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EEC labour market: Freedom of movement

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much too high in relation to the value of the goods carried. But all this goes only to show that the monies accumulated in Brussels subsidise only complacency and the lack of marketing ideas.

This alone is a crying shame. But the situation becomes even more embarrassing when the fact is held against this system of waste that the Council of Ministers of the European Communities showed itself more than mean in appropriating funds for financing food gifts to developing countries to the extent of 1.5 mn tons of bread grains. This form of assistance has been adopted under the Kennedy Round. The arrangement had been made, in the first instance, for a period of three years, counting from July 1, 1968. But in the meantime, the EEC had to apply for an extension of the due date for completing the agreement's ratification. To defend their own narrow interests, the EEC representatives showed largesse, but when they were called upon to draft development aid programmes, they were found to be misers of the most hardfisted type. Those who had cherished the hope that the EEC would be able to transcend narrow and selfish economic interests and to carry the torch of economic reason and reasonableness must now be bitterly disappointed, for the most recent developments display the Community as a poor show. rd.

EEC Labour Market

Freedom of Movement

Clever newspaper owners have discovered already many months ago through underpinning the large numbers of advertisements offering employment in foreign lands what the conference of the EEC's Ministers of Social Welfare, which took place towards the end of July last, has now confirmed by draft legislation. The ministers bargained long and hard, and they completed their negotiations by drawing up a decree-law and guidelines for its application which are to guarantee the complete freedom of movement within the Common Market for all seekers of gainful employment. In law, there is thus no longer a difference between the labour market within one Common Market country and that in any other member state of the EEC.

From now on, nationals of other member countries no longer need a labour permit for accepting employment in any EEC country. When they begin work, they will be issued with a residential permit for five years which will be extended automatically. The authorities are not allowed to cancel or withdraw this permit on the holder's becoming unemployed. To tie up the issue of the residential permit with an initial state of employment obviously serves only the purpose to protect the issuing state against having to pay high redundancy or unemployment benefit to persons who never held employment on its territory. The Netherlands, whose housing market, as in the Federal Republic of Germany, is still government-controlled to a wide extent, have insisted that the permission to bring in his family is made dependent

on the applicant providing proof that he can make available housing accommodation for them. France, too, objected to unlimited freedom of movement: In France, non-Frenchmen will not immediately enjoy the full rights of any French employee, e.g. to be able to be elected to membership of factory councils or shop steward's committees. However, the Council of Ministers may review the denial of eligibility for factory council membership after two years, and even the Federal Republic may then find that there are some arguments in favour of such restrictions, for it is not impossible that the illegal German Communist Party will try to gain reentry into German factory councils through delegating foreign communists into them. Nonetheless, all these minor restrictions mean very little compared to all that has been achieved, for the rule that labour will henceforth have the right to be mobile throughout the whole area is another fundamental contribution to perfecting the Common Market. United and integrated Europe has come nearer to us. ke.

Papal Verdict

Against the Pill

What Pope Paul VI has done with his encyclica, "Humanae Vitae", of July 25, 1968, was to reconfirm the traditional attitude of the Catholic Church towards family planning, by forbidding the use of contraceptives.

At a time when hormonal drugs that inhibit ovulation have been accepted as a means of family planning by multitudes, this decision must strike the independent observer as strange, and it sets up serious conflicts for Catholic believers. On the other hand, it would be wrong to overrate the effect that the encyclica will have on population trends. Asian nations will not be affected by it in their attitude towards birth control, in Africa, population increase is still far from being a problem, and even in Latin America where the Catholic Church wields an immense influence it is highly doubtful that one could safely predict the consequences of the Pope's dictum. For certainly it must not be forgotten that all the attempts made in the past to use ovulation inhibitors deliberately for large-scale planned birth control have virtually failed. The illiterate poor, who produce the largest number of births per head, in the developing countries are mostly incapable of understanding what is meant by long-term family planning. Moreover, the intelligent use of the contraceptive pill, as it is sold by its manufacturers today, is too complicated for their untrained brains. Yet, since the Catholic Church usually clings with the utmost rigidity to the decisions that have once been made in its name, it may well be that the papal encyclica will prevent any efficacious tackling of Latin America's population problems, even when suitable means for doing so should be found in the future. The obedience of the religious population may outdo the rational attitude of the governments. ri.