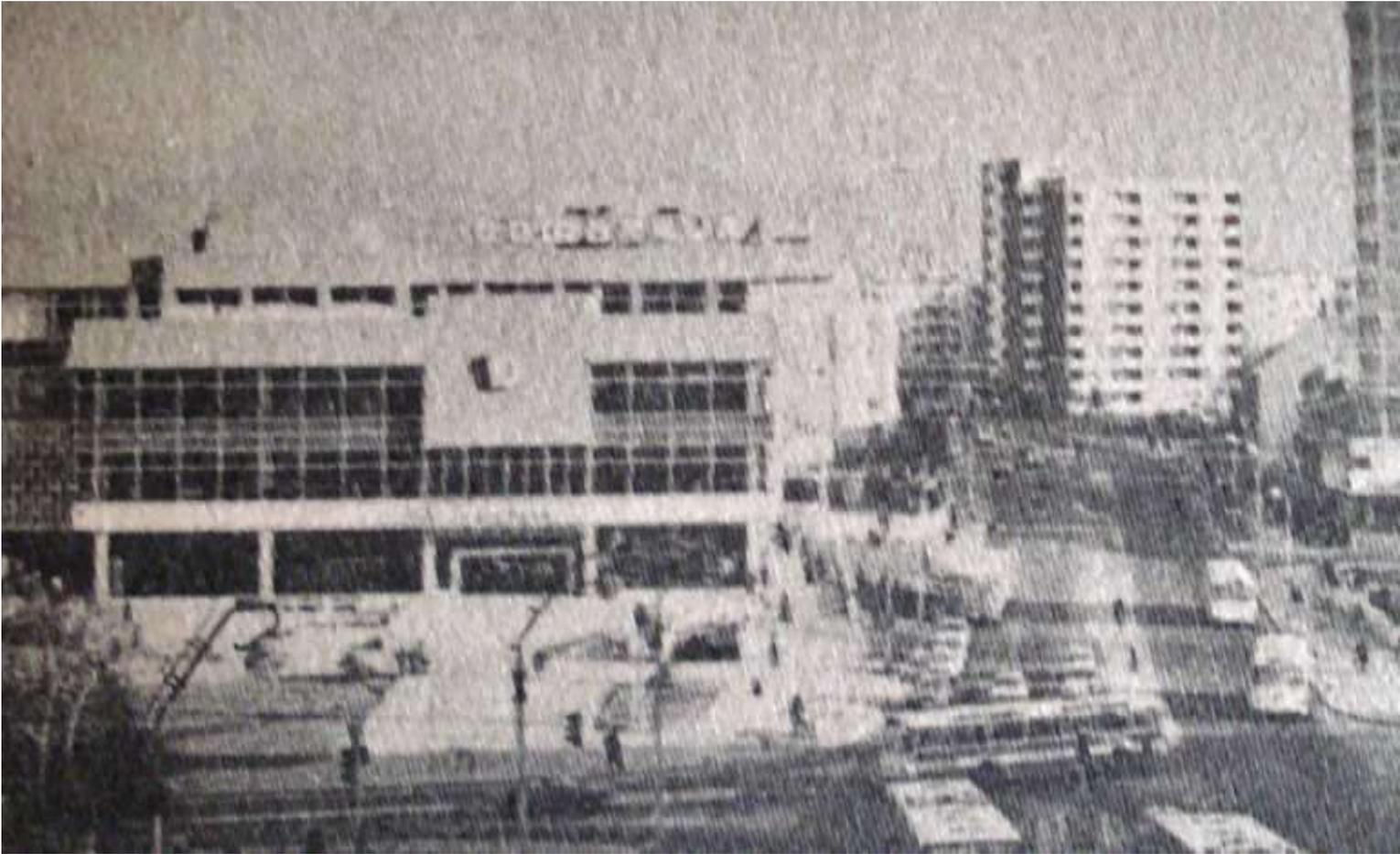


Communist Sibiu's factories and factories are now only memories and history. "At that time, Independence was recognized as the country's chief mechanic"

by **Ramona Găină**, March 22, 2013



Thousands of employees, export, the only weighing plant in Romania, fabrics appreciated throughout Europe, components for the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, a leather goods factory that exported \$ 14 million per year. There are only a few of the companies that have placed Sibiu since 1989 in the first 10 cities in Romania in terms of industry.

Thousands of people went to work every morning in the standard factories and factories of the city that was, and during the communist period, one of the best developed in Romania.

"The industry in Sibiu was one of the first 10 industries, as far as I can remember, it was very well developed and I remember that the industry was very supportive during that period of agriculture, and every big factory or big factory also had a CAP", says Teodor Ancea, now a renowned businessman and former chairman of the Sibiu Stock Exchange, at the time managing several agricultural units in Sibiu County.

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The county had everything, from leather goods, fabrics or carpets, to enterprises that produced scales or parts for the Cernavoda nuclear power plant.

"It was the Mârșa plant that produced scales, trailers, exported 100-ton and 160-ton scales all over the world, what size that plant had taken, it was Independence that also produced for the Cernavoda nuclear power plant, they made a lot of parts for other industries, as well as Compa.

Balanța, care era singura fabrică din țară care producea cântare, a dispărut, una dintre cele mai mari a fost 13 Decembrie, de marochinărie, exporta de 14 milioane de dolari pe an, Flaro, care făceau stilouri, pixuri, componente pentru industrie, Mondexul era și atunci printre cele mai renumite fabrici de ciorapi, Drapelul Roșu – tricotatele, Retezatul care făceau tot felul de piese, tot componente pentru industrie, Libertatea, cu cea mai bună stofă, Steaua Roșie care împreună cu Libertatea produceau stofă de cea mai bună calitate în Europa aproape, renumite, Steaua Roșie lucra pentru Germania.

In the Romanian industry, at that time, all the procedural cycles were closed, from the raw material to the finished product, no raw materials were sold. There were thousands of employees in each, there was no unemployment at that time, and Sibiu was a closed city, then you couldn't even get a Sibiu report card, you couldn't enter Sibiu unless you were from Sibiu or through a competition, I know that you had no chance unless you were from Sibiu to come in to work ", recalls the Sibiu businessman.

Memories about "Romanian enterprises"

In an office on Andrei Şaguna Street, two stories flow between smiles of nostalgia, memories and, discreetly, a tear in the corner of the eye when the story reaches a huge hall from which there is only a wall that can be seen running away, from the window of a bus. Constantin Carauleanu is 73 years old and worked for 28 years in the Independence Foundry. From the beginning, dry up my sentence with communist enterprises.

"We do not rely on the idea of communist enterprises, the enterprises of the Romanians were, because everyone, regardless of whether we were party members or not, that we were nomenclaturists, that we were not, were our enterprises. Independence, under our eyes, has grown, developed and produced machine tools, many products of great importance for the national economy and especially, lately, for the Cernavoda units. In 1989, we were working on parts for unit 4 from Cernavoda in different sections ", recalls the former foreman.

In 1962, when he was hired, he found 5,000 employees. In the year of the Revolution, they had reached almost 8,500. "It was a hall and now there is a wall left - to destroy it completely and to give it to scrap metal and to leave another wall in the former Cazangerie, this seems to me **a crime against the national economy**",

says firmly Constantin Carauleanu.

His colleague and lifelong friend, Gheorghe Georgescu, aged 72, worked at Independence for 31 years, all at Cazangerie.

"Equipment for the chemical industry, for the cement factories we made in Cazangerie, for the energy industry, all the pipeline that exists for hydropower plants was made in Cazangerie. At that time, all the prototypes of equipment that entered the country were made at Independence. At that time, **Independence was recognized as the chief mechanic of the country** ", says Georgescu.

His department worked in the proportion of 65 percent for export, the Foundry 25-30 percent. Now, in the rush of the bus, he sees the remains "**of 4 halls - a wall**" and admits that sometimes he wipes away a tear in passing. And when he visits groups of pensioners in the capital, at the People's House, he never forgets to tell them that many of the things there were done in Sibiu.

"The metal construction of the People's House, in part, was made in the Boiler Department. Every time I go and visit my retired colleagues, I tell them the Palace of Parliament - the chandeliers there are made at Vitrometan Mediaş, the curtains and drapes are made by hand at monasteries in Sibiu County, the carpets are also from Cisnădie ", says Gheorghe Georgescu.

Survivors

Few of the famous communist factories survived in Sibiu. Compa is a successful example, but with the involvement of a German investor, Steaua Roşie is doing well, also with German private capital, Mondex has remained on the market.

"I think the march has about 50 employees, so it is for liquidation, Independence does not, Compa goes, the Germans came with Bilstein, Libra is no more, December 13 the same, Freedom is over, Red Star is going, there are German investors, everything is private, there is nothing Romanian anymore. I think that in total none of them has, apart from Compa, more than 5-10 percent of what it had, **that industry that produced died** ", concludes the businessman Teodor Ancuţa.