

## ABSTRACTS

Yannis Beltsios, Angelos Chayos, Stavros Livadas, Dimitris Philippidis, Dimitris Stamatoyiannopoulos, Nikos Xiroudakis: *Local Government: Theoretical and Practical Issues*. (Round table discussion).

The aim of this discussion on the theoretical and practical issues concerning local government is to generalise on a theoretical level the up to date experience of local government in Greece. The emphasis is given on the following issues: The role of local government within the political and state system of power. The relation of local society and local interests to the general social interests. How the relations of local government with various social group interests are formed and articulated. The phenomenon of bureaucracy at the local level. The entrepreneurial and developmental role of local government.

Constantine Vaitsos: *Radical Technological Change and the New «Order» in the World Economy*

The author argues that the postwar institutional setting was shaped by US political and economic power and expressed that dominance. From the middle eighties a new international order is evolving which rests on selective liberalism and it is accompanied by protectionism and the creation of a new international institutional structure. The main components of the emerging order are analysed. The implications of controlling major technological changes and their diffusion in the world economy are discussed. New multilateral institutional arrangements concerning trade in technology, foreign direct investment, intellectual property rights constitute an attempt to intervene in the development process in order to control the emerging new international division of labour.

John Lainos: *Some Aspects of the Consequences of State Management on «Olympic Airways»*.

«Olympic Airways» (O.A.) was founded by Onassis in 1956. The Greek State

took over O.A. in 1975. The operation of O.A. was and still is based on the Contract that had been agreed between Onassis and the Greek State. The author proves that, although the State fulfilled the terms of the Contract completely while the company was privately owned, it stopped complying with many terms of the Contract since 1975, when O.A. became state owned. Furthermore, the State obliged O.A. to undertake the cost of some of its policies. The author estimates that, as a result of this conduct of the State, the total burden and loss of income of O.A. amounts to \$ 1.231 billion, which exceeds by \$ 544 millions the O.A. losses for the whole period of state ownership.

*János Sipos: A Contribution to the Materialist Interpretation of the «Ideal» Character of Psychic Processes*

The author argues that the «ideal», reflective character of psychics manifests a property wholly real (and in that sense material) of these phenomena, an objective property that science can study with objective instruments in a materialistic way without any mystification.

*Savas Michael: Again on the Transitional Societies of «Existing Socialism».*

The author refers to the paper of Vangelis Papachristou «On the Nature of the Societies of “Existing Socialism”», published in *Dialektiki*, No 1. He agrees with him that these societies are transitional societies between capitalism and socialism; subsequently he criticizes Papachristou's working hypothesis that the fundamental contradiction in these transitional formations is between the non-capitalist form and the predominantly exploitative content of their production relations. For the author, bureaucratic misappropriation of the surplus product is not exploitation but a peculiar, historically determined form of social parasitism of a privileged stratum, holding the political monopoly of power.

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