

Parliament in Session

At yesterday's session of the Hungarian National Assembly target figures for the next 5-year plan were announced. An overall growth of 48-50% is foreseen in industry which is said to equal an 8% rate of growth annually. The breakdown shows, however, that certain industries -- Hungary's special fields in the COMECON Division of Labor -- will have a much higher rate of growth than the rest of the industry. Thus, the chemical industry is envisaged to increase its production by 75% and the pharmaceutical industry by a 100% in five years. At the same time the rate of investments will be cut by 13% from 205 billion to 180 billion. Detailed figures are not yet available and comment must be withheld until they arrive.

More interesting was Feher's speech on the future of agriculture. For the first time it has been officially stated that already in the first phase of the 5-year plan Hungary must be self-sufficient in cereals. This puts to the argument that it may be more profitable for the Hungarian economy to export labor-intensive products and import cereals. A detailed analysis of the agricultural aspects of the plan will be prepared by Evaluation.

Tardos-Eörsi

Tibor Tardos who has reappeared in print in Uj Iras (see situation report of 19 September 1961) has now also been printed in Elet es Irodalom. He has now been joined by Istvan Eörsi with translations of the poems of Brecht. Eörsi was co-editor of an underground newspaper after the suppression of the Revolution, was sent to prison and later released under an amnesty.

Tardos's first piece in Uj Iras appeared just after the recent government reshuffle and it has been argued by some observers that his article may have gone into print before the reshuffle and was, therefore, not representative of the Party's intentions because, they held, the government reshuffle represented a hardening of the official line. In the literary field at least, this has now been shown to be a false assumption. Tardos was one of the lights of the Petofi Club and, together with Dery and Zelk,

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responsible for preparing the public ferment before the Revolution. Eörsi was a close friend and associate of Obersovszky and Gali -- representatives of the spirit of Hungarian resistance after the Revolution. Not only have both reappeared in print now, but they have done so without recanting.