

THE HOUSING PROBLEM.

Aneurin Bevan, the Minister with the task of rehousing Britain, prepares to meet a barrage of criticism in Parliament as he presents his first report on building progress. ~~Whatever the comment,~~ ^{None} could say that this Minister from the Welsh Valleys lacks a personal insight into the country's needs. ^{for} Good housing has never been the ~~ward~~ ^{ward} of those who follow Britain's man-sized basic industries ~~and~~ Wales saw poverty cause overcrowding long before the blitz made us a nation of lodgers.

1 To ~~the~~ ^a half million families sharing other peoples homes the meanest of temporary houses ~~spells independence and~~ ^{MEANS SPELLS} the realisation of the true family life. So far, the building industry, ~~as it stands today,~~ has failed them.

Admittedly a change from war to peace isn't an overnight affair, nor is even a mild winter the choice of building seasons, but if we are to see the

houses go up in the spring we must surmount three handicaps... and red tape is the first of them. 2 Innumerable forms ~~chase~~ ^{PASS} countless officials ~~from~~ ^{through} the local Councils ~~through~~ ^{AND} a maze of government departments/only to start another round through builders' Merchants ^{and} to the manufacturers ^{TO} ~~and then to the~~ ^{allocation} committees ^{MAY GIVE THE} which frequently hand out the too familiar answer "we have none".

3 The Labour member for MiddlesBoro' West, ^{an experienced administrator} gives his views on this ~~problem~~.

The next handicap is the shortage of supplies. Delays in these items of sanitary fittings range from nine months to two years.

We have almost a thousand million bricks in stock, but that is only a seven week supply at pre-war building rates. Two thirds of our brickworks are still idle through lack of labour. ~~There is every possibility~~ ^{IT IS HIGHLY} that we shall

face a brick famine, for the works in action are hard put to produce one fifth of our requirements. Distribution is still hampered by war time transport controls. 5 The need for efficient distribution is stressed by the Conservative member for Wallasey... *A. J. ...*

6 The biggest problem of all is..... human nature..... ~~you~~..... ~~and~~..... It's hard to convince a man who is forced to waste hours waiting for materials that it's wrong to play truant at a midweek football match.

It's harder still to convince him that overtime is worth while when most of it ~~disappears~~ ^{goes in pay or tax} in taxation. And if he finds it more profitable to sell his overtime to a neighbour and dodge the tax, the reflection is not so much on the man ^{as} but on the policy which ignores ^{THE} human nature; ^{FACTOR} ~~on which point the~~ ~~to~~ ~~it~~
A POINT TO WHICH THE LABOUR ORGANIZER
Communist member for Mile End ~~ounds off~~ ~~political opinion.~~ TENDS SUPPORT

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Distribution is still hampered by wartime transport controls.

The need for efficient distribution is stressed by the conservative member for Wallasey, a practical builder.

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The biggest problem of all is human nature. It's hard to convince the mid-week football spectator that absenteeism is wrong when he's wasted hours waiting for material.

It's harder still to convince him that overtime is worth while when most of it goes in Pay As You Earn. And if he finds it more profitable to sell his overtime to a neighbour and dodge the tax, the reflection is not on the man but on the policy, which ignores the human factor - a point to which a labour organiser, the Communist member for Mile End, lends support.