

Agricultural Problems

Politburo member Edward Ochab has made a report on the current difficult situation in agriculture at a meeting of the parliamentary section of the PUWP, according to a UPI dispatch of April 13. He clearly stated that "this will, without a doubt, be a tough year. The bad climatic conditions of last autumn and recent unfavorable weather has resulted in an unsatisfactory state of cultivation in many areas". Ochab said that cattle breeding had improved over the winter and that, for the present, there was a sufficient supply of fodder. It is unlikely that this supply will hold out for very long, since the Polish press has long been lamenting the inadequacy of seed deliveries of fodder roots and grains for this year's spring planting. The fact that Ochab once again appears as a regime personality in connection with agriculture strengthens the view that the agrarian sector is still under his general supervision.

Znak Group and Penal Law

The Znak group, along with other independent deputies (12 in all), abstained from voting on a Sejm bill calling for an enormous increase in the fines for "fiscal felonies" (offenses in currency exchange, income and property tax violations, customs violations, general misappropriation of cash, etc.) (Radio Warsaw, 13 April). This is yet another instance of the Znak group's reluctance to assume "co-responsibility" with regime actions which are at variance with their views on the internal Polish situation.

Press Articles

Being sent is a particularly interesting article from TYGODNIK POWSZECHNY on the evolution and present status of state farms in Poland. The Znak organ notes the improvement made in the PGR's over the past few years and urges the employment of more fully-qualified agricultural specialists on the state farms: "The curve of profitability and the curve of employment follow each other closely and influence each other". An article from NOWE DROGI is being sent: "The Concentration of Agricultural Machinery in Particular Areas". Since all the orders for tractors and other farm equipment for the agricultural circles cannot be met this year, all the available tractors and machines will go to areas where they are most needed, even if orders from less critical areas

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were placed first. Two more SLOWO POWSZECHNE articles in support of state farms and collectivization are being sent as well as a ZIELONY SZTANDAR piece on "horticultural cooperatives".