

Meeting of National Assembly Trade Committee

The Trade Committee of the National Assembly met on 18th October under the chairmanship of Istvan Fries.

Janos Tausz, the Minister of Internal Trade, told the Committee that in the first nine months of 1957 the sales of industrial articles had greatly increased. Sales of food-stuffs, however, had not exceeded last year's level. By the end of the year 50,000,000 forints would have been invested to improve the choice of consumer goods. A part of this sum would be spent on extensions to factories making consumer goods. The Government expected purchasing power of the workers to rise next year and much thought would consequently be given to the problem of improved variety and quality.

Rezső Myers, President of the SZOEVOSSZ (trade co-operative) Management Board, said that potato, fruit and vegetable supplies would be satisfactory. The price of potatoes, some varieties of grapes Brussels sprouts and garlic had risen over last year's; on the other hand, the price of other foods had fallen. Socialist trade provided 50 per cent of the public's supplies, private retail trade 30 per cent and the peasantry 20 per cent.

Jenő Ince, the Minister of External Trade, said that Hungary's foreign trade since the counter-revolution had been characterised by the large volume of imports. Only the aid given by the friendly countries had made it possible to rectify the adverse balance resulting from these imports. (SZEI 18.10.57)