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Other serious abuses were committed recently in Labin, all at the expense of the optants. Money that departing optants had turned over to the Yugoslav People's Bank, in accordance with the Italo-Yugoslav agreements of August 1948, was arbitrarily held back. The withholding rate increased with the size of the deposit. One optant who had 200,000 dinars was obliged to turn over 96,000 to the district finance section, whereas for others, who turned over smaller sums, the withholding amount came to between 10 and 20 percent. The withholding rate is supposed to be one per 1,000.

OPTANT BEATEN -- Trieste, Messaggero Veneto, 22 Feb 51

Word was received yesterday of an assault on Vittorio Tonelli, an Istrian farmer who had hoped to return to Italy. A few hours after having been threatened by the People's Committee with 6 months of forced labor in the Arsia mine if he did not change his position, while returning home, he was assaulted by three masked men. They beat him mercilessly, threatened him with death, and accused him of being a propagandist against the People's authority and of having exercised the right of option. The man was seriously wounded. He will be required to leave for "voluntary labor" on the Lupoglavl-Stalje railroad line.

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