

The March 29th Decree "dealing with the organisation and management of industrial, mining and artisan enterprises as well as vacated agricultural enterprises," establishes four institutions:

- "(1) the General Assembly of Workers.
- (2) the Workers' Council.
- (3) the Director. "

The General Assembly of Workers is composed of permanent workers on the job over 18 years of age. The size of the General Assembly is determined each year according to the degree of development of the enterprise. Its duties include:-

"Adopting the enterprises plan of development or cultivation within the framework of the National Plan as well as the annual programme of equipment production and sales;

"Adopting rules in regard to the organisation of the work and in regard to the determination and division of tasks and responsibilities.

"Approving the books at the end of the accounting period.

"Electing the Workers' Council where this body is set up."

The General Assembly makes its decisions by a simple majority of workers present, although a quorum of two-thirds of the members is required for valid action. Voting takes place by secret ballot. Workers Councils are set up in enterprises where more than 100 workers are employed. Representation is on the basis of not more than one Council member for every 15, and not less than one for every ten. The rules for voting are the same as for the General Assembly. Elected for three year terms, one-third of its members are renewed every year. Its duties, with some differences, are the same as those of the General Assembly in smaller enterprises. But it also "elects and controls" the Management Committee.

The Management Committee consists of from three to eleven members who hold office on the same basis as members of the Workers' Councils. Its duty is to run the enterprise. It must meet at least once a month; oftener if the interests of the enterprise demand it or the Chairman, which it elects, convenes it. It can admit to its meetings in a consultative capacity members of the Workers' Council or the General Assembly. The Director "represents the State" in the running of the enterprise. He checks the legality of economic and financial operations, to see that they are maintained in conformity with the National Plan. Under the authority of the Chairman he checks the daily conduct of affairs, particularly financial accounts, inventories, and minutes. He has a deliberative voice in the Management Committee, but can never serve as Chairman. He is nominated and withdrawn by the Government body in charge of the enterprise in agreement with the Council of Communal Enterprise and Self-Management.

The next stage of legislation made in addition to the decree codifying the establishment of the above organisms, a second measure was passed setting up related bodies.

"In every Commune" reads the decree, "a Council of Communal Enterprise and Self-Management is created composed of the Chairman of the Management Committees, a representative of the Party of the UGTA (unions), the ANP (army) and of the administrative authorities of the Commune. In case of necessity, an intercommunal Council can be created in place of the communal councils but without power to substitute itself for more than five councils." These Communal Councils aid in creating management bodies, in interesting the workers in the problems of self-management, and in co-ordinating the activities of the enterprise. They have the power to accord or withdraw approval of directors appointed by the Government.. The following articles of the decree are of special interest:

"Article 26. The members of Workers Councils, of the Committees of Management of enterprises and undertakings, or of Councils of Communal Enterprises and Self-Management, cannot receive any special remuneration for accomplishment of their duties, it being understood that the time devoted to the deliberations and work of these bodies will be considered as normal work time and remunerated on the same scale.

"Article 27. The members of the above bodies exercise the functions devolving on them only in the meetings of the bodies of which they are members and cannot extend the said functions outside the said bodies unless expressly mandated by the body to which they belong.

"Article 29. The measures of the present decree become effective with its publication and must be put into full and entire effect with a maximum delay of one year. "



1549

The Socialist Students maintained their left line this year, in spite of a C.D.S. delegation from Oxford. The Executive introduced a motion critical of Mr. Wilson, as follows:

"This conference, while welcoming Mr. Wilson's opposition to the independent British, European and NATO deterrent, declares his recent statements in the US to be an inadequate basis for a Labour foreign policy. Conference calls on Mr. Wilson to raise the issue of disengagement and the withdrawal of foreign bases with the US and calls on the Labour Party to campaign at the next election, not on firm loyalty to NATO and the Atlantic Community, but on disengagement, the need for new disarmament initiatives, and Britain's primary loyalty to the U.N."

(For, 52, Against 5, Abst., 8). NALSO's own unilateralist policy was reaffirmed overwhelmingly. The Nottingham resolution on Clause 4 received strong support and was passed with 46 for, 10 against, 8 Abst. It read as follows:

"NALSO considers that the present unemployment problem and the regional un-balance of economic development, together with the complete failure of the Tory government to solve these problems, demonstrates the inability of a capitalist class to avoid the social crises created by a market economy, and provides further evidence of the bankruptcy of the capitalist system. NALSO therefore calls on the Labour Party to prepare plans for nationalisation in accordance with Clause 4, of the banks, insurance houses and major industrial concerns, so that investment may be directed where it is socially necessary rather than where it is in the interests of private profit." The resolution also demanded "Work or full pay" and work sharing.

The Nottingham resolution calling for Unions to fight the Fords victimisation was carried overwhelmingly. The Co-op College amendment urging acceptance of the Jack tribunal decisions, was heavily defeated. NALSO also supported - nem con - a demand that a campaign be organised to help the Angolan refugees. Full solidarity was also expressed with the Ben Bella government and the Labour Party was asked to organise aid for the Algerians. Repression in Angola was condemned. More controversial was a resolution from Nottingham again calling for solidarity with "the revolutionary Venezuelan people in their struggle against police terrorism and economic imperialism" (for 29, against, 10 abst. 16).

On the Common Market, the Nottingham resolution asking the TUC to take the initiative in calling a European Conference of Christian, Socialist and Communist unions to formulate a common plan of defence against attacks on their members' living standards, was carried. The demand that we should unite behind the document "signposts for the Sixties" was thrown out for the second year running, as was the Oxford resolution that Crosland's ideas should be made the basis of Labour's domestic policies. George Brown was asked to resign either from the Mirror or his Labour Party positions. The stormiest debate at the Conference was on the Young Socialists. The main resolution under discussion was from Nottingham and read as follows:

"NALSO believes the YS should be given greater independence and therefore deplores the attitude of the NEC of the Labour Party towards the YS. NALSO: (a) protests against the expulsions from the National Committee of three members, (b) expresses solidarity with those who resigned or walked off the Committee; (c) Calls on the Labour Party in the event of further expulsions to convene re-elections, rather than co-opting members. (d) Asks that this resolution be presented to the YS National Conference.

Speakers for the resolution concentrated on the bad showing of the N.E.C. Speakers against concentrated on the nature of the Keep Left organisation, and its alleged incompatibility with Labour Party principles. Many amongst the Left were against showing sympathy to Keep Left, and it was claimed that the resolution in question would provide political capital for them. An amendment to the resolution, which said (e) Supports the proscription of Keep Left, led to several recounts, finally being defeated 29 - 30 - 4. i.e., by one vote. However, to add to the confusion, another resolution calling, amongst other things for the lifting of the ban on Keep Left failed 22 - 35 - 8.

NALSO itself seems to be at a turning point. Most of its affiliated clubs take no interest in it. The problem of "Socialism in one Club" came under discussion. In an attempt to give NALSO some national identity the new Executive is thinking of organising a national demonstration, possibly on the issue of Portuguese student rights. That the position is worrying is indicated by the fact that two clubs are only just being restrained from dis-affiliating, and that only 70 delegates turned up to the conference instead of the 114 who promised to be there. NALSO is now clear, however, from financial difficulties, and has a keen Executive.