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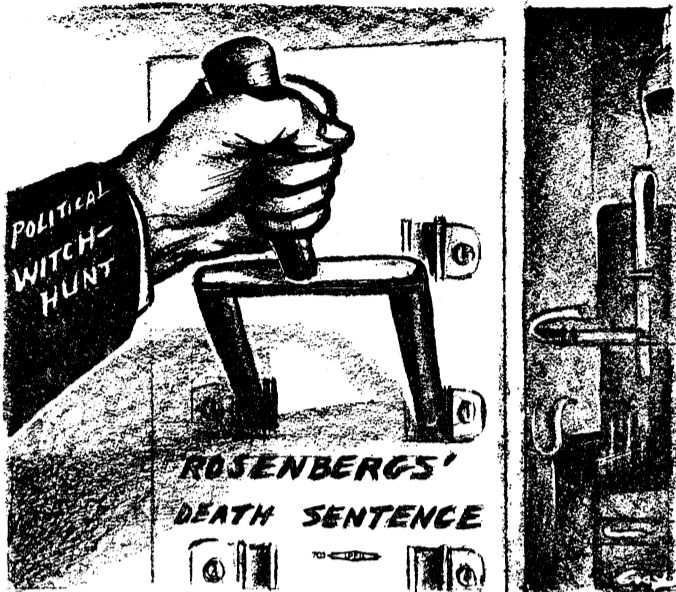
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3d.

**Why Africa
is in
Revolt**
(See page 3)

The Hand on the Switch



SAVE THE ROSENBERGS!

BY the time you read this, Julius and Ethel Rosenberg may be dead, victims of the most vicious witch-hunt in modern history. Their death will add another black page to the sombre record of American ruling class "justice". Their names will be linked with that of the Haymarket Martyrs, Tom Mooney, the Scottsboro Boys and Sacco and Vanzetti—all of them victims of the "frame-up".

If the Rosenbergs live, it will be the pressure of world opinion, led by the organised Labour Movement, and of the American working class which will have saved them.

As we go to press, a crescendo of resolutions calling for presidential clemency is pouring into American embassies and legations in every country of the world. Trade Unions and Labour Party branches all over Britain have added their strong voices to the demand that the Rosenbergs shall not die. Thousands of Londoners have paraded outside the American Embassy in Grosvenor Square.

In Washington, demonstrators from all parts of the United States are maintaining a round-the-clock Mercy Vigil outside the White House.

Throughout the world the conviction is growing that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are innocent of the crime for which they were convicted. There is growing admiration for their dauntless courage which prefers death on the electric chair rather than to dishonour themselves by a perjured "confession" at the behest of United States Chief Attorney Harry Brownell.

It is quite clear that the guilt or innocence of the Rosenbergs have little to do with their fate. The blackmail offer of their lives in exchange for a confession shows beyond doubt that they are the victims of the anti-communist hysteria which has gripped the United States. The death of the Rosenbergs is the horrible price which America has to pay for McCarthyism.

Even now, at this late hour, it is possible that the Rosenbergs may be saved. The forces of International Labour are far stronger than the McCarthys. United effort might yet force President Eisenhower to sign the clemency order.

If the Rosenbergs live it will be a great victory for Labour and a defeat for the evil reactionary forces which today dominate political life in the United States.

Socialism is a Necessity For Britain's Survival

Labour's Programme Influenced by Rank and File Ideas

MILLIONS of workers who have placed their faith in the Labour Party to get rid of wars, slumps, unemployment and bad living conditions, can take heart from the new programme—*Challenge to Britain*—issued this week by the National Executive Committee of the Party.

The programme does not by any means answer all the problems with which we are faced—nor does it include all that was demanded by the last Conference at Morecambe—but certain of its important sections definitely show the influence of the Socialist rank and file.

Definite gains for the workers and the Party's Left Wing are registered in the restoration of a Free Health Service by abolishing the present charges; the reintroduction of subsidies to hold down the cost of essential consumer goods; a bigger hospital and school building programme; slum clearance, the creation of a National Building Corporation and powers to requisition property for housing purposes.

The Housing programme in particular reflects the insistent

pressure of the workers and the harassed Labour Councils. An entirely new idea—so far as the Executive is concerned—has been introduced in the following statement.

"Labour will ensure that our existing stock of houses is sensibly used. Houses which were originally built for one family and are now occupied by two or three, should have separate bathrooms, kitchenettes and lavatories for each tenant. Large houses must be converted into flats wherever possible. People must be encouraged to move out of houses or flats which are too large for them, into smaller ones."

With these words, the new programme recognises the validity of the idea of sharing out existing living space—an idea which is essential for any Labour Government aiming to provide adequate homes speedily and without impairing the building of hospitals, schools and other essential public works. It is a policy long advocated by the Left Wing, and by this paper in particular.

But in posing this problem, the N.E.C. have by no means solved it. How are people to be "encouraged" to move out of big houses? How shall we "encourage" Lord Muck, for example, to leave

his baronial mansion for a flat in the local village?

Obviously wide powers of requisitioning must be restored to local authorities to make this possible. And they must be powers to requisition not only empty property—but under-occupied property as well.

Local Parties must amend this section of the document to ensure that the next Labour Government will establish such powers.

Similarly, the programme talks of establishing a National Building Corporation "by direct labour or existing contractors". The idea is sound but needs concrete amendment.

Cut out the phrase about "existing contractors", remove the passage which limits the activities of the Corporation to building houses "where new industries are developed", add the nationalisation of the building supply industries—cement, bricks, castings, fittings, etc.—and we shall have accomplished what the Left has been demanding... the Building Industry as a Public Service.

But it is in the section of the programme which deals with the "Dollar Problem" that the most startling concessions to the Left have been made.

Last year's N.E.C. document on the subject stated bluntly that "close co-operation with the United States of America is vital to Britain and to the Commonwealth as a whole". It advocated an even closer alliance with that country in all fields—political, military, and economic. That idea—we are very glad indeed to note—has now been dropped overboard.

Instead, we read that "one of Labour's main objectives" is to "achieve independence from American aid". The reasons for this are sound enough. "A slight slackening in American business sharply reduces American demands for imports and so reduces dollar earnings. At such moments a

crisis can blow up with hurricane speed. It is in the nature of American business that such moments will occur. We can expect a recurrence at any time."

What follows from this correct analysis? The programme rightly lays stress on the obvious fact that the people on this island cannot be self-sufficient: cut off from world trade there will be mass unemployment and stark hunger in this country.

It therefore suggests the organisation of a "Sterling Area Development Plan" which, by planning the resources of the Commonwealth, increasing investment in the backward areas, and limiting the import of American goods will be able to compete with the United States for trade and raw materials.

There is a grain of truth in this idea—but as it stands at the moment it is both reactionary and utopian. The "Sterling Area" cannot be insulated from the encroachments of the dollar if—as would be the case in the envisaged trade war—American products could undersell British. That being so, the Sterling Area would disintegrate and only armed force could stop it. And the use of such force (against India, for example)—even if force was available, which it isn't—would be in complete contradiction to the Socialist aims of Labour's programme.

Once again the N.E.C. has fallen down on the vital question of the colonies. To create a planned economy capable of resisting the crisis of American capitalism it is necessary to do two things.

First, free the colonies and second, join with them in establishing a mutual plan of economic co-operation based on Socialism here at home.

If the document is amended to give it this perspective, the problem of East-West Trade will fall into place. There will be no reason at all to allow the Cold War to prevent a wider co-operation; between such a planned economy and the rest of the non-capitalist world in China and Russia.

Finally, if this becomes the perspective—and there is no reason why it shouldn't now that the American alliance has been at least in words abandoned—it will be seen that the proposals for nationalisation are entirely inadequate.

Much more was demanded at Morecambe than the nationalisation of sugar and water and various degrees of "public ownership" in sections of other industries. To achieve economic power for the working class—which is the purpose of any Socialist programme—it is necessary to nationalise all the key and major industries.

Space and time prevents us dealing in any greater detail with the programme in this issue. We shall comment more fully in our next, and subsequent issues. Meanwhile, we consider that the Socialist pressure of the rank and file has forced a breach—and it is up to local parties to widen it with Socialist amendments to this draft programme.

STAY AWAY, SIR

SIR Lincoln Evans, Labour Knight of Steel, and his two colleagues Naesmith and Owen, have managed to find a little "cover" for their activities in joining the Tory Steel Board.

Evans has succeeded in getting the support of his own Union Executive; and Herbert Morrison has half heartedly defended them by a statement at West Hartlepool to the effect that "he would not like to say it was wrong".

On the other hand, the adverse criticism grows daily. The National Union of General and Municipal Workers is asking the T.U.C. for an enquiry into the circumstances of the appointments. Cumberland Miners have protested strongly, and are seeking to put an emergency resolution to the N.U.M. Conference next month

banning any Union member from participating on Boards of non-nationalised industries. A suggestion we wholeheartedly endorse.

R. Kelley, Secretary of the Miners Branch at Hatfield, near Doncaster is quoted by the "Manchester Guardian" as saying of Andrew Naesmith: "There is considerable feeling against him in the Hatfield District since his appointment".

According to the "Guardian", Naesmith has been advised to stay away from the Yorkshire Miners' Demonstration at Doncaster next Saturday.

The attitude of the vast majority of the Trade Union movement is well summed up in that advice. What greater condemnation could there be of a Trade Union "leader"?

Bring Them Home From Korea

IN Panmunjom the truce talks go on. Every day one or other of the daily papers pronounce that the armistice is "a matter of hours" or at the worst, days. A wave of hope ripples through the world. Expectancy rises in the breast of every mother with a son in Korea, of every woman with a husband or a sweetheart at the front.

But in Panmunjom the brass hats talk on. Nothing seems to stand in the way of an armistice now. All the differences appear to be cleared away. In his fox-hole the

soldier—be he Chinese, Korean, American or British—waits for the order to hold his fire. He cannot understand why the order does not come. HIS only war aim is to go home and as quickly as he can.

While the generals talk, the fighting goes on. The Chinese launch a new offensive to take Capitol Hill from the Yanks. From both sides patrols steal into No Man's Land in the dark of night. Many do not return to their own lines.

Men are dying on the battlefields of Korea while the talks

go on, dying even as they await the word that an armistice is signed. These deaths need not be. There is no need for the most minute technical details to be worked out before issuing the cease-fire order. All that could be done afterwards. There is no need for a single soldier to die while the generals quibble about the meaning of this or that phrase.

But for the generals, war is their profession. They look upon death on the battlefield as a legitimate professional risk. Left to the generals, the truce talks could well drag on for another couple of years. What matter if another few

thousand men are blasted to hell in the meantime!

The fate of the ordinary soldier must no longer be left in the hands of the brass hats. There must be direct intervention on the part of the people in the Panmunjom discussions. Labour must take the lead and demand that the shooting stops NOW and that all the British troops be sent home immediately.

Not another day must be wasted in parleying while the soldiers face death. Stop the war NOW and talk about the armistice terms afterward!

Money and Readers

THE campaign for increased sales of the "Socialist Outlook" is getting under way with a swing. Canvassing teams are in action every week-end—and the "Outlook", as a result, is reaching many new readers.

Last week 60 new readers gained in Ashton, 53 in Hackney, 29 in Streatham.

Can you do a bit in your area? Drop a line to the Circulation Manager, 177 Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1, if you can. There are probably other people in your district with whom you can cooperate.

FIGHTING FUND

Target for the month £100. Total to date £33 5s. 5d. Still wanted £64 14s. 7d.

This is the first month with the increased target. There is only a fortnight left and a long way to go. Circulation is on the increase as a result of the summer sales campaign. The extra fighting fund is needed to finance this campaign. So keep the cash rolling in comrades.

**LABOUR'S PROGRAMME
ANALYSED IN FULL
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