

August 25, 1959

KOLKHOZ CASH and CARRY OPERATORS

With the continued amalgamation of collective farms in the Soviet Union -- 59,200 farms in mid-year 1959 compared to 78,200 on January 1, 1958 -- new problems continue to arise for the harrassed kolkhoz managements to resolve. The skull-duggery and malfeasance in office of farm officials are a well documented pattern in the pages of the Soviet press. As the farms grow larger, so too are the tasks for decision making. The continued enlargement of the acreage and population of the farms combined with the decentralization in farm planning have created similar conditions of "gigantomania" that were characteristics of the huge State farms in the early period of Stalin's socialization of agriculture.

This phenomenon shows up most revealingly in the construction programs of the collective farms where amalgamation has been under forced draft. One area of the Soviet Union which has experienced this goal toward a communist social order in the countryside is the North Caucasus region. The attached appendix describes existing problems in Rostov oblast, a grain livestock region in the north Caucasus steppes. Rostov oblast was forced to amalgamate its collective farms from 999 in 1940 to 297 in 1956;<sup>1</sup> by 1959 they are still less. Two consecutive good harvests in the oblast brought unusual cash receipts into the expanded farms, but the "tens of millions ruble income" cited is in terms of gross cash income. These natural sums reinforced by the stiff check-off on peasant payments through the indivisible funds, have swelled capital cash resources and formed the basis for the undeniably big construction projects on the farms. The size of the funds have been a healthy windfall for private business operators who increasingly do business with the kolkhozy. They and the conniving cadres on the farms come up with some sharp practices that reach Gogolian heights.

The hilarious accounts of the market machinations of Egorlyksky raion between kolkhoz officials and the sharp grey-market operators must in no wise be mistaken for operations of backward kolkhozy in Byelorussia or Biisk. It illustrates the problems of implementing the transition from socialism to communism in the countryside where the aggressive elements have yet to be brought into harness after 40 years indoctrination. It is also an apt commentary on contemporary Soviet planning and distribution; let alone, what an irresistible bait big money is for private operators and Party officials alike.

CZ

---

<sup>1</sup> Narodnoye Kh. RSFSR 1956, p. 204.

## LOOTERS OF KOLKHOZ TILLS

Selskoye Khozyaistvo

15 August 1959

Collective farmers of Egorlyksky raion have achieved excellent indices in all branches of communal production. High yields of farm crops have been grown, animal husbandry has been successfully expanded, and a big construction program is underway. But the rich artels, those with incomes of tens of millions of rubles, are having their difficulties as all sorts of business operators (deltsy) and intriguers are being attracted, as flies are by honey, by the chance to make profits. They are attached to the farms by one-sided agreements, and slip into their pockets enormous sums of money.

One of these operators -- Rustovetz C. F. Dikov and two helpers last summer installed the steam heating plant "out of their own equipment" for the school and club-house of kolkhoz Kirov for 80,000 rubles. For the same job at kolkhoz "Passvet" they got 87,000 rubles. In this way Dikov and company were able to extract 250,000 rubles out of the kolkhoz treasuries in the raion in a short time! No wonder they were able not long ago to achieve a new "victory". Just where they were able to obtain privately the steam boilers, batteries, and many hundreds of meters of pipe is not known.

There is also active here no less an enterprising operator M. K. Embulaev, another Rostovetz and one who does not possess the habit of honestly working in any kind of a state enterprise. He has his own method "to make money". He is known on the collective farms as a man who can get any deficit materials in any amount. Last October he got hold somewhere a standard order form of the Rostov regional agricultural administration, wrote in the signature of the administrator and forged a letter to the chairman of the Council of Ministers, Armenian SSR. In such a manner Embulaev bought 8 diesel electro generators in Armenia for kolkhoz "Pobeda", for which he got over 13,000 rubles from the artel. Besides that, Kolkhozy Kirov and Passvet, whom artel "Pobeda" sold 5 electro-stations, transferred to Embulaev in Erevan 17,500 rubles of so-called "additional expenses" for purchase of the electro generators.

In the Egorlyksky kolkhozy there is an unwritten law for procuring deficit materials and equipment from private persons. Such purchases, correctly, are drawn up on the farms by unilateral acts. This does make for abuse of power, however. In the artel "Lenin" the farmer Tokarev, the deputy chairman Grinev, and even the chairman Semenisty all appropriated money to themselves.

Expeditor of the collective farm "Pobeda", Y. I. Markaryan, got a special order over 207,000 rubles for procuring



deficit materials and supplies in 1958-59 for which he made out fictitious orders. This plotter bought from somewhere a generator for 9,600 rubles, thousands of meters of electric wire, 828 meters pipe, motors, and other equipment for over 45,000 rubles. An even bigger case was with expeditor Tonopetyana, of Kirov kolkhoz, who took a special order over 420,000 rubles, of which 80,000 rubles were covered by fictitious documents.

According to incomplete data, Tonopetyan lived up almost 64,000 rubles of kolkhoz money. He didn't lose his head and along with the salesman (prodavets) of the artel Belyakov bought up 24,900 meters of subterranean cable from the Rostov radio construction and maintenance administration. He stuck about 19,000 rubles in his own pocket.

Yes, the sharp business operators in Egorlyksky raion are living high. This is because the authorities of the raion organizations, enraptured with the success of the raion, evidently are lacking in vigilance and are unaware that all kinds of plotters are looting the collective farms' tills.

V. Kulakov  
Chief bookkeeper Kolkhoz Accounts  
Rostov Oblast Agricultural Adm.  
Rostov-on-Don