

37. and 40 (Encs)

Corruption in the USSR takes a major form in embezzling and misusing of funds as in any purely bureaucratic society. In 1961 the death penalty for embezzlement of state funds in large sums was re-enacted as a measure to wide spread pillaging of goods crops and embezzling of money and state bonds. Usually ~~any~~ on any collective or state farm there is a certain percent of state goods illegally appropriated by the collect farmers for their own private use to make up for low wages and therefore low living conditions or for sell to private individuals, stores, or at the open market types of buyers. These goods may consist only of a pillaged lamp or piglet or may run in scores of sheep or cows hidden in backwoods swamps or thick pine forest and sold by the appropriator piecemeal or wholesale to the crooked store supervisors who are supposed to buy state meats and crops at government prices but who pocket the difference of prices from the black market which makes entrances in their books that such merchandise was bought for state prices such practices are so common that without them many stores would be almost empty if they had to rely on the sporadic, poor quality of goods brought in from the state slaughter houses at high prices. The directorship of even a small fruit or milk store opens up whole opportunities for lucrative enterprising by ~~the~~ person with a slight business sense, it is almost impossible for the authorities to act on such going on because of difficulties in obtaining proof in acceptable amounts since such going on are usually in small amounts. Materials, ~~and~~ electric appliances, food supplies are all riddled with speculation which often leads to poor goods or bad goods brought in and sold unless the counter examples are local meat being used to subsidize a "beef stew".

282