

Basic Detail Report

A man standing in his car holding a placard

that reads 'we want to work eight hours, not as slaves'

Date

1969-1970

Medium

gelatin silver print

Description

Placard reads, "vogliamo lavorare 8 ore non come gli schiavi" [we want to work eight hours, not as slaves]. The Hot Autumn (autunno caldo in Italian) of 1969–1970 was a massive series of strikes in the factories and industrial centers of Northern Italy, during which workers demanded better pay and better conditions. Between 1969-1970 there were over 440 hours of strikes alone. The decrease in flow of labour migration from the South had resulted in nearly full employment levels in the North, meaning that the previously under-paid and unhappy workforce started to flex its muscles. Due to increased literacy levels and student discontent, students started agitating for reform and increased class consciousness. Workers joined in on this, and began to demand better pay. Many of them were being laid off because of increased efficiencies in factories. Not all of the workers demands for collective control were achieved, but more basic demands such as a 40 hour work week, and increased pay were

Dimensions

Overall: 30.7 x 21.2 cm (12 1/8 x 8 3/8 in.)