Programmers lacking answer to inefficiency

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fact the computer is the chief hope Soviet planners have of gaining efficiency yet retaining the all-important centralization and control. The only thing holding them back, in fact, is that a computer's knowledge can only be as good as it's programmer's, and the Soviet Union's heritage is the field of computers is very limited.

Computer-power important

This new dependence on the computer is significant. The Soviets are coming to realize that it is beyond human capabilities to establish artificial yet efficient market mechanisms. From the capitalists' perspective, it merely is a means for them to discover that even a computer cannot achieve an efficient market mechanism.

If this is a fluctuation in favor of efficiency at the expense of centralization, Mr. Korol was asked whether inefficiency was a deliberate fluctuation in the future? Yes, Mr. Korol answered, and he referred to Khruschev's decentralization of the late 1950's when "sovmarkhomy" were established, placing centralization on a regional level. But these proved inoperable, and Moscow immediately pulled in the paper, first by reducing the number of "sovmarkhomy" and finally by complete centralization. Mr. Korol expects the same reaction to any further radicals changes.

Decentralization seems unlikely. Is decentralization impossible, then, in the Soviet Union? Mr. Korol's answer to this was basically "Yes." His theory is that once once removes the initiative from the factory manager and replaces it with quotas, it is hard to reverse that initiative. Likewise, now that a planned economy is the system of the Soviet Union, a free market can not simply be introduced and have the planned economy of President Lenin be re-established. An important exception to that standards in the United States are set by antitrust and voluntary agree- ment within each industry. Turning to the topic of Mr. Korol's latest book, Soviet research and development, Mr. Korol hasosen a definite fear that if indus- tries and individual "companies" were granted autonomy, present standards would be lost.

To the question of Mr. Korol's latest book, Soviet research and development, Mr. Korol hasosen a definite fear that if indus- tries and individual "companies" were granted autonomy, present standards would be lost. First, Mr. Korol pointed out that in the Soviet Union all hands for research and development come from the government. Although most contract-conscious American scientists would jump at such assured funds and assured work, research and development creates quite a problem for, with such incentive lacking, scientific efficiency is severely hurt.

In short, then, the Soviet Union is making another attempt at increasing efficiency through decentralization. Mr. Korol does not doubt that eventually the Sovi- ets will revert to a free market of some sort and have an eco- nomy operating at peak efficiency. (And the reader should be re- minded that the Soviet Union has tremendous resources, and resources much greater than even those of the United States. Until this time, however, the Soviet Union is in- sistent on making sure that central- ization and efficiency are in- compatible.

TSE adds VISA to list of projects

Technology Student Enterprises is again expanding. Under the leadership of President Tom T. Per- 916, TSE is presently contract- ing the Varsity International Sales Assn., and soon intends to make VISA a separate division. VISA is a discount card which entitles students possessing it to receive cash discounts at subscribing merchants, which range from popular shops and stations to theaters to old area.

The card will cost three dollars and is available only to college students. It is also valid nation- ally at all subscribing merchants on more than 50 campus campuses, and as well as the more than 150 member stores in the Boston area. Sales of the cards will begin in approximately two weeks.

Cherchez la Femme

Clear sailing for mixers

By Mike Rodburg

For the Technique ever eager to reap the bounty of adventure aboard the Miners of the Essex, this weekend could provide the necessary elements for alluring excitement, storytelling, and dancing. (Mind you, there's even the chance of meeting some girls.)

Keep in mind, however, that feint heart never won fair lady, so be prepared to match wits with charms with such scavengers as the Crimson Pirates of the neighbor- ing port. But wherever the currents carry you, Cherchez la Femme wishes you good luck and Bon Voyage.

Our first port of call is rather nearby. Just across the Straits of Charles Te to the Towers of Boston University. This Friday evening at 7:30 the fair damselforts will present the "Club 140." Liberty passes have been issued by the Towers' Social Com- mittee and must be presented at the door.

The girls will be available and receptive to Tales of Tech, so the gab who is sufficiently gifted of tongue and fleet of foot ought to find the entire affair conducive to fulfilling his aims and worthy of his presence. Music and re- creational activities will be provided. For the more intrepid sailors, or for those low on dramamine, supplies, the Lawrence Hospital, School. Mass, is providing aid and comfort to the storm- tossed. On Friday, beginning 8 pm, the Medical cruiser port will provide music by the Voo Doo also took fifth place for the "Club 140." Le- scoo is a discount card which entitles students possessing it to receive cash discounts at subscrib- ing merchants, which range from popular shops and stations to theaters to old area.

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The ceremony and the concert will be held in Kresge Auditorium in the event of rain.

Presented by the Dedication Committee of the 1966 Institute Committee:

John Montanen, chairman, Ernie Ascherman, Steve Lipner, Keith Patterson, Judi Sahagon, Jim Schwarzrock