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PARTY**
TODAY

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3d.

OUR AIMS
"To secure for the producers by hand and by brain the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and distribution . . ."
Labour Party Constitution.

THE AUSTIN INQUIRY

"IF those who, in addition to their work for their employers, devote considerable time and activity to organising the men for the time-honoured purpose of collective bargaining are not to receive at least the same measure of protection as other members of the union receive, then the whole basis of collective bargaining will be destroyed—because there will be nobody on the workers' side to carry it out."

"This was the great principle at stake in the Austin dispute", said Mr. W. T. Wells (Labour M.P. for Walsall) representing the National Union of Vehicle Builders at the Court of Inquiry which opened last week in London.

Mr. Wells recalled previous disputes over the dismissal of two shop stewards and said, against that background, union officials were apprehensive as to how the question of redundancy would be dealt with by the Austin Motor Company.

When the Inquiry opened, a large crowd of interested workers—including six coach loads of Austin strikers—wanted to get in. Only about 120 could do so. Sir John Forster (the Chairman) in reply to a question from Mr. Wells stated he was powerless to remove the Inquiry to a larger hall. The public would have to rely on the press, he added—a remark that was greeted with ironical jeers from Birmingham workers whose recent experiences with the press have been far from happy.

Sir Godfrey Russell Vick, Q.C. (acting for the employers) sought to establish that the union were seeking "preferential treatment" for shop stewards. Mr. George Evans, N.U.V.B. Birmingham District Organiser, denied this from the witness box. All the union desired, he said, was the same treatment for its shop stewards—and not worse—as that meted out to other workers.

"I believe", he said, "that McHugh has done a good job of work for our union at the Austins and the company were glad to see the back of him."

In giving his evidence, John McHugh (the dismissed steward) gave as his opinion that he had not been re-instated because of his activities as a shop steward. McHugh revealed that he is the Chairman of the Austin-Morris Merger Committee, Chairman of his own branch of the N.U.V.B.,

Secretary of the Austin Joint Shop Stewards Committee, and Secretary of the N.U.V.B. Area Shop Stewards Committee.

Referring to the company's dismissal of some 1,800 vehicle builders Mr. Wells called this "a deliberate and calculated act of provocation".

Particularly was this so in view of the fact that, before the dismissal notices had expired, Mr. Halliwell, the General Secretary of the N.U.V.B., had offered to get all the men back to work if the notices were withdrawn. His offer, said Mr. Wells, was rejected by the Company "out of hand".

As we go to press the inquiry is still proceeding and the law does not permit us to comment on it. However, many fundamental points of trade unionism have been raised in this Inquiry and our Industrial Correspondent will write on these at length as soon as that becomes possible.

More Support For Strikers

DELEGATES to the April meeting of the Manchester and Salford Trades Council showed their support for the splendid fight of the Austin Vehicle Builders by sending £3 10s. to the Strike Fund.

At an A.E.U. Shop Stewards week-end school at Lyme Hall near Southport a whip round realised £1 10s. for the Strike Fund.

At Platts Manchester factory trade unionists are getting financial support with workshop collections.

Delegates to the Annual Meeting of the Birmingham Borough Labour Party endorsed their Executive's decision to give full support to the strikers and increased the donation from £10 to £20! The one delegate who spoke and voted against the strike was loudly booed for his reactionary attack on workers who are fighting for trade union rights against an arrogant bunch of employers.

The Stechford Constituency Labour Party has also passed a resolution of support and donated £1 1s. to the Strike Fund.

The Butler Serves His Friends A Tasty Dish But for Workers—Plenty of Guns!

"THE City is well pleased with Mr. Butler's second Budget", says the "Sunday Observer".

And so the 'City' should be! For it is a City Budget framed by a Tory politician so as to give the maximum possible benefit to the financial, industrial and commercial interests (the 'City') while still keeping the allegiance of the middle class without whose support Toryism cannot rule in Britain.

Income tax reductions have been dispensed in a typically Tory manner. The richer you are, the more you get! And if your income is derived from investment, if it is UNEARNED income, you get the biggest relief of all.

The rich spiv with an unearned income of £100,000 a year will receive tax relief amounting to about £160 a week! But a working class family of three—man, wife and child—earning £10 a week will get . . . 11d! Millions of families on the five, six and seven pound a week mark will get absolutely nothing.

And to mock the increasing poverty of working class people, Mr. Butler has kindly reduced the purchase tax on . . . mink coats, cars and jewellery.

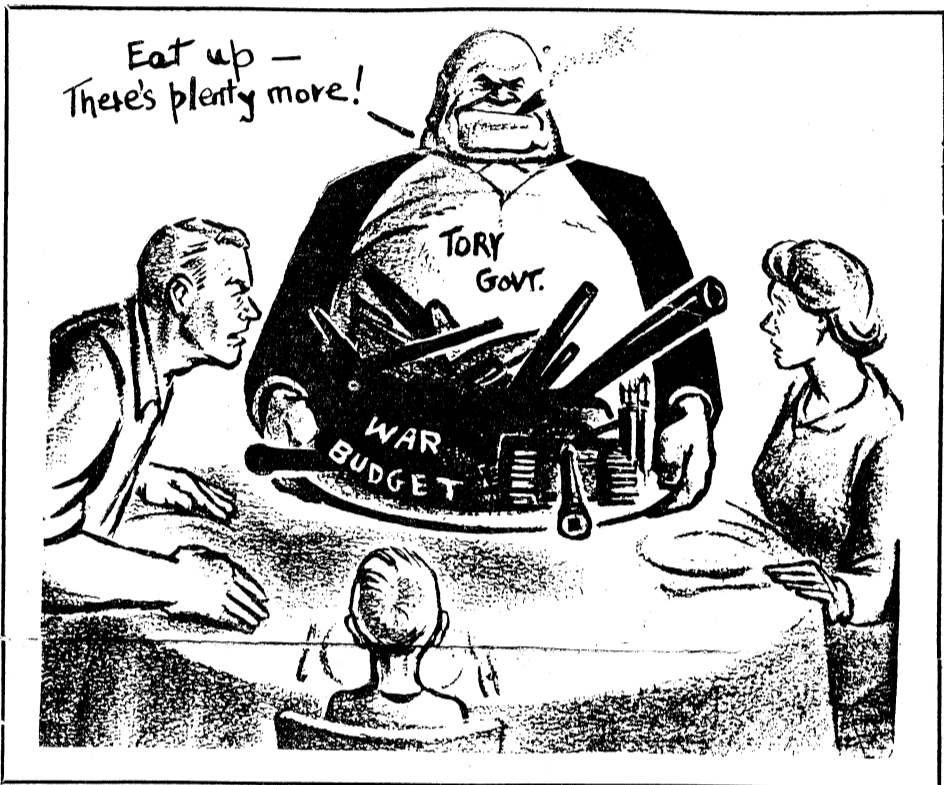
Nevertheless, Mr. Butler hopes by this Budget to retain Toryism's middle class supporters. He will plead that he is the first post-war Chancellor to actually reduce taxation. It is a specious plea—but it will probably work for a time. After all, it will be argued, neither food subsidies (with the exception of sugar), housing subsidies nor the Health Services have been further attacked.

But Butler's Budget speech gave a clear indication that they will be cut . . . when the time is opportune. "We shall work", he said, "in the spirit that wherever appropriate the Government

should do less and that the private citizen should be in a position to do more." In other words, de-subsidising will be carried on piecemeal and cuts in the Health Service are referred to an "Axing Committee" whose recommendation can be adopted when it is politically expedient to do so.

That is the intention and even the slightest acquaintance with the economic background to Mr. Butler's Budget is enough to realise that the intention will soon become reality.

In the first place, it was sheer luck which enabled Mr. Butler to make concessions to Big Business without throwing huge extra burdens on the rest of the people. It had nothing to do with "wise planning", but was the result of



This cartoon illustrated our views on Butler's 1952 Budget. We make no apology for using it again. Arms expenditure remains the biggest item of national expenditure—£1,776 million. More than two-fifths (41.2 per cent.). Social Services will cost £1,264 million (30 per cent.) A typical Tory Budget.

an entirely fortuitous change in the international terms of trade. Mr. Gaitskell was absolutely right on this point at least.

For some time now, the prices of imported food and raw materials have been falling. Therefore, the Government has been able to import a greater quantity of these commodities for the same or less amounts of money. And this, in turn, has permitted them to remove more and more of these items from rationing—eggs, tea, sugar, feeding stuffs, etc.

For the same reason, it has been possible to end price control on these commodities—thus dispensing with the subsidies—without thereby raising prices to an extent which would create discontent among the Government's middle class supporters.

It is of course true, that throughout this period prices have been rising and have badly hit lower paid workers, old age pensioners and the sick. But the Tories are not concerned about this section of the population which long ago ceased to give any support to their Party.

What is important is that the effect of these price rises on the Government's middle class friends has not been serious enough to discount the benefits derived from buying what they liked limited only by what they could afford. And to add to their satisfaction, those who could afford a holiday abroad were even permitted to take more money out of the country.

Broadly speaking, these are the reasons—"accidents" is perhaps a better word—which have permitted the Tory Government to pass on to Big Business almost the entire Budget surplus without at the same time losing the support of those sections of the community who are traditionally Tory.

But these favourable terms of

trade which have come to Mr. Butler's assistance will not remain stationary. They will move—and move decisively—against Britain as they did after 1950.

The terms of trade have up to now been favourable to the countries producing food and raw materials—largely because the productivity of labour in primary production did not increase to anything like the same extent during the war as did the productivity in industry. And no fundamental change in that relationship has taken place since.

All that has happened is a temporary change in the ratio of supply and demand. The products of the machinery producing countries like Britain are at the moment in greater demand owing to the armaments drive in all of the Western world. But as rearmament reaches its peak and the demand begins to fall off, the ratio between prices of food and raw materials and prices of machinery will alter again to the detriment of Britain.

When that happens—and it will certainly happen—the present concessions to Big Business can only be maintained by removing all the remaining subsidies—including the housing subsidy—and imposing taxes on all items of food, drink, tobacco, clothes, etc. This will result in an enormous increase in the cost of living affecting all sections of the people—except the bankers and rich industrialists.

It is this stark economic fact which makes an early Election possible. Churchill and Butler may well decide to capitalise on their fake Budget, and on the manufactured hysteria of the Coronation, to spring an Election before the full effects of their policies are felt by their own supporters.

HAROLD DAVIES, M.P.
on the
BUDGET
(see page 4)

Ike's Phoney 'Peace' Terms

PRESIDENT Eisenhower has declared that his Government wants to end the cold war and, from the money saved by a reduction in armaments, launch a fund for the purpose of fighting hunger, disease and insecurity. If you believe that, you'll believe anything.

The facts are that the American Government represents the most powerful capitalist class in the world whose course is set for war because the conquest of the Russian, Chinese and Eastern European markets is the sole remaining 'way out' for Big Business.

Naturally they do not admit this gruesome fact, but hide it behind loud proclamations of their peaceful intentions. There is nothing new in this. Hitler was continually offering "peace" right up to the time he invaded Poland.

Viewed without sentiment, Eisenhower's proposals are seen to be nothing more or less than

America's war aims presented in the form of an ultimatum! Accept these terms—or else!

WHAT IS PROPOSED

First—the ending of the wars in Korea, Malaya and Indo-China but without the withdrawal of American troops from Korea and with Britain and France left in full possession of their Malayan and Indo-Chinese colonies. This is a demand for the . . . ending of the colonial revolution!

It may be acceptable to the leaders of the Soviet Union—but it will never be accepted by the masses of China and S.E. Asia.

New China is not to be recognised. On the contrary, Mr. Dulles announces that more and bigger aid will be given to the reactionary forces of Chiang Kai Shek. America fought the last war to capture the vast Chinese market—and that is still her fundamental aim in the Far East.

In the West, the American peace terms are equally ultimatumistic. "Freedom and independence" must first be restored to the countries of Eastern Europe.

Which, being translated, means the restoration of capitalism in all those areas.

Again, the leaders of the Soviet Union may accept such terms—but the workers of Eastern Europe will certainly have plenty to say about any attempt to hand them back to the landlords and monopoly capitalists!

In our opinion, the American peace offensive—endorsed without qualification by Mr. Churchill—is an attempt to exploit that most exploitable of all human emotions—the desire for peace.

Editorial

The plan has obvious advantages for American Big Business. If it is rejected then the onus for continuing the cold war can be placed (it is hoped) on the Soviet Union. While if it is accepted by Malenkov and his colleagues—if only in part—it can mean a breathing spell in which the Soviet Union will take the lead

in curbing the colonial revolution. That they should do so is actually one of the American demands.

However, all these plans can be frustrated by a vigorous lead from our own Labour Party which occupies a key position in the present struggle.

SOCIALIST TERMS

First—the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Korea, Malaya, Indo-China, Kenya, Egypt and every other occupied country. This just and democratic demand would be completely acceptable to the millions of colonial people and to the people of China.

Second—the withdrawal of all foreign troops from Germany and Europe (including Britain!) so that the peoples of Europe may decide on the social system they want without fear of armed capitalist intervention.

But aren't these terms as ultimatumistic as Eisenhower's? Yes they are—but the ultimatum is served on capitalism, not on the workers and the colonial people. There's a world of difference.

Behind the South African Elections:

Slave-Owners Vote for Slavery

THE South African General Elections are over. Dr. Malan and his Nationalist Party are back in the saddle—with a greatly increased majority—pledged to carry still further their policy of racial oppression disguised under the name “apartheid”.

About 1,300,000 voters went to the poll on April 15. Of these, some 46,000 Coloured people, of mixed blood, were the only “non-Europeans” to take part.

The rest of South Africa's 12,000,000 non-white population had no say as to who should sit in Parliament and pass laws which would affect every one of them.

In the Union of South Africa, the non-white population outnumber the white by about 6-1; in the South African House of Assembly, the whites are represented by 156 M.P.'s, the Africans by 3—and these have to be lily-white, too!

'DEMOCRATIC' SHAM

Never was there such a farcical election masquerading under the title of “democracy”. On the only issue which matters in South Africa—race relations—there is hardly any difference between the two major political parties—Malan's Nationalists and Strauss' United Party.

On all the principal anti-black and anti-democratic measures introduced by the Malan Government during its term of office, they had the support of the United

**By
Kies Viljoen
South African Socialist**

Party opposition—including terms of imprisonment and whipping for political offenders. It is, however, true, that the Opposition did move an amendment—to reduce the number of lashes prescribed from 15 to 10! This cynical amendment was readily accepted by Minister of Justice Swart. “After all”, he said, “what is 5 strokes between friends”.

WHAT THEY STAND FOR

Mr. Strauss and his party are the principal representatives of a certain section of the white population—the industrial capitalists. Industry cannot function without labour and in South Africa labour wears a black skin. Mr. Strauss, therefore, could not go all the way with Dr. Malan on the question of “Apartheid”. The Malanites (in theory at any rate), aim at complete separation between the white and non-white people. They want to divide the whole country into separate racial areas, where each group would be able to live its own life. That, at any rate, is what they say in their propaganda.

In his modified version of “apartheid”, Mr. Strauss defined the policy of his party as “residential and social separation with economic co-operation.” The black man, in short, could not be tolerated to live in a “white neighbourhood”, or to mix with the ruling race socially, but his labour power would be wanted for the white man's factories.

The Nationalists, representing the Afrikaner farmers and (in latter years) the big mine-owners of the Rand, want the Africans concentrated in “reserves”, where they can be most effectively recruited for work on the farms and in the mines.

The industrialists, on the other hand, would like a more stabilised working class, living in urban areas close to the place of work, though rigorously segregated from the white residential districts.

Malan's victory means that, for the moment, the Gold Barons of the Rand and the

“A man is not bound to a Government that he has not had a voice to put himself under.”—Col. Rainborough, *English Leveller*, 1647.

reactionary farmers of the “platteland” are on top.

But economic forces are working against them. The rapid development of industry in the last decade has resulted in a proportionate growth of the African population of the big towns. This process went on unimpeded during the Malan Regime, despite repressive legislation aimed at halting the “drift to the towns”. It is a process which will continue, no matter what Malan or his successors do to try and stop it.

FAKE 'LABOUR' PARTY

The South African Labour Party, which had 6 M.P.'s before the dissolution, now only has 4. (As a result of the death of the Labour Party leader, John Christie, the election in his former constituency has been postponed). And it is an acknowledged fact that it would hardly have held these seats was it not for the electoral alliance with the United Party and the Torch Commando (the so-called United Democratic Alliance). To such straits has the Labour Party, which once boasted 21 M.P.'s, been reduced.

The Labour Party came into existence as the party representing the imported white workers—mainly British. It adopted the position of defending the privileged status of the white worker as against the non-white worker.

The Labour Party was one of the first political parties in the Union to put forward the idea of territorial segregation (apartheid).

Today the great majority of workers in industry are Africans, Coloured or Asiatics. The whites occupy mainly supervisory or technical positions so that they no longer think of themselves as “labour” and vote for one or other of the Herrenvolk parties. This accounts for the decline of the Labour Party.

The Labour Party, it is true,

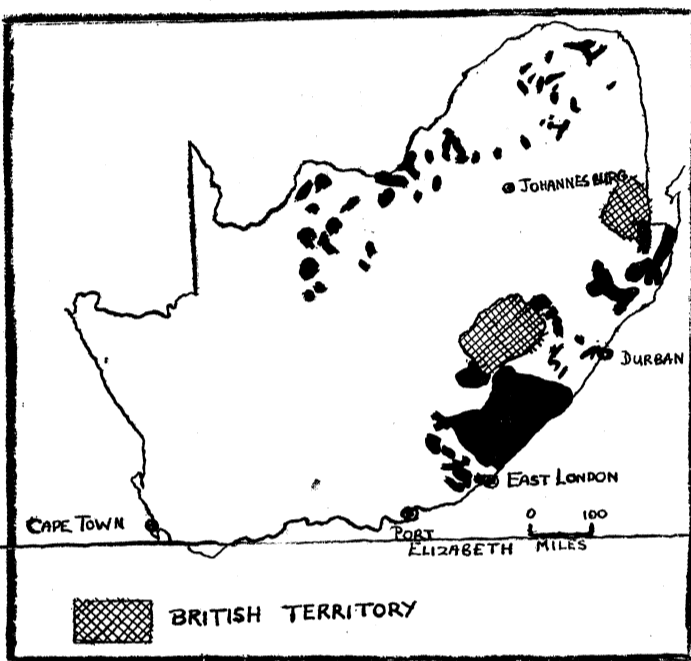
has now dropped its openly ‘herrenvolk’ programme and now consistently opposes Malan's anti-colour legislation. But it has failed to transform itself into a genuine Labour Party, championing the cause of the great majority of South Africa's working class, the black and coloured workers of field, factory and mine.

For, apart from the 3 white men's parties, which contested the elections, there is another force contending for power in South Africa. This is the voteless millions, the people who had no right to mark their X to the name of a candidate in the elections.

Not permitted to take part in

Why ALL Africans Hate Malan

Map of South Africa showing how the African has been driven off his land by the white man. Only in the shaded parts is the African permitted to own land!



the “democratic” processes, the African people must of necessity seek other ways to emancipate themselves from the economic and political slavery to which they are subjected. Those in industry are organising themselves in Trade Unions and in South Africa, the African Trade Unions have a brief but heroic history of struggle in which they have always combined political with economic demands. There can be no doubt that in the coming period the African unions will write new chapters of achievement in the battle for liberation.

WORKERS AND FARMERS

The African industrial worker retains close ties with his kin in the reserves. He is helping the peasants to organise on similar lines and supporting his demand for the re-distribution of the land

Warning!

“If Kenyatta is thrown into prison, if Southern Rhodesia votes for Federation, and if Malan is returned to power, an altogether new situation will arise in Africa. The peoples of Africa will have cause seriously to consider a joint continental solution.”

Manilal Gandhi quoted in the “Observer”

and against the government's rehabilitation scheme which seeks to reduce the number of cattle in the reserves without paying adequate compensation to the owners.

Only anaemic liberals believe that the fate of South Africa has been decided in the just-concluded elections. The African in the Union is watching with sympathy the struggle of the Kikuyu against British Imperialism in Kenya and the resistance to Federation in Central Africa.

AFRICA AWAKES!

He is learning fast that in the fight against white man's rule he is not alone and that the organised violence of the slave state in which he lives can only be overthrown by violence.

In West Africa he sees his kith and kin holding the reins of government in their own capable hands, which gives the lie to the white man's propaganda, repeated by Mr. Strauss in his broadcast, that the “Native was unfitted for any share of control in the country's political and economic development”.

The African in the Union knows that the African in the Gold Coast and Nigeria achieved a measure of self-government only after unremitting struggle against British imperialism. He knows that he must tread the same path but that in the end, victory will be his.

Militarism and Dictatorship

—as American Unions see it

“CREEPING Militarism” is the title of one of the most outspoken articles that has been published in years in the American union press.

It appears in the Labour Research column of the March 26 **Labour's Daily**, America's only daily labour newspaper.

“The richest nation on earth (in which 30,000,000 people don't even have a decent house to live in) is beginning to depend more and more on its military... as a dumping ground for its excess produce...” says the column. “What would be the solution to over-production if there were no army to be used as a dumping ground? What will happen if the Korean war ends and peaceful relations with Russia and the rest of the world result? The United States would still maintain its army. It would have to.”

The consequences of this capitalist dependence on militarism and war, points out the **Labour's Daily** column, is an ever-growing trend towards military dictatorship.

“If the present trend toward reliance on the military continues, the U.S. will eventually reach a point at which it will be too vulnerable for criticism. Its policy will be definitely militaristic and military governments always have too much to hide. As more and more reliance is placed on the military at home, the military will take more and more privileges, just as it has abroad. It will seize more and more power, just as it has abroad.” Finally it will become so “unhealthy to criticise the government” that “a dictatorship will have arrived in fact”, concludes the column.

Wall Street Peace Panic

★ ‘War or Bust’ is U.S. Perspective ★

THE possibility of peace in Korea has plunged Wall Street share prices into sharp decline. The world's wealthiest profit makers cannot afford peace.

For five years the rearmament drive has been the chief support of the American economy. If that drive is halted the prospect of slump will be opened and peace celebrations will be attended by the awesome spectre of unemployment. Even a small decline in U.S. economic activity would have the direst effect on Britain and on Europe.

It is calculated that a drop of 5 per cent. in American production leads to an immediate cut of 20 per cent. in American imports. This was one of the factors which dragged the rest of world capitalism into catastrophe in 1929 when crisis hit the U.S. Yet at that time most European countries faced the crisis with a balanced foreign trade and with sizable foreign assets which could be realised to offset the crisis.

Today these countries have a chronic adverse balance of trade and most of their overseas investments have been spent during two world wars and a slump. It is a decrepit shorn ram of British imperialism which now faces the chill winds of a major economic crisis, unless there is an extension of fighting elsewhere than Korea. But, whilst they reveal their uneasiness, many spokesmen of capitalism refuse to face the full significance of the situation.

A leading article in the “Manchester Guardian” (10/4/53) emphasises the temporary nature of U.S. difficulties with the assurance that, “Seven years ago there were grave fears that the demobilisation would cause widespread unemployment. In fact, the transition was arranged, both here and in the United States, without

any such disturbance... New solutions will again be found if the production of munitions has to be replaced with the output of other goods.”

But the condition of the American economy in 1953 is vastly changed from that of 1945.

During the last war the expansion of U.S. industry was restricted by the fact that private investment was limited to the extremely low average of only 4½ per cent. of the national product (U.S. Commerce Department figures). The expansion of output was achieved mainly by using facilities which had lain idle during the previous ten-year slump.

Moreover, expansion of industry during the slump period itself was at a very low level, and averaged only about half the boom level. Thus, when the war ended, it brought to a close a 16 year period of low level capitalist expansion and offered a very favourable opportunity for such a programme financed out of wartime profits. **This situation no longer exists.**

The present situation is similar to that of 1929. For seven years the rate of expansion of American industry has been roughly the same as during the twenties—about 15 per cent. of the national product—and, since the national product has been twice as big, the actual expansion of output has been twice as great.

The resultant tremendously swollen output of U.S. industry has threatened to choke the available market ever since 1948.

The “Manchester Guardian” Financial Editor concedes (8/4/53) that, “It may be argued that it” (the ending of post-war boom) “might well have come if the Americans had not been clever enough to dispose of their ‘surplus’ production first by the Mar-

shall Plan and then by rearmament.

The mounting of the rearmament drive was conveniently assisted by the outbreak of the Korean War. It halted a slump which had raised unemployment to almost 5 millions.

The production of “hard” goods (cars, planes, tanks, guns, tools, machines, etc.) had fallen from 230 (1935-39 average equals 100) at the beginning, to about 180 at the end of 1949.

It is this sector of industry which is most affected by booms and slumps because it provides new tools, machinery and factories

**By
Alf Rose
Member Belington C.L.P.**

for the equipment and expansion of industry. This expansion had halted with the first signs of slump; under the impetus of rearmament it was revised.

Since 1949 the production of “hard” goods in America has climbed to more than 300 and now accounts for more than one-third of the total national output, an unusually high level.

This boom has been sustained entirely by the increased production of military products and capital equipment.

The military sector of the economy has tripled in the past three years. Capital goods production has increased by 50 per cent. to a high point in U.S. history.

The production of consumer “hard” goods such as motor-cars and household appliances, by contrast, expanded only very slightly between 1950 and 1951 and then dropped sharply last year. Both production and sales fell below the level of 1950.

The production of consumer “soft” goods such as food, clothing, paper, shoes, etc., has remained at about index figure 180 throughout slump and boom.

It is supposed that a higher level of consumer goods production and sales will compensate for a slackening of the arms drive as it did, in part, at the end of World War II.

This assumption is at variance with the facts.

Wartime rationing and shortages, coming at the same time as a big rise in consumer income, produced an unparalleled savings situation. During the four war years, consumers spent an average of only 78.2 per cent. of disposable income, saving an average of 21.8 per cent. per year. Nothing like this had ever been seen before in America.

In the four post-war years the percentage of income spent by consumers jumped to 95.2 per cent. **Even without touching savings**, consumers were spending 17 cents. more out of every dollar. But the savings were being spent as well: so were the pay rises won by great trade union struggles in 1946. The spurt in purchasing power and actual spending was enormous.

The savings situation in the past three years has not been at all like that of World War II. It is more similar to that of the twenties. Consumers have been spending an average of 94.7 per cent. of disposable income and saving 5.3 per cent. This is like the 1929 situation, when 95.5 per cent. was spent and 4.5 per cent. saved.

As in 1929 also, a further element of doubt is provided by the fact that the U.S. home market is artificially inflated by the wide-

spread use of instalment payments schemes.

“Consumer instalment credit has been expanding at a rate of three and a half billion dollars or 26 per cent. a year; this clearly helps to maintain the demand for cars and household equipment. Instalment debt is still no more than 6.8 per cent. of total personal income after tax, but if it keeps on rising the risk of a sudden collapse of retail sales must increase.” (Manchester Guardian, 8/4/53).

Thus we find that the American economy is so dependent on the stimulus of rearmament that the “peace offensive” of Moscow and Peking has intensified the anxiety of U.S. capitalists and economists who were already fearfully anticipating the decline of military expenditure to “maintenance” level.

From a peak of between 55 and 60 billion dollars, the annual arms budget was expected to drop to 40 billion in 1955. This represents a fall from 17 per cent. to 12 per cent. of the national product.

It was this prospect that the orthodox U.S. economists had in mind when, at the end of last year (31/12/52), the “Wall Street Journal” headlined an article on their opinions: “Only a handful Expect High Business Level to Hold Through 1953.” “Some of their forecasts”, the article said, “are spine-chilling.”

Even more spine-chilling is the fact that none of the capitalist politicians or economists poses or dares to pose the question: “What would happen if the entire war economy were ended and America returned to its pre-World War II situation; if, instead of 17 per cent. or 12 per cent. of national production being consumed in the military market, only 1 or 2 per cent. were so used?”

Reluctance to face the problems of a peace economy clearly shows that American business cannot afford peace. Can the American people afford their big-business rulers? They are prepared to accept them whilst America prospers but a slump would disrupt class unity in the most powerful bastion of world reaction and intensify social conflict in allied nations.

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The REAL Cause of High Rates

★ An Investigation and a Solution ★

ALL over the country the rates are rising as never before.

The Birmingham Post headlines the 2s. 8d. increase (to 25s. in the £) imposed by Dudley Town Council as the "Highest in the History of the Borough."

This experience is shared by many other councils—whether controlled by parsimonious Tories or "extravagant" Socialists—and many ratepayers will have to delve even deeper into their pockets.

The borough councils of Grimsby, Lincoln, and Sheffield find it necessary to demand an extra 3s. 6d.; Bradford, Darlington and Middlesbrough require a further 3s.; Merthyr Tydfil's increase of 2s. 9d. raises the level to 30s. 9d. in the £.

At Burton-on-Trent, Hull and West Ham the rates have risen to 27s.; at Rochdale to 26s. 6d.; at Bolton, Lincoln and Warrington to 26s.; and at East Ham to 25s. 6d.

The Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants examining returns from 82 county boroughs in England and Wales, has found that the average rate is now 22s. 9½d. compared with 21s. last year.

Only very rarely are the higher charges due to the provision of increased or improved services. To limit the rise in rates Gloucester City Council cut down its school building programme from four schools to one. At the same meeting the council approved a rate increase of 3s. 4d.

The greatest single factor leading to rate increases is the Tory policy of favouring the money-lending minority at the expense of the working majority. The "benevolent" Mr. Butler has been the prime patron of profiteers.

One of his first actions as the Chancellor of the Exchequer was to raise the rate of interest on money which councils borrow to build schools, houses and to provide sewerage, water and roads.

Under the Labour Government money could be borrowed from the Public Works Loan Board at 3 per cent. The rate is now 4½ per cent. For every £100,000 borrowed by local authorities they now pay £4,250 in interest as against £3,000 previously.

For housing, the Government has met part of the increased cost by raising the housing subsidy by £10 4s. For a house costing £1,800 the new interest rate amounts to £18 6s. extra a year. This still

RIGHT FIRST TIME

A Sunday School teacher had been telling her class of little boys about crowns of glory and heavenly reward for good people. "Now tell me," she said at the close of the lesson, "who will get the biggest crown?"

There was silence for a while; then Johnny replied:

"Him wot's got the biggest 'ead."

Robbing the Rates

THE "Surrey and Middlesex Clarion" has carried out an investigation which shows in very simple terms how 'de-rating' handicaps local authorities in Surrey and Middlesex. Similar figures could be produced for every other industrial area in the country.

| | Rate Income (approx.) | Equivalent Rate in the £ |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| Kingston | £48,160 | 1s. 8d. |
| Barnes | £25,200 | 11d. |
| Egham | £31,000 | 2s. 5d. |
| Heston & Isleworth | £123,123 | 2s. 6d. |
| Feltham | £12,430 | 8d. |

Do the industrialists need this subsidy? A survey of some of the firms in the areas covered by the table above gives the answer.

| | Dividend | Reserves |
|--------------------------|----------|-------------|
| Smiths Potato Crisps ... | 32½% | £300,000 |
| Watneys Breweries ... | 17% | £3,500,000 |
| Vickers-Armstrong ... | 12½% | £11,000,000 |
| Hawker Aircraft ... | 22½% | £7,000,000 |
| Vine Products (Kingston) | 40% | £535,000 |

leaves £8 2s. (more than 3s. a week) to come from rates and rents. The local rate payers or council house tenants pay the difference.

The London County Council is faced this year with an extra £1,600,000 in increased loan charges. This is partly due to increased borrowing, but also to increased interest payments. Birmingham's loan charges will be £1,310,000—an increase of £240,000. In Glasgow the increase in interest rates has added £500,000 to council expenditure; for Sheffield the figure is £175,000. The minor city of Worcester had to pay £6,000 more on £592,000 borrowed last year.

THE BANKERS' CUT

The Government has also placed a limit on loans from the Public Works Loans Board and is now forcing councils to borrow directly from the speculative money market.

Recently the Birmingham City Council borrowed £6 millions in this way; paying 4½ per cent. interest instead of the former 3 per cent. (and receiving only £98 for every £100 of stock). The difference will cost Birmingham £75,000 a year—equal to a 2d. rate.

Alderman Wheeldon, M.P., Chairman of the Finance Committee names those who benefit: "the financial houses, the stockbrokers, and so on".

BUDGET BLOWS

By increasing the duty on petrol and heavy oil used in municipal transport, last year's Budget struck a further blow at the rates. The extra 7½d. a gallon boosts Glasgow's transport costs by £54,000 a year.

The cutting of the food subsidies and the lifting of controls has so raised the cost of living that it has released a flood of wage claims. Well-justified wage increases to council workers have helped to force up rates and raised the cost of living further.

Higher wages and salaries account for £2,400,000 of the London County Council's increased net revenue expenditure of £5 millions. Glasgow City's wages bill—with no increase in the number of workers—has gone up by £850,000; Hull City Council's by £141,000; Sheffield's by £200,000.

These three factors together add up to a terrific rise in the cost of local services. Last year the fuel tax cost the Liverpool Corporation £106,000 whilst the rise in transport wages amounted to £98,000. (Yet conductors receive only £6 3s. a week—£6 8s. after 18 months—and drivers draw only £6 8s. a week—£6 13s. after 18 months). In a full year these increases will cost Liverpool Transport £225,000. Increased interest charges will add a further £36,000.

A similar burden is placed on

The London working class flats picture! here are fully rated—but giant industrial concerns throughout the country are still receiving a SUBSIDY under the De-Rating Act amounting to millions every year. The extra burden this places on Local Authorities is enormous.



all corporation departments. The cost of essential foods which local authorities buy for their institutions has gone up by more than a fifth since last year.

ABOLISH THIS SUBSIDY

Whilst the Government has cut food subsidies and placed added burdens on the ratepayer, it continues to subsidise its supporters, farmers and prosperous industrialists, by retaining the Derating Act of 1929. This Act lifts the whole burden of rates from agricultural land and buildings whilst industrial property pays only a quarter of the local rate.

This loss of rating capacity constitutes a subsidy of £60 millions a year.

In 1930 the Liverpool rate fund lost £692,000 by Derating. Today the loss is £931,000. Sheffield ratepayers subsidise local industry to the tune of £670,000 a year. In Manchester, the amount is £667,000. In Enfield, the figure is £165,000—equivalent to a 3s. 6d. rate.

In the West Riding of Yorkshire rates could be lowered by 2s. if farmers and industrialists paid their full share. In London the reduction could be 3s. 6d.; in Kent, 4s.

It is calculated that the total

expenditure on services which directly assist industry—sewerage, highways, lighting, fire services, police—amount to approximately 30 per cent. of total rates levied. (Of course, health, housing and educational spending also assist industrial efficiency). Yet Birmingham's loss by Derating of £750,000—equal to a 2s. 2d. rate—leaves local industry paying only 5 per cent. of the local rate fund.

Mr. Butler's "Incentive" Budget should indeed be a powerful incentive—to put Labour in office, locally and nationally.

A Labour Government with a real Socialist policy could do much to reduce local rates. The following ideas should be fully considered:

- (1) Bring under public control the whole banking, finance and credit system. Provide loans, not at 4½ per cent. or even 3 per cent., but free of interest.
- (2) Make industrialists pay their full share for local services. First repeal the Derating Act and then institute a system of local income and profits tax to spread the burden more fairly than under the present rating system.
- (3) Transfer to national account a larger share of the cost of those services most subject to Government direction.

Speaking my mind

On... CHANGE

by TOM BRADDOCK

CHANGES in human relationships, changes in the ways in which we organise our day to day affairs, one man or groups of men with other men or other groups, do not take place gradually or at an even pace—but that such changes occur is obvious.

At one time, men were held as slaves, i.e., exactly as cattle or sheep. Later, their positions in the life of the community was absolutely fixed at their day of birth—born a serf, always a serf, born a land-owner, always a land-owner. Today, men either have their labour power to sell or, alternatively, a position that enables them to buy with wages that labour power. These are three examples showing clear changes in relationship and method.

But the change from one to the other did not take place slowly by a series of even graduations.

For instance, we did not have, midway between the slave system and the serf system, a time when we had a system half-slave and half-serf. The system held its grip on society until the time when its hold was broken. There was always, of course, strife, tension, failure and revolt, but the system staggered on until its failures and contradictions became so unbearable that human society could contain itself no longer under such intolerable frustrations.

There was then an explosion, a revolution, and the old was swept away and the new, rough, uncut, unready but alive with confidence and ideas, took its place.

We are today facing such a critical period.

The wage system (i.e., capitalism) has existed for, say, 250

years. It has shown itself to be quite incapable of solving the difficulties facing human society today.

Large sections of the human family have already rejected its methods. In Russia, China and elsewhere it is failing to satisfy the needs of man as understood by the world of today. It must be remembered in this connection that conditions which would have satisfied a slave society or even a wage-slave society no longer meet the demands of the modern man.

Our experience here makes it clear that we could if we so willed it destroy capitalism in this country here and now. We have, on the advice of such people as the Fabians, hoped for a gradual change. Had a change of this sort been possible the advent and policy of the 1945 Labour Government would have carried our revolution through, slowly perhaps, but with good temper and careful organisation.

It did not so happen. The large sector of capitalist power left unaffected by the limited advance of socialist planning did not accept the need for change. It fought back, it used its wealth, power and influence to snatch back power and that power it holds.

It holds it because of our continued observance of what we regard as the democratic method, i.e., the Tories hold the machine of government and we can only talk. But talk does not enable a system pledged to profit-making, the waste of war and the upholding of privilege, to satisfy even the elementary needs of man, let alone the wider conception men now have of what is meant by a full life.

We therefore have here in this country all the conditions that will force on us the rapid and revolutionary changes which mankind must face at more or less fixed periods.

That being the case, and having realised that the abolition of capitalism in this country cannot be a long drawn out process of easy change which will be scarcely noticed and which will be accepted by all, let us face our immediate future with resolution and confidence.

After all, we have plenty to give us encouragement. We have been able to take over large sections of our economic life with success—coal, heat, light and power and the railways are now public services, not as well organised as we know they can be, but we have done it and it works.

What is to stop us after the next election, or even before if the Tory Party refuses an election, carrying the same process right through the whole of the productive machinery of this country?

Not only coal and power, but everything else; engineering, chemicals, the building industry, etc., etc. There is really nothing to stop us, nothing against us, but every reason for the step.

There will, of course, be great difficulties, but these can be overcome because it is in our own interest that they should be overcome. We cannot overcome the difficulties of capitalism because there are bedded in society the two elements of employers and employed who cannot possibly work together.

We must be prepared to own our own country, our own means of production, our own methods of distribution. When we do this all the tensions which now exist in our life, resulting from separate ownership of capital and labour, will fade away and we shall in this country, with our experience and keen sense of toleration, be able to build up the first and most successful system of social ownership for the common good the world has yet seen. So, Comrades, prepare for the day and make it soon. We have not got too much time.

Make sure the Morecambe decisions are carried out and the next Labour Government nationalises—as Conference decided—all the "key and major industries in the country."

Audrey Wise

What's Wrong With the Labour League of Youth?

Some Suggestions From a London League

Youth every attempt is made to turn them into... escapists! Politics are discouraged.

Transport House would like a ping-pong playing League, whose members' only political contribution is to act as very small cogs in the election machine.

There has been a constant struggle in the League to get some political recognition and a democratic organisation. This struggle has been partially successful and we have just had the 1953 Conference of the League, where there was a high standard of political understanding and ability, despite the prohibition of political resolutions. So many members have been disheartened by the Labour Party bureaucracy, however, that the number of branches has fallen from 820 in 1950 to 538 in 1953.

It is essential that the opinion of the League on political questions should be hammered out at the League Conference, placed before the Party and recognised when policy is formed.

The League has difficult problems to overcome, but it cannot

even start to solve them while it is denied the opportunity to discuss them.

Our main field of work should be to recruit young people, particularly industrial workers, to their Trade Unions and the League. When battles break out, this rebellious generation will be in the forefront, and it is in industry that these battles will occur. Already signs have been shown, such as the apprentices strike in the North-West last year.

There is a very good nucleus in the League which will do great work when it is allowed to tackle the problems facing youth. The task will still be difficult and miracles must not be expected, but the disastrous drop can be arrested and a start made in building up.

We who claim the right to a democratic and political organisation do not say that by this alone we shall solve all problems. Undoubtedly much hard work must be done canvassing etc., and care given to organisational problems such as having a balanced programme. These things are done and will continue to be done, but they are useless unless we can tackle problems such as conscription and working conditions.

Youth problems, however, will not be solved on their own, and all League members must play a full part in the Labour Party. Our greatest allies are to be found in the left wing of the Party who, like us, want an end to the war drive, the slaughter in the colonies and the attacks on living standards. We must go forward with them to fight for a Socialist policy in the Party (starting with the implementation of the Morecambe decisions), as well as steadily building the League.

MEMBERSHIP of the League of Youth is very low and is falling disastrously. This needs serious examination.

The League covers young people who were between two and 11 years old when World War II broke out. It is a generation of young people who have lived always in war or faced with the threat of war.

This constant war threat is a product of capitalism just as much as were pre-war slumps. But whereas falling wages and unemployment gave birth to a politically-conscious and lively youth movement, the constant war problem is different.

It appears so complex and overwhelming that it has created a generation of escapists. In self-defence they have built a cynical shell and live only for the hour—to be spent in dance halls, amusement arcades and on street corners. They rebel against this society, but this rebellion takes the form of "flashiness", acting tough, and so-called delinquency. It does not take a political form at the moment.

Other young people—again living for the moment—give all their energies to purely social youth clubs, and also resist politics.

The League of Youth has therefore been faced with the task of organising these almost unorganisable masses of youth. No wonder its membership has always been low!

But the present declining membership is a different problem. Those who avoided the negative escapism of so many young people and have shown their rebellion by coming into politics, have found that in the League of



The Fighting Fund for April stands at only £31 7s. 8d. so far. £38 12s. 4d. is needed to hit the target. With only a week to go, we have not yet reached the half-way mark.

We know the Tory Budget will have brought you no comfort, but please don't let the "Outlook" suffer. The finish of the Excess Profits Levy is certainly of no assistance to us, and we can balance our budget only with your immediate help.

A Sure Sign of Increasing Poverty

NATIONAL Savings are a sure barometer of fluctuations in the cost of living. When the cost of living goes up, withdrawals tend to exceed deposits.

Our readers write

For the financial year which ended on March 31, National Savings totalled £1,095 million. Withdrawals from past savings totalled £1,112 million—an excess of withdrawals over new savings of £27 million. In 1951-52, savings totalled £1,063 million while withdrawals amounted to £1,056 million.

In the two weeks ended April 11, 1953, new savings were £41,544,000; withdrawals over the same period were £45,207,000.

According to Lord Mackintosh of Halifax, chairman of the National Savings Committee, "the total amount standing to the credit of National Savers, after taking into account Defence Bonds redemptions, fell by about £73 million, the biggest fall ever experienced in one year."

His lordship described this as "rather disappointing". It is certainly nothing to be surprised about. With unemployment figures rising, thousands of workers on short time, and prices going up all the time, the workers are compelled to fall back on the little they had put aside for a rainy day.

Birmingham. **S. Goldberg.**

Dangerous Propaganda

A propaganda film is to be used by the Home Office which, Sir Maxwell Fyffe, the Home Secretary, is reported as saying:

"Should help to dispel the growing idea that all would be lost if A-Bombs began dropping on Britain."

This propaganda is dangerous—because it tends to lull people into a feeling of false security when there is none!

It is intended to give Toryism a freer hand to take risks of a war that their anti-Socialist ideas bring ever nearer.

It would be interesting to read a list of post-war investments in U.S.A. (including those of Tory politicians) and the vast "millionaire hostels", of the West Indies now rapidly developing to save assets and lives, just as their farms (although not farmers) saved them from most of the food rationing.

But Britain's workers have no such security.

Southport. **Herbert Fielden.**

New Policy Wanted

The new international situation requires the Labour Party national executive to revise its policy statement before publication.

It would surely be both unnecessary and undesirable to continue an arms expenditure of £1,600 millions a year. The Labour Party should now act boldly and propose cutting this fantastic figure to the 1948 level of £800 millions and spending the balance on desperately needed reforms. This would encourage

Russia and China to make further compromises.

The saving would cover: the building of 400,000 houses a year; a great school building programme; family allowances for the first child; restoration of the food subsidies; £2 10s. a week old age pensions; re-equipment of industries brought under public ownership; and aid to hungry people abroad.

Such a programme would provide full employment despite the reduction of war orders. It would sweep the country.

Manchester. **Frank Alloun.**

An Autumn Election

I would like to state a few reasons why I think Churchill has decided to drop an Election on the workers after the Coronation rather than in two or three years' time.

In the first place his hatred of socialism, despite his hypocritical talk of "a property-owning democracy", has bred in him the ambition to deal a crushing blow to Socialist activity before events or age shift him from the scene. He thinks that the Coronation can be so staged that, with the help of the Press and the power of big business the workers can be fooled into returning a strong Tory Government.

A Tory swing in the local elections in May is the current political desire of this enemy of working class people and he is banking on the lack of genuine militant, aggressive Socialist leadership at the present time.

His tongue is already itching to dope all the voters with the puerile nonsense about a "new Elizabethan era" while they forget his lifelong struggle to keep a certain class in the ascendancy. Let the workers beware lest a General Election after the Coronation becomes a major move in a plan to bring the mass of the people in this country under an administration that will "put them in their proper place."

If there is a General Election in October, my fervent wish is that the working class will give Churchill and the Tory Party a repeat dose of 1945.

Leicester. **Paton Dene.**

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Owing to circumstances beyond our control the date of the Annual General Meeting of the Labour Publishing Society Ltd. has had to be changed from Saturday, May 23 to Saturday, **MAY 30th**

From Canada

I enjoy reading the "Outlook" very much, and appreciate the great and essential work you of the Labour Left are doing. I feel sure that what the working masses of Britain do towards defeating reaction there in the months ahead will be the greatest influence for peace and well-being for the peoples of all the world.

The people of Great Britain have a great responsibility and when and if they assert themselves, they will have the support of working people everywhere. They are, it seems to me, in the best position to take the lead towards Socialism.

Enclosed find £1 towards your fighting fund.

G. A. Goodspeed, Port Hardy (Canada).

We welcome letters and articles on any subject of interest to the Labour Movement.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words to ensure publication.

Articles should be received by FRIDAY for publication in the following Friday's issue.

Floods: A Critic

May I just clear up a few points in your article of April 17 about Bathside, Harwich.

You state, very clearly, that after nine weeks from the floods no repairs had been done in Bathside. Well, perhaps not. Why? Because Bathside, if you noticed, is in a hollow, it is in fact a "basin", into which the water went. Now, unlike other towns, and the main part of Harwich, this water did not go out with the turn of the tide. It stayed there,

We are not impressed by the criticisms of our "Flood Victims" article contained in this letter. We could answer Mr. Weaver's points but prefer that the job should be done by the Bathside victims themselves.

Watch the correspondence column next week, Mr. Weaver!

so every drop of water, which was in places well over 10 feet, had to be pumped out, which is not a fast job! Meanwhile other parts of Harwich was being repaired. The Government and some of the local "private enterprise" builders also hindered the job of the Council.

Another complaint is that the flood victims are "forgotten" people. Not in the least—they are in fact a big headache to everyone. Their attitude is (in some cases, not all cases) that "we are flood victims so we want . . ." Instead of helping everyone, they tend to be a hindrance.

Perhaps they would like the same to happen to them as in Yarmouth. Be given about £200 and be told to get on with repairs. In fact I know they would; but would they do repairs or spend it on drink? I think the latter, hence the Council's decision to make them spend their £130 well, before giving them all their money. They need not worry, they will get it!

Your attack on the Government

The Week at Westminster



by Harold Davies, M.P.

BUSTING FOR THE HUSTINGS!

SOME of the prophets have been saying we are in for an Autumn Election because of the Butler Budget.

The erudite papers have been proving it with a slide rule applied to the taxation columns of the Budget. Less clever papers have been using the office-boy's egg-boiler and watched the sand running down slowly, while the papers that increase their circulation by intuition have been busy getting their astrologers to see what the Stars Foretell.

The "Stars" at any rate know that they are going to get their cosmetics cheaper but I understand that the "Sugar Daddies" are not quite so sure about the Bulk Purchase of Cuban Sugar. It is strictly out of line with the howling of the Tories about Labour's bulk buying efforts.

Paracelsus was called the "zenith and the rising sun of all the alchemists". He was a physician of the 16th century and a lecturer at Basle University. He claimed magical powers over the Laws of Chance. But he had nothing on **Rab Butler** last week. Here is a Budget that gambles on more than the Treble Chance.

Now if that gamble doesn't come off then England will be reduced to the export of chocolates, whisky and designs for jet bombers which we shall have to let others make.

WE ARE THE PEOPLE!

The Tories have told us that they are the people. You know the dictum. What's good for them must be good for all of us. They desire that British industry should be "lightly burdened and nimbly competitive". This is, indeed, a worthy objective and one that no one at this juncture could oppose.

But Butler has refused to use the Budget as an instrument of planning and in a world of growing intensity in the struggle for markets no direction is planned for our exports. While the Chancellor hopes to encourage enterprise there is no discrimination in the kinds of enterprise that he wishes to encourage.

Exactly the same stimulus is given by this Budget to the honest manufacturer wishing to push in your article is alright, but most unjust to the Council. They are doing their best, I know.

In fact, Alderman Smith has spent nearly the last fifteen days, not doing his job but cleaning up flood problems! This job is an unpaid job as well!

So I think your article was rather too candid and rather unfounded except for our "dear, dear" friend, Sir Stanley. He most certainly is not doing his best to "build a better Britain", or shall we say Bathside instead of "Britain". I have heard (not from an official source) that he did not turn up at a meeting of the flooded area M.P.s when they held one! Moral—Do not buy Beecham's Pills!

Harwich. **Nigel Weaver.**

Britain's traditional engineering skills and products as to the "spiv" manufacturer who is here today and gone tomorrow.

Tax reliefs for honest industrial effort are worthy objectives. The time has come to recast completely the methods of industrial taxation.

But as I said in this column a few weeks ago the crisis of 1931 has never been solved and it looks as though the world will need another couple of generations of capitalist chaos and failure to realise that the old laissez-faire system has had its day and served its purpose.

IS IT CRICKET?

We all welcome the relief to county cricket and the little man in the taxi-cab business, but what help is this to the housewife who wanted cheaper children's clothing and footwear? I admit that a drop of 6d. in the Income Tax is bound to give more to the £20 a week man than to the £10 a week man. He gets a 1d. if he has two kids! **Why though are there such big concessions to the unearned income group?**

Is it cricket that the disabled worker and the old age pensioner are still left where they were?

Stinking Fish!

HERE is something Sir Lincoln Evans and the Productivity Council might look into.

The Humber Distant Water Vessels Development Scheme Committee announces that they propose laying off 20 per cent. of the fishing fleet and limit catches to 70 per cent. of capacity during May and June this year. They argue that this is the only way to avoid losses through fish being "left unsold".

Fish unsold? Working class housewives would gladly buy this so-called "surplus" fish—at a price they could afford to pay. But instead of bringing down the price, the trawler owners prefer to cut down supplies! This is a repetition of the pre-war capitalist madness, when food was dumped into the sea or ploughed into the ground to keep up prices and profits.

"It is just the type of thing we have come to expect from the trawler owners", said **Mr. Tom Birkett**, leader of the fishing section of the Transport and General Workers Union, in an interview with the "Grimsby Evening Telegraph". "Ever since there has been a trawler fishing industry in this country, the workers have been subjected to this kind of arbitrary decision . . . No one ever thinks of what is going to happen to the crews at all when vessels are laid up."

before Budget Day? It would be mere demagoguery to say we could give £5 a week right now to all old age pensioners, but I am quite sure that we could in the changed atmosphere of world affairs take a little risk in the field of arms to hand over a little more to our pensioners. That could have been done!

THE BOOST FOR PRODUCTION!

For the first time since 1945 Britain's production fell last year. Yet after all the incentives which he talked about last week, the Chancellor hopes that we will maintain output and make good last year's decline. That is not enough to keep England in economic health. The Economic Survey told us that the real value of Britain's gross domestic product fell last year by £100 million. In this picture we find that the employees' income rose last year by £587 millions or about 7 per cent. while the farmers' incomes rose about £30 millions or just over 8 per cent. Here then we see a rise in incomes with a fall in production. This Budget will merely exaggerate this pattern. Agriculture, of which the Tories talk so much and do so little, is left with no constructive incentives or ideas.

IF THERE'S PEACE?

Mr. Butler is gambling too on the American economy remaining stable. The error of the Budget will become clearer as the months pass. There is no effort to cushion British economy from the effects of an American recession. The fact is that within a capitalist concept no such cushion can be made.

Nevertheless, more could be done for home food production without any "feather-bedding". The little farmer gets very little except higher prices to pay for his fodder as things are now. Very little is being done to stop the drift of some 20,000 farm workers a year from the land.

Farming is a mode of life that has to fall back from time to time on the banks for credit. How is Butler going to use his weapon of the Bank rate with the farmers? Up to now they have had little encouragement if they have been small farmers. But there it is as **Ian Mikardo** says "It's the same the whole world over. It's the rich what gets the pleasure and the poor what gets the blame!" When the full slump comes you'll all be too blumin' lazy to work anyway . . .

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The Case of General Benthack

This significant little story is reprinted from the German socialist paper "Arbeiterpolitik".

THIS story begins in Crete in May, 1945. Everybody in the German army knew that the Nazi system was at an end. Everybody, that is, except high ranking German officers who were quite determined not to accept the facts.

The announced in wild speeches that the war would be continued to the last bullet and the last drop of blood.

A certain junior N.C.O. had the

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idea that their fanatical schemes should be prevented, if necessary by force. He therefore contacted a senior N.C.O. for the purpose of obtaining a few hand grenades. Who will blame the man? For a good many years he had been trained to solve problems with explosives.

His plans were discovered and he was brought before a court martial. Luckily for him, his fellow conspirator placed in the witness box, proved to be a failure from the prosecutor's point of view. The accused man could be convicted only for listening to foreign broadcasts and attempting to demoralise the German Wehrmacht. The sentence was two years imprisonment.

Two days later the German army surrendered. But the British General left to his German colleague—General Benthack—the command over his troops. He further left the Germans in possession of their arms, in order

to protect them from the 'love' of the native population.

And now the tragedy takes its course. A few days later the Wehrmacht prison was opened. All except four prisoners were set free and among these four was the junior N.C.O.

Three of the four were then executed in an open field, the fourth was shot from behind in a quartermasters store, in order to avoid 'unnecessary sensation'.

The general thus transformed the findings of the court into a death sentence because—according to him—the court martial had yielded to 'the mob outside'.

Now, it is eight years later, and the assassins stand in the dock at Hamburg Assizes. Two of them are at present police officers.

We still await the sentence. But believe me, it will not be too severe on the accused. Military discipline stands pretty high again in the Germany of our days and

the value of human-life has decreased considerably. The worst growths of the Hitler regime have been sinned but the ground and roots remain untouched.

Beside General Benthack in the Hamburg dock should stand also the British Generals, who left uncontrolled power over thousands of men in the hands of people of his kind. Under their very eyes men were murdered because they showed their joy at the end of the war.

Bill Murphy's Corner

A 21-gun salute greeted the Duke of Edinburgh when, wearing the uniform of **Admiral of the Fleet**, he arrived at Devonport dockyard today to present end-of-cruise prizes to cadets aboard H.M.S. Devonshire, the cadet training cruiser.

The Duke denied that promotion in the navy was a question of "jobs for the boys".

"Liverpool Echo"—14/4/53.