

Agriculture -- Collectivization

The warning sounded by W. Gomulka at the central harvest celebrations September 4 in Warsaw (against the "unutilized reserves of agricultural production" and "those peasants who due to their hesitancy, conservatism, lack of farming culture, and sometimes plain carelessness or laziness not only squander the production capability of their own farmsteads, but actually hinder others, their neighbors, by their failure to take effective measures against weeds and plant parasites, render impossible the use of qualified grains and the like") must not be considered a blow against the private farmer or pressure to make him join collectives.

His speech reflects the exasperation of the PUWP leadership with the low average grain yields, e.g., 14 hundredweight per hectare; and the extremely precarious fodder "base" which determines the amount of meat production.

News agencies have stressed the passages out of Gomulka's speech in which he calls for more vigorous measures by the state to overcome the continued backwardness of the Polish agriculture:

"It's time to declare war against those who impede technical progress and lower the level of farming culture, thus harming themselves as well as the whole society... State authorities ought to gain suitable right which would permit the application of means of enforcement and sanctions against those who, despite objective conditions, despite the aspirations of the majority of peasants, through their backward and sloppy farming impede or altogether make impossible measures taken on the road of developing agriculture and increasing of production. We must stop tolerating those who hide their backwardness, sloppiness, or anti-social posture under the saying: My land, my will; those who use their will in cultivation of backwardness in farming. We are convinced that everybody who desires speedy development of farming will greet with approval legal rules which will expedite the struggle against backwardness, illiteracy, and waste of land."

The government has sounded frequent warning against farmers whose land succumbs to parasites. Radio programs have interpreted this to mean that if one peasant fails to combat plant parasites,

his neighbors will pay him a visit and explain the facts of life: One for all, and all for one.

There has also been much talk about introducing laws which would oblige peasants to heed the advice of the state. Such legislation, if it should materialize, would not be new in modern farming. Similar legislation exists in England, for example, where negligent farmers are given two warnings for non-conforming with certain standards set up by the state. On the third warning, they may be dispossessed of their land. Similarly, the gentle persuasion practiced by the US county agents and agricultural colleges engenders modern farming techniques where slipshod methods have been used. Closer to home, the Yugoslav peasants must conform to certain rules laid down by agricultural experts. The rules are known as the "agricultural minimum."

The question of proper use of qualified grain is pretty much in the hands of the state since the state farms (PGRs) are its producers. Finally, the use of insecticides, to judge from the disastrous experience this year with the Colorado Beetle, is largely determined by the state. The inability to provide sufficient pest killers this year stands as a mute testimony to the inefficiency of state chemical factories.

Regarding Gomulka's complaint that the growth of farm production during the Five Year Plan was 19% instead of planned 25%: He failed to fix the blame on the state farms, the real culprits. While the average annual growth of productivity of the private farmer was 3.5%, that of the PGRs was only .3%.

Harvest

The grains are as good this year as in 1959, a record year. The potatoes are water-logged, and sugar beets excellent.

CS Relations

The reception given in Warsaw to President Novotny reportedly exceeded that accorded to Khrushchev. The overt warmth of the visit, according to J. Wetz reporting in "Le Monde" from Warsaw, is a cover-up for the deep misunderstanding on investment policy which persists to this day. In the eyes of the Polish Communists, the CS leadership, for all their ideological rectitude, act like

petty capitalist misers concerning investment aid to Poland. The speeches thus far are innocuous, and the entire exercise seems to be aimed at leaning heavily on West Germany for its alleged revanchism. The visit was honored by abolishing travel (visits and transit) between the two countries is a welcome move worthy of imitation by other peoples democracies where stringent rules still apply. The easing of travel between Poland and CS was described in News Background, September 6.

News Media

Starting September 6, Radio Warsaw has introduced a new program aimed at providing more political and economic orientation to the workers, and striking a new balance between political and cultural subjects. A News Background will cover this subject tomorrow. This attempt to popularize economic principles for the masses, the first of its kind, is entitled "The System of the Pocket-book." It is an able, though perhaps too highbrow attempt to bring some knowledge of economic principles to the average listener.

Pouched:

1. "Zycie Gospodarcze" (28 August), pis. on the generally favorable economic returns in July; J. Glowczyk on the two problems: Planning and execution of plan;
2. "Zycie Warszawy" (27 August), A. Hajnicz on what is satisfactory and what is missing, from the government's point of view, in the replies received from the NATO nations;
3. "Przeglad Kulturalny" (25 August), E. Osmanczyk's contribution to the anti-German campaign;
4. "Polityka" (27 August), D. Fikus on the post-war population living in the Oder-Neisse territory;
5. "Kierunki" (22 August), J. Sterzycki on the "abandoned" youth, aged 14-17, who is looking for a tutor; A. Peryt on the growth of savings;
6. "Sztandar Mlodych" (22 August) Kibic attacks RFE in connection with the Rome Olympics;
7. "Argumenty" (28 August), A. Finzi on Vatican propaganda at the Olympics; T. M. Jaroszewicz on the Catholic social doctrine and Cardinal Wyszynski's book "The spirit of Human Work."