Page 16 THE BATTALION Making connectors growing concern

United Press International NEW YORK — There's a small U.S. industry manufacturing low insertion force connectors for electronics applications: not glamorous perhaps, but prestigious.

Some 15 small- to medium-size companies make the devices with an esoteric sounding name that are really just a very sophisticated version of an ordinary electric plug and wall socket.

Their combined sales probably are not much over \$100 million annually, but the industry is growing rapidly: Its product is vital to national defense, the space effort and the computer industry.

The connectors also are made in several other advanced countries but the American technology in making them enjoys so much prestige that British, French and German companies have been trying to buy some of the American companies, according to Michael Offerman, chief technical officer for Industrial Electronic Hardware Corp., New York, one of the leaders in the field.

Offerman said the Europeans so far have not been able to buy any company large enough to be a mar-ket factor. Possibly, he said, the American firms feel the federal government would step in to block any sale to foreign interests for defense

Offerman explained that an "ordinary electrical connector works only because it carries current of 6 to 120 volts and up to 60 amperes. It is too crudely built, and must be plugged in with too much force, to sustain a connection at extremely low current rates.

"The low insertion force connector, on the other hand, must be sensitive enough to carry currents mea-sured in thousandths of a volt and ampere. It must be tiny enough so that hundreds of circuits can be connected in a few square inches and must require almost no mechnical force to make the connection."

There are many types of connectors. Offerman's firm makes one it calls Hypertac in which the receptacle has a network of wires inside resembling an hourglass. The wires are gold-plated at the waist of the hourg-lass and the pin of the plug is goldplated at the point where it will mate

Lutherans go economist

United Press International The Lutheran Church in America, largest of the nation's major Luther-an bodies, is considering a social statement that challenges the assumption of U.S. capitalism and denies private property as "an abso-lute human right."

The 20-page proposed statement, "Economic Justice: Stewardship of Creation in the Human Communis currently being distributed among the denomination's 3 million members and will be voted on at the

with the wire netting. The whole de-vice is made of beryllium copper, brass and gold. It costs 50 to 100 times as much as an ordinary electrical connector.

The electronic connectors are turned out in a bewildering array of incorporating enough connectors for anywhere from a handful to several hundred circuits.

They are used in aircraft, missiles, military "secured communications systems," military computer applications and to a lesser extent in com-

mercial computer hardware. Lately, Offerman said, the market is expanding for low insertion force assemblies and multi-layer boards connector assemblies for use in a wide variety of instrument and testing equipment for both military hardware and industrial machinery

Caviar conspirators arrested

United Press International LONDON — A group of Soviet fishery officials could face the death penalty in a multimil-lion-dollar caviar swindle that in-volved sending the expensive de-licacy out of Russia labeled as 'smoked, seasoned herring," a prestigious British newspaper once outside the Soviet Un-

ion, the product was sold on the world market at the going price for the gourmet appetizer. The Fisheries Ministry em-

ployees, who took an enormous

rake-off in the scam and stashed their profits in Swiss banks, went undetected for 10 years, the Financial Times said.

The newspaper said more than 200 employees of the Fisheries Ministry were arrested, and more than 150 of them may face the death penalty for "economic crimes involving foreign currency

In what was described as one of the "most serious economic crimes in Soviet history," ministry officials struck a secret and illegal deal with an unnamed

Western firm to export caviar labeled as "smoked, seasoned herring," the newspaper said. Economic crimes involving

foreign currency if big enough are punishable by death in the Soviet Union, and such executions took place during the rule of Nikita Khrushchev 20 years ago.

The swindle involved the Okean stores in Moscow, the newspaper said. The report said the Soviet Foreign and Fisheries Ministries

refused comment on the alleged arrests, but an official in the In-

ternal Affairs Ministry confi he was working on an intion into Okean stores. The investigation has going on since February following the resignat

Fisheries Minister Ale Ishkov, the paper said. Apart from the 200 he Moscow, hundreds mo volved in processing, pa

distributing in the pr have been detained a restaurateurs are also in the report said.



LCA's June 1980 convention. At the heart of the document is a

description of justice defined as what God's love does when many neighbors must be served with limited resources

But while the heart of the proposed statement is a discussion of economic justice, the draft mentions neither socialism nor capitalism by name

LCA officials, however, said the draft currently being circulated was a significantly revised version of an earlier one which was sharply critical of the Western consumer ethos and disputed the assertion that "the ideology of free enterprise is a Christian economics.

The earlier draft, according to Dr William Lazereth, director of the LCA's Department for Church in Society, "attempted a description of economic life in North America, portraying its strengths and weak-

When it was circulated, however, there was sharp criticism from the LCA membership that it was "not as objective as it purported to be." "There's not a working consensus

in the LCA on how sick the North American patient is," Lazereth said. The draft, going to the convention for its approval as a policy statement, lays down ethical principles against which to measure any economic system.

However, a background study, Economic Justice: An Evangelical Perspective," which expresses only the view of its author, the Rev. Richard Niebanck, will also be distributed as an aid for congregations in studying the proposed statement.

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