

Standard of Living

The changing ratio of food staples and industrial goods sold in the retail stores has been giving encouragement to those who have hoped that the consumer will be granted a fairer share of national product under the "liberal" Communist formula since 1956. (When the ratio strongly favors food staples, it means that most of the modest income per capita is spent on the essentials for maintaining life. When the ratio changes in favor of industrial goods, it indicates a rising standard of living.) The ratio between food staples and industrial consumer goods sold over the past several years was as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>% retail sales of food</u>	<u>% retail sales of industrial goods</u>
1956	46	54
1957	44	56
1958	44	56
1959	42.5	57.5
1960	43.5	56.5

This slow, but steady progress has been interrupted this year, and the plan of retail sales of industrial goods has not been fulfilled during the first half of 1960. The seven per-cent drop in 1960 below the first half of 1959 was paralleled by a 4.4% increase of food sales. If the trend should be permitted to continue, it would play havoc with the carefully planned growth of real wages (23% during the second Five Year Plan 1961-65) and food consumption (14% during the same period).

"Zycie Warszawy" (August 24) provided its readers with these figures to stress the importance of modernizing consumer products which clutter the retail pipeline. It also made a plea for making retail sales easier by offering convenient payments, intensifying promotion of products through advertizing, shows, exhibitions, and trade fairs. By 1965, the Polish consumer, according to the Warsaw daily, will increase his purchases of domestic electrical appliances by 60% and for clothing and shoes by only 32%, in conformity with the general trends in the West.

This interesting brief on consumer behaviour who, in the words of a Warsaw saying "can't be sold a brick" (if you happen to

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walk at a late hour along a dim-lit side street you may be accosted by a burly individual who will insist that you "buy" a brick he hands you) is actually a page lifted from the liberal economic weekly "Zycie Gospodarcze" (cf. Situation Report, 28 July). The specialized weekly commands a much smaller hearing than "Zycie Warszawy" due to a much smaller circulation. The article will be pouched in translation later since it represents a significant call to rational economic planning (market study, in this case) in a popular daily for the average man.

World War Two Anniversary

The observances of the September 1, 1939 Blitzkrieg against Poland were rather routine, with a mass "anti-war" meeting held in Poznan attended by 30,000 and intense coverage by press and radio.

Education

September 1 is the school day in Poland, with more than 4,733,000 pupils returning to primary schools, 240,000 to general lyceums, and more than 586,000 to trade schools.

The government has taken a laudatory decision some time ago of constructing so-called Millenium Schools (the millenium of Polish statehood and baptism fall on 1966) as a monument to the nation. The schools will contribute greatly towards implementing the ambitious second FYP, but the system of state and industrial stipends apparently is causing some difficulties among the students. Radio Warsaw (August 29) tried to deal with this problem in a feature entitled "The Students Chronicle". An interview with the director of the labor section in the Katowice voivodship national council L. Jaciulik revealed that students have shown little enthusiasm for accepting scholarships offered by national councils and industrial establishments, the so-called "foundation" scholarships, even though they guarantee employment in a specific field and a specific establishment. In contrast, state scholarships give no such security, yet seem to be preferred by students, who in 1959-60 have not availed themselves of all of the non-state scholarships offered.

The issue is important, since the number of stipends is expected to increase by over 100% during the 1960-61 school year. On the national scale, according to the Ministry of Higher Education, the greatest present demand is for candidates in schools of advanced

economic studies. Although the number of scholarships has been geared to this increased demand, there is a shortage of 1,800 stipendists. According to "Zycie Warszawy", 25 August, 15,500 "foundation" and state scholarships will be awarded in the 1960-61 school year. The state scholarships are awarded by the Ministry of Higher Education and pay 20% less than "foundation" stipends. The interview switched to a question and answer session with the students themselves, who stated that although the "foundation" scholarships are as a rule more lucrative (in some schools state scholarships account for almost 90% of the total stipendists); some students felt that they are too young to be tied down to a given locality, feared that their decisions today may change with the passing of time, and felt that there is inadequate information about the character of work which will await a "foundation" scholar. Radio concluded that closer coordination of national councils and establishments with students and paper care will solve this problem.

US Relations

The daily press (e.g. "Zycie Warszawy", 25 August) has been giving a fairly objective and copious coverage of the US satellite Echo One, even though the reports are based on own astral observation and PAP (New York) rather than western communiques.

In other fields, the relations between the two countries remain as cordial as ever, and various US delegations are making their late-summer rounds in impressive numbers. One of the most distinguished individual visitors to arrive in Warsaw is Mrs. Roosevelt, who will attend the WFUNA meeting September 5. Of the more prominent groups in Poland, there were of late a group of 55 U.S. journalists stopping over in Warsaw on their way back from the U.S.S.R. a 22 member group of U.S. negro physicians, and a U.S. delegation of geographers. Comment on the U.S. foreign policy has remained acid, especially in the context of the Oder and Neisse issue. State relations are warm as ever in the wake of the unfreezing of Polish funds in the U.S., flood relief, etc.

Emigration

State Senator S. Nowak from Michigan is again in the news (cf. Situation Report, 22 August). The filming crew which accompanied him on his trip to Poland has made "two etudes" on the Szczecin voivodship which, according to his statement, were aimed at counter-acting the "lying propaganda of West Germany in the U.S. which accuses

Poland of economic neglects of the Regained (Oder and Neisse) Territories."

This time, Radio Warsaw (26 August) again broadcasts a statement by him in which he disclosed that in 1958, during his second trip to Poland, he had decided to make films about Poland for the consumption of Americans of Polish descent. There were 55 showings of such films in various cities of the US, including Los Angeles and New York. An average of 200 to 700 people attended the showings of the films.

State-Church Relations

The libraries of all Catholic seminaries have been searched for the Pope Pious XII Encyclic on communism according to the "Katholischer Nachrichtenagentur KNA" ("Die Welt" 1 September 1960). The search is reminiscent, except for the setting, of the 1958 search of the Jasna Gora monastery in Czestochowa, when representatives of the Kielce prosecutor's office and Ministry of Interior rifled files of the Primate's Institute of National Vows and confiscated duplicating machines. At that time, the government stated that it had discovered "subversive matter directed against the existing (Communist) political system." The forthcoming conference of bishops on September 8 and the press criticism of Jasna Gora pilgrims (cf. Situation Reports August 23, 26, 29) have sharpened the tension which has been slowly mounting since the reportedly inconclusive meetings of the mixed State-Church commissions which has not taken place since May this year.

It is difficult to pinpoint the possible source of irritation and strife which of late has characterized the relations of the Church and State. The disturbances in Zielona Gora and Nowa Huta could be explained as the result of ill will at the local level.

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The opening of the new school year, with the government bent on curtailing the instruction of religion (for which it pays) is a more likely explanation of the increased tension. Certainly, the cause of friction can not be traced to the intensified anti-German propaganda connected with the Oder and Neisse claims.

Although Radio Warsaw broadcasts and the press have attempted to link the Vatican with an alleged anti-Polish (and pro-German) Western policy, including US, the Roman Catholic Church of Poland has given its fullest endorsement to the historical Polish claim and has underwritten the economic reconstruction of this area and the country as a whole.

Hansjakob Stehle's article "The Polish Nation will remain on the Oder and Neisse: The Communist and the Nation" (Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, September 1) makes this very point by citing the Tygodnik Powszechny, a Catholic weekly in Krakow, which serves as a public forum for the "Znak" group of parliamentary delegates, who believe in a compromise formula of cooperation with the government. The Stehle article will be mailed soonest.

Pouched: (1) Zycie Warszawy (August 24), M. Kozakiewicz on laicization of education, a timely reading in connection with the mounting tension in State-Church relations reported today;

(2) Slowo Powszechne (August 19), A. Bochenski on the purchases of tractors by agricultural circles;

(3) Trybuna Ludu (August 24), (Wwa) on the shortcomings of the inter-party "democracy".