

# The Newsletter

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## Wilson loses middle class vote

EDITORIAL

### In defence of Mods and Rockers

THE Magistrates in Margate and Brighton had a field day on Whit Monday.

At Margate fines amounting to £1,800 were imposed and in Brighton teenagers were sent to jail and detention centres for periods of up to three months.

The press and the entire Establishment went wild with joy. Fleet Street raved. The 'Daily Express' turning its editorial guns from the Radfan Mountains, blazed away at the Margate rebels.

It crowed: 'Dr. Simpson imposed terms of detention and some heavy fines. He does well.'

He does well indeed! If he has done nothing else, the learned Doctor and his Fleet Street cronies have shown the youth—mods and rockers alike—that they can expect neither justice, humanity nor understanding from the capitalist courts and the venal press.

Dr. Simpson in his histrionic outburst summed up the attitude of the capitalist class to youth when he compared the teenagers to 'rats... hunting only in packs, and thus infected with this vicious virus'.

At the same time that the 'Daily Express' was applauding the hard-faced magistrates, the British government was preparing to send another battalion of infantrymen to Arabia.

We can rest assured, however, that no one in Arabia will be fined—nor will there be any jail sentences for any damage done. Nor will we hear a squeak of protest from the 'Daily Express'.

Why? Because there is one law for the oil monopolies and another for the mods and rockers.

In capitalist society the working class youth are treated as disfranchised, propertyless pariahs to be conscripted in war and exploited in peace.

Their instinctive rejection of society takes on bizarre and unconventional forms and leads them into direct conflict with state authority. Hence Clacton, Margate and Brighton.

Under capitalism there can be no solution for 'vandalism', 'hooliganism' or 'delinquency'. Capitalism spawns these things as surely as it breeds wars and crises.

The Whitsun events are therefore a symptom of a deep-seated social crisis. But they are also an ominous warning to the Labour leaders.

If the next Labour government does not nationalize the monopolies, free the colonies and rid Britain of the spectre of unemployment, insecurity, homelessness and poverty then the disillusionment of the youth will be complete.

Such a situation will only assist the racists and fascists.

For these reasons The Newsletter protests in the strongest terms against the vicious sentences and fines handed down on these victims of capitalism.

It calls on the youth, mods, rockers and, Yes, even the 'sawdust Caesars' and 'odious louts' to join with the Socialist Labour League and fight against the real enemy of youth—British imperialism.

### Policies drive Liberals to Tories

**HAROLD WILSON** is a menace to the Labour Party. The signs in the recent by-elections and local elections that Labour's electoral lead has slipped, are a condemnation of his mis-leadership.

Less than a year after the Profumo crisis rocked the Tory government, Home can talk of returning to power after the October election.

While the solid working class core of Labour support remains intact, the middle class voters show signs of returning to their old allegiance—the ruling class party.

The Labour leaders seek power to run capitalism on behalf of the monopolies. That is why they can offer no solutions to the difficulties of either the workers or the middle class.

Meanwhile they argue that the labour movement must at all costs avoid frightening away the timid middle class electorate. This was their excuse for persuading steel workers, power workers and postmen to call off industrial action and wait for their respective committees of inquiry to report.

Last week the power industry enquiry reported that there was blame on both sides. How right The Newsletter was to call the betrayal of the power men by its real name.

### Tactician

Wilson is hailed by his disciples as the master tactician. By avoiding definite commitment on every issue, he is supposed to annoy the smallest number of voters.

'Tribune', Wilson's publicity organ for worn-out lefts, explains that he is really a socialist, but he is just waiting for a chance to show it.

Just what rubbish this 'theory of masterly evasion' really is, can be seen from the way the Liberal vote has tended to switch to the Tories. Far from attracting the middle class Wilson's failure to provide real answers to their economic and social problems has led to disillusionment with Labour.

The middle layers of society—professional men and small shopkeepers for example—are increasingly pushed around by the big monopolies.

### Swing

Traditionally dependent on the ruling class, they can overcome their snobbery in times of crisis and look to the working class movement for help. In 1945 many of them voted Labour.

But unless they can see that Labour means to make real changes in society, they will lose confidence in the strength of the working class and swing back to the right, as happened in the late 1940s.

At a time when the Tories themselves are in grave difficulties, this can lead to the growth of extreme right-wing tendencies, inside and outside the Tory party.

The decline of the Liberal vote from its Orpington high-point in 1959 was inevitable. It only rose at that time because Gaitskell held back any move to socialist policies.

But Wilson's effective continuation of the Gaits-

kell line has ensured that this support now swings again to the right.

The fiasco of Crossman's education plan shows that even on the question of how to look after the five-year-olds, the Labour leaders cannot make any definite proposals.

### Prelude

The only clear statements Wilson has made recently are about Cyprus, Aden and Malaysia—on all these he backs Tory policy.

The fight for a socialist programme to break the power of the monopolies is a life and death question for the labour movement. The electoral contest in October is only the prelude to much sharper conflicts between Labour and big business.

In contrast to Mr. Wilson, the Young Socialists have already taken up this challenge from big business at their Brighton conference.

The labour movement must follow this example otherwise Labour's strength will be frittered away and the working class will be left unprepared for the coming struggles.

### CEYLON

#### EXPULSION OF THIS RENEGADE!

ACCORDING to reliable information we learn that a leader of the Lanka Sama Samaja Party of Ceylon, A. Moonesinghe, has recently been negotiating with Italian Stalinist leaders.

'Unita', the Stalinist daily reports in its issue of October 23, 1963, that Mr. Moonesinghe stated in his talks that 'the majority of the LSSP' supported the Moscow leaders but the party was a minority within the Pabloite Fourth International.

Who gave Moonesinghe a mandate to negotiate with these reformist traitors and why? What conference of the LSSP did so? We should like to know.

In 1950 the British section of the Fourth International expelled Mr. and Mrs. Moonesinghe for their public breach of discipline in refusing to publicly defend the line of the Fourth International on the Korean War.

They then returned to Ceylon and, against the advice and insistence of the British Trotskyists, these avowed opportunists were permitted to enter the ranks of the LSSP. Moonesinghe became a Member of Parliament and a leader of the right wing of the LSSP.

The International Committee of the Fourth International urges members of the LSSP at their forthcoming conference to follow the example of the British Trotskyists and expel this worthless renegade and his colleagues from the party for violating the programme and traditions of the Fourth International.

### Miners force Franco's hand

DESPITE all the talk last week of closing 'uneconomical' pits in north-west Spain, where over 40,000 miners have joined a month-old strike, the Franco regime has been forced to offer large wage increases and better working conditions.

By this move the regime has also been forced to recognise the illegal strike.

The decree, which talks of immediate pay rises and a 40 per cent increase over three years, applies to all Spanish mines, but is being withheld in the Asturias until the miners return to work.

The regime, hard pressed by unrest throughout the country among workers and students, now gives the impression of being 'moderate'.

But whatever concessions are made to the Spanish workers, there is always an extreme right-wing section of Franco supporters ready to use police and troops against them.

In fact, police had surrounded most of the mines in the Asturias and were ready to move in on orders from Franco.

## Miners pay offer—a sixpenny insult

### Union leaders give in to Robens

EXECUTIVE members of the National Union of Mineworkers have accepted the pay offer made by the Coal Board to the 280,000 day wage men in the industry.

This offer—only sixpence more than that previously rejected—means that the increases will range from 7s. 6d. to 12s. per week, much less than the previous claim of 15s. for all day wage men.

The award is an insult to the miners, particularly when it is remembered that £428,000,000 has been paid out to the money lenders and former coal owners since nationalization, and that Robens himself recently received a wage increase of £50 per week.

The leadership of the NUM—both right wingers of the Labour Party and Communist Party members—will have difficulty in getting away with this capitulation.

Already the leadership in the South Wales area have faced a demand for a strike.

argument that wage increases had to be tied to higher productivity?

Each miner today is producing 30 per cent more coal than six years ago, and production has gone up another 4 per cent in the first quarter of this year.

### Blames Workers

Yet the day wage men cannot have their 15s. and the Coal Board Industrial Relations Officer, Mr. W. J. P. Webber (an ex-Transport and Salaried Staffs Association official) has the cheek to blame the piece workers for getting too much!

Mr. Will Paynter and the other Union leaders meekly accept all this without anything remotely resembling a fight.

That is left to the rank and file miners who have to build up unity between day wage men and piece workers and between the areas.

### Reject pay offer say Yorks miners

DELEGATES to the Yorkshire National Union of Mineworkers' Council have been mandated by the Doncaster Panel to reject the Coal Board's pay offer.

The panel also recommended all its branches to operate an overtime ban until the National Coal Board agrees to pay the full 15s. 4d day wage workers.

With 13 pits in the Doncaster panel, which is one of the largest in Yorkshire, production in that area could be seriously affected.

### Overtime ban by busmen

BECAUSE their new pay rates have not yet been settled, 500 busmen at Bromley, Kent, will begin an overtime ban next Tuesday.

The men hope that their action will be supported by a ban at Muswell Hill, Battersea and Kingston garages.

When they were offered a weekly rise of 13s. plus £1 for co-operation in methods of improving efficiency, the busmen said it was not enough.

### Slandered Soviet commanders now praised

TOGETHER with the most important section of General Gorbato's memoirs (see report on page 3) in 'Novy Mir', April 1964, there appears a review of two recent books: 'Army Commander Yakir: recollections of friends and fellow-soldiers' and 'Army Commander Uborevitch: recollections of friends and fellow-soldiers'.

The fates of these two commanders, says the review, were similar in many respects. 'Both born in 1896, and both Bolsheviks from Spring 1917, they both formed part of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party in the final years of their lives.

### RED GUARDS

'They both began military activity with the organisation of Red Guards detachments in Bessarabia, and later did much for the building of the all-Union Army, occupying responsible positions of command in the military field. And both of them tragically perished in the flowering of their strength and talents in June 1937, falling victims to Stalin's arbitrariness.'

The names of many present-day prominent Russians feature among the authors of articles about the hitherto discredited commanders: S. I. Aralov, V. V. Popov, Marshal I. K. Bagramyan, Colonel P. N. Alexandrov, Colonel M. S. Medansky, Colonel V. P. Malishev, Air Lieutenant General P. S. Shelukhin, Lieutenant General A. I. Cherepanov, Lieutenant General M. F. Lukin, Marshal M. V. Zakharov and Marshal K. A. Meretzkov.

The publication of these two collections, which like Gorbato's memoirs call into question the fates of many other military leaders, is illustrative of the profound crisis now affecting the Soviet Union as the bureaucracy desperately tries to disassociate itself from its murky past.

### Strike wave in France

SORTERS in the mail trains in France went on strike last week. They were followed by workers in all other branches of the post office on Friday. These short strikes, together with the Whitsun delays have thrown the French post office out of gear for at least a week.

Postmen are demanding an increase in the number of workers, a shorter working day, a five-day week and wage increases.

### Sit-in

Workers in the shipyards at Dunkirk staged a sit-in strike last week. On Wednesday, the workers still occupied the yards as the management had refused to negotiate with them.

In Nantes strikers from the shipyards and engineering works held a demonstration and meeting in the centre of the town. Workers from the Sud-Aviation factory and from the Fortes de l'Ouest in Saint Nazaire called a sympathy meeting in their town for the same time.

### Back up

On Thursday, the General Confederation of Workers called a national strike of a few hours to back up the claims of engineering workers. In Maubeuge, in North-east France, 10,000 engineering workers demonstrated in the streets. Fifteen thousand workers were estimated to have followed the strike in North France, and 10,000 in the Loire valley. The strike was also widely followed in the Lorraine steel industry.

## KHRUSHCHEV WITH THE MURDERERS OF COMMUNISTS



KHRUSHCHEV is seen above with Presidents Nasser of Egypt (left), Aref of Iraq and Sallal of the Yemen (right) at the opening of the first stage of the Aswan dam project.

In his speech Khrushchev promised arms to Egypt, Algeria and Iraq.

The same Khrushchev has

denied atomic weapons to the People's Republic of China in the name of 'peaceful co-existence'.

Colonel Aref is one of those who will surely appreciate this gesture. He has slaughtered more communists and trade unionists than even the hated dictator of Iraq, Nuri Es Said, who ruled until the 1958 coup.

With Khrushchev's arms he will be able to continue his genocidal war against the Kurds and repress communism even more severely in Iraq.

Not even the grandiose proportions of the Aswan dam can hide the hideous reality of this latest betrayal of the Arab working class by the Soviet bureaucracy.





