

Polish Press

The regime press has taken to task two published examples of American thought on the subject of life in Poland and the "captive nations" which offer strong opinions as to what US policy should be vis-a-vis the socialist bloc: one is the Welch article (or "letter") which Senator Wiley had introduced into the "Congressional Record," which records the Washington lawyer's impressions from a ten-day visit to Poland; the second is the "Life" editorial of July 14 "Berlin - Why Do We Have to Wait for Mr. Khrushchev?"

"Zycie Warszawy" of August 11 printed extensive excerpts of the Welch article printed in the "Congressional Record" with attending "ZW" commentaries. If "ZW" has faithfully quoted from Mr. Welch's text, then Mr. Welch would seem to be seriously failing in his powers of observation. Indeed the title of "ZW"'s counterattack reads: "A Crazy Man? Oh No, Something Much Worse". The newspaper asserts there was method in Welch's "madness", that he consciously desired a US Senator to lend his personal notations the dignity of a political document. Following are some examples of Mr. Welch's information:

- 1) No one in Poland can live through three years without a nervous breakdown.
- 2) It is a general occurrence that one hears his neighbors being spirited from their homes at night for liquidation or transport to a labor camp.
- 3) 90 per cent of the Polish nation are Communists or Communist sympathizers.
- 4) Inimical stares or unpleasant gestures follow American travellers down the streets and hotel porters intentionally tread on their feet.

As to the "Life" editorial, "Slowo Powszechne" of August 11 castigates the magazine for supporting a radio propaganda policy (through RFE, RIAS, etc.) which would stir the populations of the socialist camp to insurgence against "lawful authorities", and which would foment civil war, as was the case in Hungary in 1956.