

## People's Supervision

Giving details of the provisions of the People's Supervision Act, which came into force on 1st January 1958, the broadcast for Hungarians in Western Europe said that the Chairman, two Vice-Chairmen and 12 members of the Central People's Supervision Committee must be elected within 30 days of the Act coming into force. Within a further 30 days the Budapest, County and County Borough People's Supervision Committees must also be set up. People's Supervision Committees on the lower level (rural district, Budapest City District and Borough) must be elected within 60 days of the establishment of the Budapest, County and County Borough Committees.

The broadcast went on to quote from a leader in 'Hetfoel Hirek' by the paper's editor, Gyozgy Parragi, who said that the Act was in fact an appeal to the entire people and to every honest citizen to join forces. But it did more than just appeal to them: it made an emphatic demand and tried to "shake up the citizens", calling on honest people to separate themselves unmistakably from the dishonest. "Every honest man must expose the scoundrels, hypocrites and those who are worse than pickpockets because they are still picking the people's pockets, swindling and embezzling... We can no longer tolerate crimes against the working people and their honest work. We can no longer tolerate the squandering and pilfering of the people's property. Everyone must regard it as his duty to sweep the rubbish out of all fields of public life." (Budapest for Hungarians in W Europe 05.30, 6.1.58)

## The Social Tribunals and "Prosecutor's Days"

On the home service, the commentator Gyozoe Horvath said that 57,000,000 forints' worth of social property had been lost in 10 months in 1957 in County Borsod alone through theft, embezzlement and wilful damage. To be precise, this was the amount known to be stolen, for there were good grounds to believe that the real damage done in Borsod was in fact much greater. There was no reason to believe that the position in other parts of the country was any better. The honest majority of workers therefore welcomed the People's Supervision Act. Any real improvement in the protection of social property required the reintroduction of the "social tribunals", which had been so successful during their short career in the past. In the few places where they had conducted hearings, such as Tiszapalkonya and the "Pannonia" works in Budapest, the tribunals had shown how useful they were in creating an atmosphere in which it was regarded as shameful and ignominious to harm social property.

The "prosecutor's days" to be held in factories and offices should also help to create this atmosphere. For, "in our social order the task of the prosecutor's office is not only to present the criminal charge officially in court but also to help the citizen with his problems. The Prosecutor's Office will make a much more resolute effort to prevent both crime and the infringement of the principle of legality." By visiting factories and enterprises, prosecutors would be able to observe whether "the written and unwritten rules of social coexistence are being observed". (Budapest 17.05. 8.1.58)

## Conference of "Social Supervisors"

There was a meeting of some 600 social supervisors (tarsadalmi ellenorok) at the Budapest City Hall. The conference had been convened by the Budapest City Council. Before the counter-revolution, the radio said, some 2,500 to 3,000 social supervisors had been active, but no more than half of them had done any "systematic practical work". There were now about 1,500 social supervisors checking on the observance of health regulations, retail trade regulations and measures to enforce public cleanliness. The meeting was addressed by Lasso Pesta, a Vice-Chairman of the City Council Executive, who reported on the results accomplished by "specialist supervisors" who concentrated on shops, market halls or open markets. When on duty, social supervisors should be treated as "representatives of official authority", Pesta said. In the course of the debate which followed Pesta's report, speakers "objected to the lack of effective support from the City District Councils, to the fact that they were not informed of any measures taken following their reports and to the fact that their reports were often ignored". The conference, the radio added, indicated that there had been a revival of the work of social supervision. (Budapest 19.06. 7.1.58)