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On his periodic visit to the most publicized collective farm in the Soviet Union, Kalinovka, Khrushchev's birthplace and boyhood home, the First Secretary ranged far and wide in his speech over the uneven furrows of Soviet agricultural practices and policies.⁽¹⁾ On the whole, he was in an expansive and generous mood before his home-villagers.

"Comrades, things are going excellently in Kalinovka. Your grains are fine and all crops look good. My advice to kolkhoz leaders and specialists of the Production Directorates is to take Kalinovka as an example and make use of its experience."

What he neglected to mention was that his home farm had been brought up to its present productivity under Khrushchev's sponsorship. Few farms in all Russia got the steady flow of capital goods over the years as Kalinovka: farm machinery, fertilizers, seed-stock, insecticides, and other produced instruments of production. This "outside help" was decisive in making Khrushchev's favorite farm a show-place and a model in production technology.

This favoritism in allotting resources to Kalinovka has not gone without criticism among some Soviet officials.

How else could the existence of a "blooming farm" surrounded by backward farms be otherwise rationalized?

Earlier in his speech Khrushchev eloquently had described a stop at the village of Selino, on the way to Kalinovka, where hay was being gathered from collective farm fields by the same methods used one hundred years ago: women raking by hand, men hoisting the hay with pitchforks on a cart drawn by a scrawny horse.

This contrast, so graphically chosen by Khrushchev, between Kalinovka and Selino type of farming technology lays bare the primary problem in Soviet agricultural development: enforced capital rationing.

Not only is the shortage of capital goods indigenous to the Soviet rural economy but there also exists a discernible order of preference in allocating scarce goods: a kind of class structure/struggle among the farms. This order seems to shape up with the "show - farms" in highest priority, then the state farms and lastly the rank-and-file collective farms.

(1) Delivered on July 28, published August 2, 1962.