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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.

A CONTRAST IN FLOOD RELIEF

THE workers and shop stewards of Mirlees, Bickerton and Day, Stockport, engineering works have supplied a glaring contrast to the scandalous meanness (reported in the *Socialist Outlook* of April 17) of the local authority at Harwich who claimed the right to keep back one-fifth of the £150 allotted to each flood-stricken family from the relief fund until bills for the other four-fifths "prove the money has been wisely spent".

The workers at Mirlees, having no faith in the official administration of relief funds, organised their own Flood Relief Fund under their own control.

From about 1,000 workers, £150, was collected for the victims of the East Coast floods. Instead of sending the money to the 'official' fund a small unpaid sub-committee of workers was formed to administer the money. It was decided to equip 12 separate families with everyday household necessities such as crockery, pans, cutlery, buckets, etc. (even down to clothes lines and pegs), and to allocate the goods direct.

Twelve complete sets were purchased at discount through the firm (actual retail prices £180) and the lot were transported direct to Mablethorpe in a large van, supplied by the firm, under the charge of two shop stewards who insisted on staying with the goods until they saw it delivered to the 12 neediest families, through the local W.V.S.

By this effective example of "workers control" and initiative on a limited scale the workers at Mirlees ensured that at least 12 flood-stricken families got help directly and in full without a large part of the money being swallowed in inflated 'overheads' and 'administrative expenses'. And what is more important, without being subjected to the indignities of "means-test minded" officialdom.

As Bob Knott, A.E.U. Convenor at Mirlees, writes: "We think that with a collective effort these sort of schemes could be extended, the red tape could be abolished and the victims would receive help immediately instead of eventually."

The letters of thanks received from the victims, several of whom stated these were the first such help they had received, fully confirm the usefulness of the action of the workers of Mirlees, Bickerton and Day Ltd.

Our picture shows a Kenya Court crowded with Africans charged with Mau Mau activities. Note the ragged, hungry conditions of the prisoners and compare them to the well-fed, sleek and highly satisfied settlers and their wives also in this picture. Note also the white man with a Sten Gun at the back of the Court!
But, hollow though it is, this court procedure is too slow for the white settlers. They are now demanding drumhead court-martials and public hangings. "Justice" wastes too much time! On with the killings! See story on page 4.



Facts And Figures Of The Poverty In Great Britain

6 Million Get Under £3 a Week!

BRTAIN is probably the richest country in Europe —yet the facts show that the standard of life of millions of our people is well below the poverty line.

Answering a question from a Labour M.P. as to the number of people with incomes of

less than £3 per week, Mr. Butler replied (Hansard 21/4/53): "The number of incomes below this limit is believed to be between 5½ and 6 million, although no precise figure can be calculated. In this estimate, the incomes of wives are combined with those of their husbands."

Mr. Butler didn't specify who these people were, but any worker could have told him—they are old age pensioners, young workers, women workers, the sick and injured.

But that's not all. In the same copy of Hansard a table is set out —also in reply to a question from a Labour M.P.—which shows that 57 per cent. of the entire population receive less than £10 a week

(wives and husbands incomes combined!) and of these the great majority pay no tax because they either have large families to support or are receiving well below the £10 mark!

This after 300 years of private enterprise! Yet there are wise-aces in our movement who still pooh pooh Karl Marx's discovery that capitalism which creates great wealth at one end of the social scale creates also great poverty and misery at the other. They say this idea hasn't worked out in practice. Hasn't it, by God! Just ask some of those under-three-pound-a-weekers. And as for great wealth at the other end—the wealth of giant monopolies like I.C.I. and Vickers is now reckoned in thousands of millions—and it is all concentrated in the hands of a few people!

Turn to living conditions and the situation is just as glaring in its inequalities. Take housing as an example. Figures published by the "Economist" (25/4/53) from the 1951 Census tell the real story.

There are 12 million houses in Britain—mansions and cottages all included—and of these, 2 million were built before 1851 and are fit only for immediate demolition.

One million dwellings have been built since 1943 and they are the only decent working class houses in the country. Of the remaining 8½ million houses (in which most of the people live today and which were built between 1851 and 1941) the following conditions obtain.

- 339,400 of them have no piped water.
- 53,000 have no cooking stove.
- 85,000 have no kitchen sink.
- 94,200 have no bath and
- 464,900 have no water closet!

In "houses" like these working class families have to crowd as many as three, four and five to a room!

Just give these figures to the next devotee of "private enterprise" who comes round to your door canvassing for Tory votes!

As far as our Movement is concerned, these terrible figures of the wages and living conditions of the working class point to one great

**Socialist
Outlook**
Sends Greetings
to all
Our Readers
and to
Fighters for
Socialism
in all Lands

Especially do we greet those people fighting the armed forces of our 'own' Imperialism—the Malaysians, the Africans in Kenya, and the peoples of Korea and China.

**May Day
1953**

yet very simple conclusion. Stop worrying about the middle class votes!

Fifty-seven per cent. of the population—about 16 to 17 million votes!—want their living standards raised. And only Labour can do the job—providing we are prepared to deal roughly with the top bracket incomes whose rule has led to the conditions described above. We must take away their great wealth and place it under the democratic control of the workers themselves by nationalisation of all the basic industries.

If this is done—and done boldly—the best of the middle class will support Labour anyway. They'll know then that we mean business.

Socialists in the Town Halls

THE local elections which will be taking place all over Britain in the coming week are of great importance to the Labour Movement. A great Labour victory at the polls will be the people's verdict on Butler's Big Business Budget.

Tory propaganda will do its best to obscure the real issues. There will be the usual clap-trap deploring the introduction of national issues in local affairs. The workers will know what to make of this hypocrisy. Tory rule, locally as well as nationally, is only in the interests of big business which the Tory Party represents.

It was the Labour Party which, quite rightly, openly introduced politics into local government. The Tories, who in the past dominated this field of activity, tried to make out that politics had no place in council affairs. For a long time they tried to disguise themselves as "independents", but this has now been exposed. Labour forced the Tory Party to come out in its true colours and to admit that local affairs are just as much political as are parliamentary affairs. Local elections are now

fought on national and political questions. This is as it should be!

A GOOD RECORD

When Labour first started to contest local elections, great hopes were aroused among the working class. It was taken for granted that a council with Labour members on it would be a better council than one without; a council with a Labour majority would be something quite different to one dominated by Tories or "independents".

And indeed, compared to what the Tories did, Labour's record in local government is far superior. All the improvements in municipal housing, libraries, drainage, child welfare, etc., have been introduced by the Labour Party or, to be accurate, under Labour pressure. Yet, it would be wrong to think that all is as well as it could be, that Labour councils have fully lived up to what was expected of them.

There are still too many Labour men and women who leave their socialism behind when they take their seats in the Council Chamber.

Not only the Labour councillors, but those who vote for them must take an active interest in the problems raised by local government and apply socialist solutions to these problems.

FACE THE FACTS

Local government work is conditioned by the economic system under which we live. None of the difficulties which confront local councils—housing, rising rates, etc.—can be solved within the framework of capitalism.

For example, how can we expect that merely by electing Labour councillors the housing problem could be solved? Houses are still owned by landlords and built by profit-makers on land belonging to private landowners. All these parasites demand their rake-off and thus force up rents.

The economic system does not change simply because the seats in the Council Chamber support Labour bottoms instead of Tory ones. We must recast all our ideas about the place of local government in the struggle for a Socialist Britain. Within a national economic plan there will be a definite role for them to play. Municipal authorities could be given the task of taking over complete control of the use and distribution of housing accommodation, food, clothing, fuel, etc.

In this way, instead of being merely petty administrative machines, the local councils would play an important part in the implementation of our great socialist objective—the ending of the exploitation of the worker by capitalist institutions.

Meanwhile, by returning Labour Councils and instructing them to work in this manner, we can build strongholds in every locality from which to resist the attacks of the Tories on our standards of life.

In all Local Elections—Vote Labour!

Austin Ultimatum

AFTER sitting for a fortnight, the Court of Inquiry set up by the Ministry of Labour to investigate the causes of the Austin dispute, has now finished hearing evidence. The closing stages of the hearing were notable for the statement of the Austin Company that, whatever the finding of the Court, the company will not re-employ John McHugh the dismissed shop steward.

The Executive of the N.U.V.B. had previously rejected an offer by the Company to take back SOME of the locked-out workers over a period.

Whatever happens at the Court of Inquiry it is clear that the decisive thing will be the amount of real support that the strikers

can get from the organised Labour Movement. Financial aid must not slacken off.

Latest reports to reach us are:—**BLACKLEY C.L.P.** (Manchester) has voted £2 2s. to the strikers. **RICHMOND & BARNES C.L.P.** passed a resolution of support and sent £1.

ECCLES TRADES COUNCIL AND LABOUR PARTY at their April meeting unanimously expressed support for the Austin strikers and voted to donate the sum of £2 to their funds.

The resolution was moved by Eccles A.E.U. delegate, seconded by Eccles Labour League of Youth delegate and carried unanimously.

In addition to Platt's Manchester workers reported as taking collections in our issue of 24/4/53, the Oldham works of Platt's are also giving financial support.

LEICESTER TRADES COUNCIL have sent £5 to the strike fund and pledged their support.

May Day Must Be Anti-War Day! The First MAY DAY

MAY Day this year will be celebrated in a most critical period in world history. All around us is talk of peace—yet the possibility of war is the most dangerous reality confronting the workers of the world.

When a Churchill or an Eisenhower speaks of peace it is a deliberate and cruel deception of the people—a cover to hide their plans for a global extension of the war already raging in the crucified lands of Korea, Indo-China, Malaya, and Kenya.

If the leaders of the Labour Movement in the western world continue to rely on imperialist governments to secure peace—war is a practical certainty.

Yet despite the sombre perspective which this May Day holds forth, the real facts of the present international situation present a resolute working class leadership with the possibility of completely frustrating the war plans of imperialism. Consider briefly some of these facts.

TWO WORLDS

Since 1945, the world has become irrevocably divided into a capitalist West and a non-capitalist East—and the situation is deteriorating for the imperialists all the time.

The massive colonial revolution

Editorial

grows in strength as it spreads from China into all of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The imperialist troops of Britain and France have been bloodily engaged, almost from the end of World War II, in shoring up the crumbling dykes of the white man's rule in Malaya and Indo-China—yet patently without success.

The French in particular are at the point of desperation. Despite a huge expenditure in men and materials their armies are now reduced to holding a mere bridgehead in Vietnam while the popular banner of peasant revolt is raised in Laos and sweeps into Siam up to the borders of Burma.

Templer's brutalities in Malaya give him no success, except to make him the darling of reaction. The white settlers in Kenya now cry persistently for his help in crushing, by the same brutal methods, the long delayed rebellion of the exploited and oppressed African peoples of Kenya.

The Middle East is aflame with the same fundamental struggle against poverty and national oppression which has called forth such heroism from the toil-worn peasants and workers of Asia. Forced by popular revolt to evacuate Persia, British imperialism remains in the Canal Zone thanks only to the good graces of

**THE 1/420 BRANCH
T. & G.W.U.**
sends greetings to the readers of the 'Socialist Outlook' and to all trade unionists on this
MAY DAY, 1953

**The Constructional Engineering Union
(Rotherham Branch)**
sends May Day Greetings to ALL workers
Forward to Peace & Socialism
R. Sibley (Sec.)
E. Booth (Pres.)

Salford City Labour Party
Extends Fraternal Greetings to all members of the
Labour, Co-operative and Trade Union Movements
and invites all concerned to a

MASS MEETING

ROYAL TECHNICAL COLLEGE, SALFORD
2.30 p.m., Sunday May 3rd.

Speakers:

Barbara Castle M.P.
Ald. Hardy M.P.
Charles Royle M.P.

and other Labour, Co-op. and T.U. speakers.

General Neguib who has (so far!) kept the revolutionary movement of the long-suffering Egyptian masses in check.

Finally, this irresistible movement of national and social liberation has leapt the Atlantic into South America, where Bolivia and Guatemala are now experiencing genuine social revolution.

The world 'status quo' is continually changing to the disadvantage of imperialism. The revolution in the Soviet Union which for so many years was isolated and confined within the borders of an economically backward country surrounded by the hostile armies of both democratic and fascist imperialism, has at last broken out of that encirclement. Indeed, in many respects it is imperialism which is now in danger of encirclement... by the revolution!

The effect of all this on the police regime of Russia will be far-reaching. The Russian working class, its numbers and confidence greatly increased by the Soviet Union's remarkable industrial development, will soon re-assert its right to the Soviet democracy which it lost during the past period of isolation.

DESPERATE MEN

The situation is obviously a desperate one for the Old Society. Its leaders can no longer peacefully contain the advance of socialism and national liberation. They cannot do so because the old society is founded on misery and poverty, perpetually generating revolt. For this reason, and the connected one of mounting economic depression, the rulers of the old society are preparing for war.

Eisenhower's peace proposals are, in reality, America's war aims presented in the form of an ultimatum. Restore capitalism in Eastern Europe! Unite Germany under an armed and semi-fascist regime! Return the discredited Chiang to China! Stop the colonial revolution! These are the "peace" terms of imperialism. As we wrote editorially last week, such terms are completely unacceptable to the oppressed peoples of the world. The recent advance of Ho Chi-minh's troops to the borders of Laos, Siam and Burma is the best proof of that.

From the reply which the Soviet

Union has now made to Eisenhower's proposals it is clear that his "peace" is unacceptable to them also. They are willing to negotiate (they always have been), and in all probability are ready to make concessions. But their concessions are of necessity limited in accordance with their position as leaders of a workers' state. They cannot, for example, agree to cut their own throats by assisting in the restoration of capitalism in Eastern Europe. Nor do they have sufficient influence within the colonial revolution to permit them to use it as some sort of bargaining pawn. So the world

situation today is characterised by deadlock.

DANGEROUS ILLUSIONS

It is useless for people to demand that the two sides meet each other half-way. A half-way successful social revolution is a monstrosity. Hard though it may be to face, either the workers or the imperialists must eventually conquer.

Urging the imperialists to abandon their war plans in favour of a mutual effort to raise the living standards of the people is like preaching morals to a brothel keeper. If capitalism could make peace and raise the living standards of the people it wouldn't be

capitalism, and there wouldn't be any need to celebrate its coming downfall on this May Day.

The imperialists won't invest their money in the underdeveloped countries for the simple reason that it is no longer safe for them to do so! This isn't the middle of the 19th century when all the world was open to capitalist trade and investment. This is 1953 when nearly half the world has broken away from the imperialist orbit and when capitalist investments in colonial countries are in imminent danger of being expropriated by oppressed peoples in revolt against foreign domination.

In any case, raising the living standards of the people is not a technical question—it is first and foremost a political question. India, for example, can only raise her production levels by some 2 per cent. per annum, whereas in China they are being raised by as much as 25 per cent. each year! The reason for this startling difference is obvious. India's productive forces are still strangled by landlordism and capitalism, but in China—thanks to the revolution—these historic obstacles to progress are being more or less rapidly destroyed.

Nevertheless, it is of the greatest significance that people like Eisenhower and Churchill now pay lip service to the idea of a World Plan Mutual Aid. They do so, not because they have the slightest intention of carrying it out but because they know that the idea has a tremendous support among ordinary people who are now acutely aware of the lunacy of the present system. Half the world is crying out for industrial equipment of every kind—while the other half (the capitalist half) is spending 700,000 million dollars every year on the production of armaments! This, the ultimate absurdity of the capitalist system, must be the keynote of Labour's anti-war propaganda.

THE WAY TO PEACE

There can be peaceful co-operation between the nations, and a world plan for mutual aid is entirely possible—but only if all peoples and nations are free from foreign domination and the State is in the hands of the workers.

On the first May Day the workers of America and Europe united their forces in a fight to secure the eight-hour day. They were ultimately successful. Now, not only Europe and America—but the whole world Labour Movement must unite its forces for the replacement of the outmoded capitalist system by a sane and decent socialist order.

In practice this means to enter the fight for peace as socialists—not as woolly-brained humanitarians. By demanding that the wars in Asia and Africa be ended in the only way consistent with socialist and democratic interests—that is, by the complete withdrawal of all foreign troops—we shall re-assert ourselves as an independent Labour Movement.

By thus linking the British Labour Movement to the colonial revolution we shall ensure the victory of both against the war-mongering imperialists.

TOTTENHAM TRADES COUNCIL

Sends May Day Greetings to all Trade Unionists
For Peace and Socialism

THE CONSTRUCTIONAL ENGINEERING UNION

The Executive Council of the Union

Send Fraternal Greetings on this, Labour's own day,
to all our Members

AND WORKERS OF THE WORLD

The United Working Class of the world have one Common Enemy, the Capitalist, whose great desire is to see the Workers States fail, hence their efforts to divide the International Working Class Movement.

On this

MAY THE FIRST

Pledge yourselves to fight against this action of the Exploiting Class. See also that the offers of Peace are not thrown overboard by the same reactionaries.

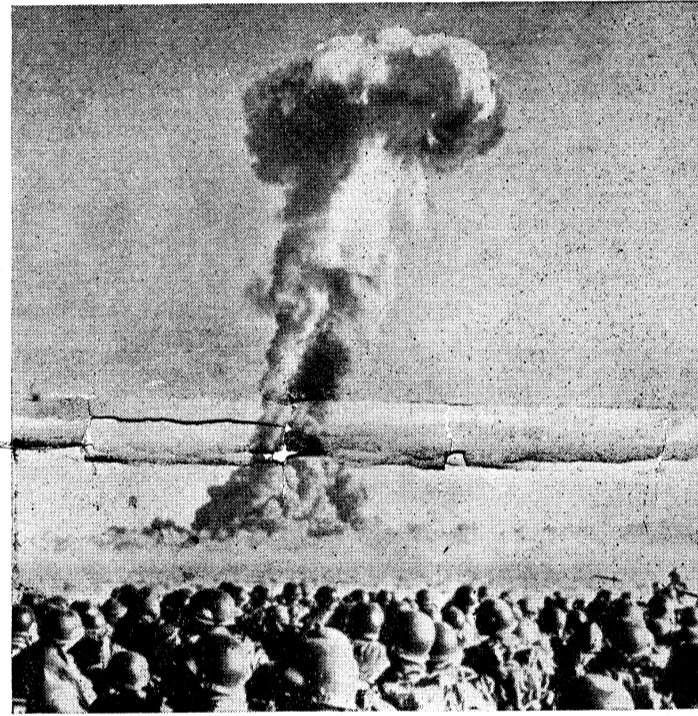
Peace and Plenty—not War and Misery

W. Hosie, President.
Jack Stanley, General Secretary.

The Main Enemy

After 300 years of "private enterprise" during which the whole world has been opened up for exploitation, capitalism has evolved into a system of giant monopolies, has waged two catastrophic wars to re-divide the world and is now preparing to plunge mankind into yet another global slaughter of the peoples in an effort to re-shackle those peoples and countries who have thrown off this outmoded and corrupt way of life.

It is well that we remember on this May Day that the main enemy of the working class is capitalism, represented in this country by capitalism's main party—Mr. Churchill's Tories!



P.O.W.'s Upset Wall Street

WHAT great disappointment there is today in Washington and Wall Street! They had expected harrowing tales of ill-treatment from the returned Korean prisoners-of-war—tales which they hoped would arouse the wrath of the American people and prepare them for a new war effort against the people of Korea, China and Russia.

What the warmongers forgot was that Korea and China are not ruled today by blood-thirsty imperialists, out to conquer the world by force of arms but by workers and peasants who want only the right to live their own lives and who are fighting only to eject the foreign invaders from their soil.

The people of Korea and China have no quarrel with the ordinary

G.I. or Tommy; only with the capitalist masters who sent these young men to their death on the battlefields of the Far East.

If it is atrocities the daily press is looking for, they have not far to search. The whole Korean adventure is one vast atrocity—not only against the people of China and Korea but against all those men who are being forced to do battle in the sacred interests of the American money-bags.

"What is it all about?" a young boy from the Middle West asked "Observer" correspondent Philip Deane, just before he died from a sniper's bullet in a derelict Korean farm-house. That's the question thousands of American, British, French and Turkish youths are asking in Korea today: "What's it all about? What are we doing here so far from our homes? Why are we fighting?"

By contrast, those fighting on the Korean side, as Commissioner Lord of the Salvation Army testifies, do know what they are fighting for and they believe in their cause. Bombing, he said, will not quell these people. He suggested that the only alternative was to try and convince them that they had adopted the wrong ideology. Some hopes!

Like other returned P.O.W.'s Commissioner Lord made it clear that there was no deliberate ill-treatment. Hardships there were to be sure, especially during the American advance in 1950, but war, inevitably, brings hardships.

British ex-prisoners said that they had never been compelled to work for the Communists. The only work they did was for their own welfare—wood and kitchen

fatigues and preparing their own food. Some of the camps were even minus the traditional barbed wire fence!

Such shortages as they experienced, they shared with Korean and Chinese soldiers and civilians. Indeed, some ex-prisoners report that their fare was often better than that of their captives.

If medical supplies were not always adequate, part of the blame is probably due to the embargo on the supply to China of antibiotics and other life-saving drugs by the British Government (as reported in the "Outlook" of April 10).

Indeed, so chagrined was General Mark Clark, U.N. Supreme Commander by the attitude of returned prisoners, that he prohibited press interviews until they had their "brains washed" of "communist indoctrination."

With their plans upset to use these men for propaganda purposes as part of the preparations for a new war drive, the imperialists have resorted to cruder methods. Monday's "Daily Herald" reports millions (?) of South Koreans demonstrating against a resumption of the truce talks. Closer investigation will undoubtedly reveal these "millions" (who counted them, Mr. Cudlipp?) to be gangs of hired men doing the dirty work for Wall Street's ally, Syngman Rhee.

Peace and the unity of their country is the ardent desire of all the ordinary men and women in Korea—North and South. They will achieve this only after the foreign armies have been driven from their land. They know it—and that's why they fight. We salute them.

Nationalisation—"There must be no backsliding!"

TRYING to fulfil the will of the Party has not been an easy passage for some of the N.E.C." said Arthur Greenwood, the Party Chairman, on April 20 and he added, "We have unfortunately had a good many battles of a personal character which I think are deplorable."

It certainly is deplorable but is it true that these "battles" were of a "personal character"?

At Morecambe we discussed ideas for a new programme just as we did previously at the T.U.C. at Margate. Different people had different ideas. We didn't discuss the people, we discussed the ideas and if they seemed good we put them in the programme.

For instance, we thought extension of public ownership was a good idea but the platform didn't and tried to impede the passage of this idea. Bro. Geddes had a go and Bro. Deakin had three goes, but we still put it in the programme—4,542,000 of us!

It is very specific too. "These proposals shall be submitted to the 1953 Congress, and, after endorsement, presented to the political wing of our movement for inclusion in Labour's General Election Programme."

The same idea came up at Morecambe. "Conference therefore instructs the N.E.C. to draw up a list of key and major industries to be taken into public ownership during the next five year programme."

After the 4,542,000 vote at the T.U.C. in favour of this idea we didn't even trouble to take a vote at Morecambe! But the small minority who did oppose extension of nationalisation are still expressing that point of view, vigorously and in public. And Arthur Greenwood's statement quoted above does nothing to re-assure me on this question.

Herbert Morrison, for example, wrote in "Reynolds News" (January 18): "I would prefer the more advanced (!!) policy of broad reasons for considering nationalisation, without a specific list." Well, in 1884 these "broad reasons" were being considered and by 1906 the Labour Party was formed to

Says
NORMAN DINNING
A member of last year's A.E.U. delegation at both the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party Conference



implement "public ownership and control of the material means of production." Morrison is advancing backwards.

Later on, in a speech at Norwich, Mr. Morrison advised us to "adapt ourselves and our policies to changing conditions." This idea has been promptly taken up by the recently knighted Sir Lincoln Evans who, speaking at an area conference of the Steel Workers Union, said: "Whether the steel industry is privately or publicly owned has little relevance to the problem". And Tom O'Brien, addressing the recent Scottish T.U.C. echoed these sentiments with the profound statement that "it is everybody's job to help the nation to earn its living."

In my opinion, it is these ideas which are the real impediment to the N.E.C. "fulfilling the will of the Party" which Arthur Greenwood spoke about. No, I am far from re-assured. Indeed, I am highly suspicious that the outcome of all these "advanced" ideas will be the failure of the N.E.C. to implement the declared will of the Party and the T.U.C.

I am strengthened in my suspi-

cion by the T.U.C.'s productivity campaign. They are in favour of increased productivity without increased wages—the more you make the less you get in proportion.

Every worker knows that both wages and profits come from the same source—his own productive labour, so what the employer gains the worker loses. I am sure the gentlemen of the T.U.C. realise this but they try to justify it because of the approach of another economic crisis—"Britain must earn its living".

We can concede at once that socialists are concerned about productivity and industrial efficiency. The Morecambe Conference was very clear on this point. It said that we must "give a socialist answer to the recurring economic crises". And it went on to say that "as our ultimate security depends, in the last analysis, on our own productivity and raising the efficiency of British industry, there should be a greater control over production . . ." How? The conference was quite clear—"This involves the enlargement of the Public Sector by further nationalisation . . ."

The Trades Union Congress went even further. Referring to social ownership, it "recognises that if their application is restricted to a limited number of industries . . . the full advantage of social ownership will be lost."

Here then is the real issue in our Movement. Social Ownership of the key and major industries will facilitate a planned economy. There can then be no excess profits (we can't exploit ourselves!), profits can be ploughed back for essential development, there can be a wage policy to increase living standards, and increased productivity will be certain because the workers will be helping themselves and not the employers. The whole economic structure of the country will then be designed to lessen the

WATER!

NORMAN Dinnings' fears that the N.E.C. would not carry out the wishes of the members have, it would seem, been completely justified.

According to the "Herald" only one industry is to be nationalised—water!

It is certainly a "key industry" but so are chemicals, engineering, shipbuilding, building, the land and the banks . . . but none of these are included for nationalisation.

Whatever the merits of buying shares in aircraft and machine tools it is NOT nationalisation and it is NOT what the last Conference asked for. In fact, not one delegate at Morecambe mentioned this novel method of securing "government control".

Local Parties and unions must amend this watery programme in line with the Conference decisions so clearly repeated in this article.

impact of a crisis arriving from across the Atlantic.

This is what the Movement decided in favour of—and this is what Morrison and the leaders of the T.U.C. oppose. A great responsibility rests on us—the rank and file of the unions—to see that there is no backsliding on nationalisation.

The leaders—however much they may dislike it—must carry out the decisions of the members.

This is the key issue on the home front for 1953. Control and planning are impossible without all-embracing public ownership. If the N.E.C. gives way to the pressure from the General Council and others, then the coming Conferences of unions, and the next T.U.C. and Labour Party Conference, must show the N.E.C. that the ideas of the rank and file are not to be trifled with. There must be no retreat on this issue.

The Burden is 'Shared' at ENV

JUST over a month ago, the workers at the E.N.V. Engineering Company, London, were informed by the management that owing to cuts in orders they would have to put men in certain departments on a four-day week.

The Shop Stewards pointed out that this would mean a 20 per cent. cut in wages, and would bring hardship, as the men and their families still had to eat and pay rent. In view of the record profits the Company had made in past years, they were in a far better

By
JOHNNY WISE
(A.E.U.)

position than the men to bear any burden that might arise now, and should pay the workers full wages.

The management replied that no business could pay men if there were no work available for them to do. The Company had been carrying a lot of waiting time during the past few months, which, at the present rate, was costing them £10,000 per year. They could not afford to go on doing this, and so had to put the men on a four-day week.

£10,000 is a lot of money to you and me, but let's see what it really amounts to for the E.N.V. Company. There are 1,100 workers, which means that waiting time was costing the E.N.V. Company less than 4s. per man per week.

They say they cannot afford that, yet last week in the "Evening Standard" there was this interesting item about this "hard-up" firm.

"Record profits for the past year were announced by the £1,200,000 E.N.V. Engineering concern. Trading profits for 1952 totalled £463,839, against £307,797 for 1951. Final dividend is raised by

2½ per cent. to 22½ per cent., which brings the year's total up to a best ever 30 per cent., compared with 27½ per cent. last time."

They make £463,839 profits, and tell us that they cannot afford to carry the workers' waiting time because it is costing them £10,000 a year. I do not need to tell you that they can well afford it, and more.

The 1952 profits were £156,042 more than those made in 1951. If the waiting time increased tenfold, which would amount to over a day per man and would cost £100,000 per year, this would not even equal the increase in their profits.

As soon as trade gets bad, managements are very quick in coming forward to the workers and talking about sharing the burden. The workers' share of this burden is short-time or unemployment. The management expects the worker to look at the whole question in a "reasonable" manner and realise all the difficulties and problems of management.

Continued page 4, Col. 5

This Strike has been on ONE YEAR!

THE strike of the Rival Lamps workers is now almost 12 months old. If ever there was a case for united action by the whole Trade Union Movement, this is it!

It all started when the women in this factory got themselves organised and succeeded in raising the wages up to the trade union rate. A few weeks later, 28 of them—including two shop stewards—were sacked, and the firm has refused to negotiate despite a request from the Ministry of Labour that they should do so.

Ever since those events, the factory has been picketed by the strikers—who are nearly all women—in hail, rain or snow. And it hasn't been easy. Police pickets have done their damndest to make it difficult and summonses against the strikers have been issued from time to time. But these gallant women trade unionists show no signs of weakening. On the contrary, they are going ahead with plans to mobilise more support than has so far been forthcoming from organised Labour.

There will be a Mass Demonstration outside the factory on May 8th during the lunch time. We urge all trade unionists who work in that vicinity (Addlestone) to attend this meeting—for it is the first anniversary of the strike!

The Secretary of the Strike Committee, Mrs. N. Pither, writing to the "Socialist Outlook" puts her finger on what is really needed to win this struggle. It is an effective ban on transport to the factory.

"During the past two or three weeks", she writes, "members of the Strike Committee have constantly covered the Surbiton Depot of Carter Patterson and the main depots in London. The main depots gave us their assurance that Rival Lamps work would be blocked."

"Bro. Moby, an official of the T. & G.W.U., after discussions with our members, said that if the driver of Carter Patterson's refused to cross the picket line he would have his (Bro. Moby's) full support and backing. The driver stayed out for a fortnight but yesterday went in again with a letter from Bro. Moby instructing him to go in and the only thing not to handle are cylinders of gas."

Mrs. Pither comments that if only we could stop work going in and coming out of Rival Lamps the problem would soon be solved.

She is absolutely right, and we join with all militant trade unionists in urging the T.U.C. to institute an all round blacking of Rival Lamps. Meanwhile, every penny that you can spare for the strikers should be sent at once to Mrs. N. Pither, Secretary Strike Committee, 12 Chestnut Close, Addlestone, Surrey.

All McCarthys are not American!

WE have not yet got a McCarthy Committee at work over here, testing the "loyalty" of citizens. Slowly but surely, however, the American "way of life" is leaving its imprint on the pattern of life in this country.

Middlesex educational authorities already have a political test for aspirant school principals. Communists are banned from holding that position. Now comes Bury Corporation determined to purge all Conscientious Objectors from among their employees.

From professional men to road sweepers—all are being subject to an inquiry.

In a letter to all heads of corporation departments, the Town Clerk says that: "The effect of the council's decision is that all declared conscientious objectors employed by the corporation will be dismissed."

The Bury branch of the National Union of Teachers has referred the matter to its head office. An official of the Branch said: "This is definitely a witch hunt and contrary to all our principles. We do not support or oppose conscientious objectors but we do believe that people should not be victimised because of their religious beliefs. Many of us fought in the war for freedom of thought and speech."

The Bury (Passenger Section) branch of the Transport & General Workers' Union, described the inquiry as "an unwarranted interference with the liberties of individuals . . . We shall give the

strongest backing to any union which decides to fight this resolution."

According to a senior member of the council (reported in the "Manchester Guardian" of April 25), "The decision to adhere to this resolution was reached almost unanimously."

What about the Labour councillors? It is hard to believe that they supported such an infamous action. They must speak up and give the lead to the workers who are preparing to resist its imposition.

CROSSMAN ON PUBLIC OWNERSHIP

RICHARD Crossman recently addressed a highly successful Day School organised by the N.E. Leeds Labour Party League of Youth. His subject was: "When Labour Returns to Power".

A member of the League sends us this report.

Mr. Crossman began by saying that it was no use formulating policy on principles worked out in 1930, nor was it any use putting forward anti-Toryism as a substitute for a constructive policy. It was wrong to say that the Tories wanted mass unemployment—obviously an industrialist preferred to have his labour employed.

What the Tories wanted was a controlled deflation, under-employment, part-time working so that the workers would be cowed, anxious and insecure.

This was the first post-war free enterprise budget, said Mr. Crossman. Socialists believe in Government control of the country but Butler had gone back to the pre-war idea of using the Budget simply as a means of raising taxes. He had left this country defenceless against a possible collapse of the war boom in the United States. Harold Wilson had demonstrated in the House of Commons that a reduction of 4 per cent. in the United States national income would mean a reduction in the imports of Commonwealth raw materials by 33½ per cent.

The Tory aim was to retain economic power at the minimum price and nationalised mines and railways were apparently part of that price: health and education services were apparently not.

Dealing with Labour's future programme, Mr. Crossman said that it should by now be obvious that there is no "half-way house" between Socialism and Conservatism. When we return to power we cannot just carry on where we left off. Much of what we had previously accomplished had now been destroyed and we were faced with a free and powerful capitalism.

It was quite wrong to say that up to 1951, we had "built the foundations of socialism." That was just what we had NOT done—otherwise the Tories could not so easily have destroyed our achievements.

The only strong foundation was public ownership. There cannot

be successful socialism in isolated industries within a predominantly capitalist economy. The reason for nationalisation was to transfer power—that is why it must be done thoroughly.

We must make ourselves independent of the greatest capitalist power in the world—the United States. This will mean efforts to increase agricultural production which cannot be done properly under the present system of landlordism. We must also have a 50 per cent. increase in engineering production—and this again cannot be done under the existing system of private ownership.

Mr. Crossman concluded by saying that there was no short cut and no substitute for the transfer of economic power.



