

way that no state organ may exercise state power without or independent from the people's representations. This is guaranteed by constitutional law by the unity between the taking of decisions and the exercise of the people's will and by the connection between central state guidance and self-responsibility of the regulation of social life on the territory by the local People's Representations. Based on this position of the people's representations is laid down a far-reaching system of the citizens' co-operation, their communities and social organizations in the shaping and realization of the public will. The explanations of the authors on the role of the factories, towns and municipalities in the system of the social and state structure are worth being underlined. Their constitutional legal drafting as self-responsible communities in which the citizens immediately or by the elected organs participate in the guidance of the social development corresponds with the aims of the socialist state to qualify and practically to enable all citizens to shape their productive activity and all their social relations consciously and by themselves.

On the Constitutional Legal Position of the Local People's Representations and their Organs

by Gerhard Schulze

As for the socialist social and state order as a whole the Draft Constitution of the GDR also shows the way of the local People's Representations for their further development in the process of completing the construction of socialism. It fixes the high level of democracy reached in the German Democratic Republic up to now and their pub-

lic legal function in the implementation of the developed social system of socialism.

The Draft Constitution starts from the fact that all state power is exercised by the People's Representations in the GDR and that they are the foundation of the whole system of state organs.

Their structure is based on the principle of democratic centralism which connects central public planning and administration of social basic questions with the self-responsible regulation of social life by the local People's Representations and their organs on the territories. The 9100 towns and municipalities are not simply administrative units but social communities of their citizens which create the necessary conditions to meet their material, social and cultural requirements better and better. They are guaranteed by the constitution.

This article contains the essential constitutional legal principles for the local People's Representations and their organs:

1. Starting from the unitary foundations of the socialist society the local People's Representations are drafted as units of the unitary system of state power. There are no contradictory interests — as in the imperialist system of rule — between the central organs of state but they have common basic interests. Their function is not comparable to the bourgeois self-government.

2. The local People's Representations hold their responsibility on the basis of the laws for all affairs concerning their territory and the citizens. Charged with responsibility they plan the development of the territory, have own revenues and determine their expenditure. For their organs and institutions — of the 40 000 social and cultural institutions of the GDR more than three-quarters are subordinated to the towns and municipalities — as well as for the assemblies, communities and citi-