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TODAY

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3d.

Help the Fight
**AGAINST
TORYISM
and WAR!**

HANDS OFF INDO-CHINA!

Another 'Korea' Is Planned

that the Americans, with British Tory support, are preparing another Korea in Indo-China?

PRESSURE ON FRANCE

In line with these aggressive policies, U.S. diplomats are putting the utmost pressure on the French to head off any possible peace negotiations emanating from Paris. The Americans are fully aware that any agreement even to draw a Korean-type geo-

and the Indo-Chinese people win independence," he said in an interview with the "U.S. News and World Report," "that would imperil the whole of South East Asia... important raw materials and markets in this vast region would be denied to us."

Mr. Dulles, slightly more diplomatic (and hypocritical) says the same thing in his recent speech: "If Communist forces won uncontested control over Indo-China or any substantial part thereof they would surely resume the same pattern of aggression against other free peoples in the area."

The satellites repeat the 'warning'. "By seeking a truce in Indo-China," says the "Sunday Times", "recognition of the Chinese Government, or its admission to the United Nations, would mean a smashing victory for world communism."

Note all this carefully. The

Americans and their British mouthpieces are **AGAINST ANY TRUCE IN INDO-CHINA**. They want to continue the bloody slaughter, they want to add British and American graves to the graves of hundreds of thousands of Frenchmen. And why? So that the peoples of South East Asia shall remain the slaves of foreign imperialism, so that their rich countries shall continue to pour out their wealth for the benefit of the colonial exploiters. Stripped of all the 'flannel' about "Communist aggression," that is what it means.

THE GENERALS MOVE IN

Refusing to accept a truce, America is consequently preparing her only reply—the extension of the war!

According to the American magazine "Newsweek", Van Fleet

is to take over from the less efficient French in Indo-China. He has, of course, had ample experience of how to conduct "dirty wars" in Greece and in Korea.

General O'Daniel — also experienced in Korea—has now been appointed head of the military "mission" to Indo-China. United States pressure is being constantly maintained to take over the direct training of puppet troops and greatly increased military efforts are demanded of the French.

But the French are facing complete rout! They have been out-fought and out-generalled by the risen workers and peasants of Viet Nam. Only increased U.S. participation can save them now. That is why we declare that all roads lead to the same end—to an American-backed "United Nations" war against the peoples of Indo-China.

CHINA'S ROLE

But with American troops on her southern borders, it cannot be expected that China will remain neutral. If they felt obliged to intervene on the side of the North Koreans when MacArthur's troops appeared on the banks of the Yalu River, there is all the more urgency for them to give every aid to Ho Chi Minh if the United Nations intervenes in Indo-China. And precisely here looms the horror of the atom bomb. The Americans are desperate. Who will say that they would not use the atom bomb if their troops become embroiled in a struggle with the peoples of China, Indo-China, Malaya and — perhaps Japan?

LABOUR MUST ACT

Labour gave its support to the war in Korea with the plea that it was a war "against aggression". That plea cannot be used in the

case of Indo-China which is everywhere recognised as the "dirty war" of the French colonialists, an attempt to hold a whole people in subjection. American intervention will be nakedly on the side of imperialism. There can be no excuse for Labour support. And the time to act is NOW.

Let us urge our Labour Party to make an official statement that it will under no circumstances support any intervention in Indo-China, that it will continue to demand the full recognition of China, that it will associate itself with all those who are trying to bring about a cease-fire, and that it will call upon the British workers to have no part in any Tory adventures in South East Asia.

Meanwhile the Movement must remain alert to see that no pressure is brought against either the French or the Indo-Chinese at the coming Geneva Conference which might result in a peace being imposed which is inimical to the best interests of the peoples of Indo-China.

Editorial

graphical division in Indo-China—giving the North to Ho Chi Minh—would result sooner or later in the South also being lost to imperialism.

It is well-known that the people of the Associated States of Viet Nam are sympathetic to the liberation armies of the North. Indeed, Graham Greene writing from Indo-China in a special feature article in last week's "Sunday Times," says that "even in Annam, the traditional home of the Emperors, loyalty to Bao Dai (the French puppet ruler [Ed]) has waned during the last few years and his popularity has never equalled Ho Chi Minh's."

AMERICA WANTS WAR

For this reason—and with a sort of reactionary logic that bodes ill for the future peace of the world—the Americans are against any sort of peace in Indo-China. They will insist on the line of "weakening and breaking China" herself.

Admiral Radford, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, has put the matter quite bluntly. "If peace is restored in Indo-China

Typical Battle Scene From France's 'Dirty War' in Indo-China



BRITISH troops may soon be fighting in Indo-China. The atom bomb may soon be dropped in South East Asia's richest rice bowl. That is the only conclusion to be drawn from the recent bellicose utterances of "responsible" public figures in both America and Britain.

In a world-publicised speech last Monday, Mr. Dulles the American Secretary of State, warned the American people that the outcome of the war in Indo-China is not a French concern alone but is of vital importance to the United States. This followed hard on the heels of the infamous Congressional Mission to South East Asia which recommended "giving the French... almost any help necessary to prevent defeat."

"Representative Judd, the chairman, even said at a Press Conference that if the situation developed to the point where American troops were asked for 'it would require the gravest consideration by the executive branch and by the whole Congress'." ("Times," March 29th).

And if anyone still doubts the purpose of all this American interest in the Far East let him ponder these brutal words from the same Mr. Judd: "We must find ways and means of breaking Communist China... because... unless Communist China is returned to the free world, Japan will be lost."

All this clearly prepares the way for an American war against the nationalist movements in both Indo-China and China itself. But in case it is imagined that British troops won't be involved, Mr. Judd hastened to add that "the struggle is in every sense an international one. As such it should be brought before the United Nations to mobilise opinion in South East Asia and the rest of the world against Communist aggression."

This is the technique of Korea. This is the essential prerequisite for another United Nations "police action."

WHAT OF BRITAIN?

So much for the Americans. What of their British satellites?

Is it accidental that a campaign in the Tory press is now being stepped up in support of the sending of United Nations troops to Indo-China? The "Sunday Times" last week, for example, featured the Judd Mission on its front page and gave big headlines to its advice to "Break China!"

The following day the "Telegraph" took up the refrain in an editorial which declared that while America has pumped in "supplies and technicians" and "bears the greater part of the cost of the war"... "the problems of France are as much of men as of material. It should be an international responsibility to make good the deficiency."

What further proof is needed

Jennie Lee Starts Something!

She Bridges National Frontiers
Says John Lawrence

THE fight against war recently took a big step forward when three British M.P.s — Jennie Lee, Hugh Delargey and William Warbey—participated in an anti-German Re-armament Conference dominated by representative socialists and communists from all the main West European countries.

Acquainting European Labour with the true position in Britain, the three M.P.s spoke the simple truth in declaring that the vast majority of the British working-class were absolutely against this

dastardly plan to re-arm the age-old enemies of the German workers. Their courageous intervention will have undoubtedly stiffened the resistance of at least a considerable section of the French Socialist Party—a fact which may prove decisive when the European Army (E.D.C.) comes up for ratification in the French Parliament.

For this alone, Jennie Lee and her comrades deserve the warmest praise from the British Labour Movement.

Yet, quite apart from this immediate and wholly progressive effect, the "trip to Paris" can have an even greater significance.

REACTION UNITE!
An "international army"—of reaction! At last the capitalist nations have been able to sink their differences! Why?

Obviously, because the war they are preparing is a different kind of war. Whereas all previous wars were mainly between rival nations quarrelling over spheres of influence, this time we have a coalition against all the non-capitalist countries. That, and that alone, explains the present unity ("for the first time in history") of all the capitalist rivals—not excluding Western Germany.

German Re-armament, and a European Army, is considered necessary by all the capitalist powers as a means of ensuring the overthrow of the new economic systems arising in the East. The inter-imperialist differences have

been composed in face of the common enemy—the Soviet Union, China, and the world working-class.

It is high time that European Labour learned from European Capital in this respect and similarly composed its differences in face of its common enemy—American Imperialism and its capitalist satellites in all of Europe.

Without in any way abandoning our right to criticise the other working-class parties, it is imperative that the Socialist and Communist Parties of Europe unite their powerful forces in a common opposition to E.D.C., German Re-armament and the European Army.

The international plan of European reaction must be met with the international opposition of European Labour.

This is the real significance of Jennie Lee's intervention at the Paris Conference. It was a step in the direction of European working-class unity. Followed through it can lead to the creation of a united army of socialist and communist workers strong enough to frustrate all the reactionary plans of Eisenhower, Churchill and Adenauer. But time is short.

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Catering Workers Get Threat Of £1 Wage Cut

By
Mrs. Georgina Birns
(40 years in the industry)

AT a time when all other workers are making demands for higher wages to meet increased cost of living the catering worker is faced with a threat of a £1 weekly reduction.

We were glad when a Trade Board was set up to remove us from "a sweated industry," and gave us, for the first time in history, a legal minimum wage and a 48 hour week.

In the few years we have been organised we have changed the outlook of hundreds of workers but a tremendous task still lies ahead before we can establish Trade Union rates and conditions. We therefore rely on the findings of the Trade Board.

If this reduction becomes operative we shall be once again back to the old "tipping" curse with all the struggle intensified in our Trade Union branch room.

The Trade Board will not need to be asked by employers to lengthen the 48-hour week because, in order to be sure of their weekly income, many workers will be persuaded to work longer hours and more Sundays.

The wages paid today are only the bare minimum, which everyone agrees, is inadequate, so no hardship whatever is inflicted on the employers of a clause should ask them to guarantee that the present wage be made up if tips fall below this.

What a gruesome picture is presented! A hungry dog having been given a bone with a morsel of meat is now forced to follow the man who snatched it back and throws him a morsel each time he is so disposed!

All other unions are discussing 44 and 40-hour weeks but we shall be faced with an almost voluntary reversion to 60 hours and more. But our education will go on.

The profits of our great industry justify a decent living wage regardless of tips, and we will proudly follow the path that other unions have shown us fully conscious that employers are not moved by pity, shame or even religion — only strength.

Workers, join your Union! All Trade Unionists help us make the call!

Tribune Supports Demand For Special Conference

"TRIBUNE" has now added its influential voice to the hundreds of Labour and Trade Union organisations who are demanding a Special National Conference of the Labour Party to decide a policy towards German Re-armament and E.D.C.

"The case for a special conference is overwhelming," said "Tribune" in its last week's editorial. "All the people of Europe have a right to know where British Labour stands. And those who work for the

Labour Movement in their local parties and trade unions have the right to make their voice heard."

"Socialist Outlook" raised the demand for a Special Conference immediately after that fateful meeting of the Parliamentary Labour Party meeting which decided—by two votes—to support German Re-armament. We are therefore fully behind the "Tribune" and the Constituency Parties in the demand to LET THE MEMBERSHIP ITSELF DECIDE.

'Tory Imperialists Are Again Fishing In The Troubled Waters Of The Nile'

Anglo-Egyptian Conflict in the Sudan

★ By George Padmore ★

VIOLENCE! Violence!! Violence!!! This is the tragedy of the twentieth century. How could it be otherwise, when the great "civilised," "Christian" nations have involved the entire world in two global wars during the present century. The Good Book says: "Be not deceived God is not mocked. For whatever a man sowed that shall he also reap." A truism which applies equally to nations.

Throughout the Colonial World today, the imperialist powers are reaping what they have sown—violence!

In Vietnam, the French, with the connivance of the British and American Governments, have been trying to suppress the national aspirations of the people to freedom.

In Malaya, Britain's richest colonial possession, with its rubber and tin—the two largest dollar earners—guerrilla warfare has been going on for the past four years against the so-called "Communist bandits."

In North Africa, especially Morocco and Tunisia, and in Madagascar, the French have resorted to police terror and military action to suppress nationalist movements and banished the Sultan of Morocco to the island of Tahiti in the Pacific Ocean.

During the past year and a half, violence has swept over Kenya, where thousands of landless African peasants have identified themselves with a secret society called "Mau Mau" in a life and death struggle against the Europeans who have confiscated their ancestral lands in order to establish permanent white settlements in the Highlands of that East African colony.

Now violence has spread to the Sudan which, from a constitutional position, is the most advanced African territory.

SUDAN WARNING

The tragedy which has overtaken the "Land of the Nile Valley" occurred on the very eve of the opening of the first Self-Governing Parliament, which, under the Anglo-Egyptian Agreement of 1953, will have the right to frame its own constitution for complete independence at any time within the specified transition period of three years.

This is a timely warning to all colonial peoples, but especially to those of Nigeria and the Gold Coast. For the fundamental cause of the Sudanese riots was religious fanaticism exploited by ambitious politicians using ignorant Muslim tribesmen against their political opponents.

Unless West African leaders exert their influence to keep religion out of politics, the same tragedy that has plunged the Sudan into bloodshed may well befall Nigeria and the Gold Coast, where Muslim fanaticism can be easily aroused and inflamed by unscrupulous politicians in order to befuddle the common people and split the progressive nationalist movements along religious lines.

Should this happen it will benefit only imperialism, as the history of Indian nationalism has eloquently testified. There, thanks to religious fanaticism, Britain was able to divide the Indian sub-continent into two parts—India and Pakistan—before relinquishing her control over a once united country.

As a result, the erstwhile British rulers are now in a position to sit back and see the two newly independent States squander the resources that should be devoted to the economic and social uplift of their hungry millions in armaments over the Kashmir dispute.

CAST OFF ILLUSIONS!

What has happened in India can also happen in Africa. Already

certain British imperialists are saying that the riots in Khartoum "prove" that the Sudanese are not yet ready for independence and that the country should be divided into two parts—the Northern Province for the Muslims, and the Southern Province, inhabited mostly by Christian and Pagan Negroid tribes, to continue under British "protection" and, if necessary, joined to Uganda, from which the Kabaka was recently exiled for demanding self-government for his country.

BACKGROUND OF SUDANESE POLITICS

First of all, the Sudan is a very large country. It covers nearly a million square miles and has a population of about 6½ millions. Racially, the population is mixed, but generally speaking, the people inhabiting the Northern Province are mostly of Arab and Egyptian stock blended with Negroid tribes. They are the most advanced culturally and politically, and number about 4 millions.

The inhabitants of the Southern Province, numbering about 2½ millions, are still very backward. They are mainly Hamitic, Nilotic and Negroid. Though for the most part pagans, there are several thousand Christians who have been converted by British missionaries, who have been excluded from proselytising among the Northern Muslims as part of the British imperialist policy of keeping the north and south divided.

British rule began in 1899, following the conquest of the Sudan by an Anglo-Egyptian army under General Lord Kitchener. Before that time, Sudan was ruled by the great religious leader **Mohammad Ahmed-el Mahdi**, who led a revolt against the Turko-Egyptian regime in 1885 and drove the Egyptians out of Khartoum.

After the death of El Mahdi, who was succeeded by another religious leader the **Khalifa Abdullah**, the country degenerated into a state of anarchy. Following the death in 1885 of the British General, "Chinese" Gordon, who was sent to evacuate the Egyptian Army from the Sudan, the British Government demanded invasion of the country to avenge Gordon's death. It was to carry out this policy that Kitchener led a combined British-Egyptian expeditionary force into the Sudan and broke the power of the Dervishes at the famous battle of Omdurman on September 2, 1898.

It was a bloody slaughter in which over 30,000 Sudanese were killed and 4,000 wounded.

CONDOMINIUM GOVERNMENT

After pacifying the country, the British Tory Government under Lord Salisbury, made an agreement with the Egyptian Government, which was under a British Protectorate, to establish a Con-



SUDANESE WORKERS—COTTON GINNING
Their struggle for national independence is today being subverted into religious conflict

dominium over the Sudan. Under this form of government, Britain and Egypt were supposed to rule jointly, but in fact, the British did the ruling and Egypt the paying.

As a concession to national pride, however, the British permitted the King of Egypt to appoint the Governor-General, who was always an Englishman, on the recommendation of the British Foreign Secretary!

Following the setting up of the Condominium, Egyptian troops were garrisoned in the Sudan and many Egyptians were employed in clerical and other minor positions in the civil service. Many of these Egyptian expatriates married Sudanese women. Among them was General Nequib's father, who was an army officer. The General was born in Khartoum, which was the scene of the recent rioting in which 33 people were killed. It was the occasion of his first visit to his birthplace since becoming President of Egypt.

Relations between the British and Egyptians remained cordial until 1924, when the British Commander of the Sudanese Army,

Egypt. When General Nequib came to power, he annulled Farouk's pretentious claim to be "King of the Sudan", following the King's expulsion from Egypt.

ANGLO-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT

The ending of the monarchy in Egypt and establishment of a republic marked a new chapter in Anglo-Egyptian relations in regard to the Sudan.

In an agreement signed in 1953, Britain and Egypt announced their intention of recognising the complete independence of the Sudan within three years.

A new Constitution was drafted by an Anglo-Sudanese Committee and elections held throughout the country last November and December.

Under the terms of this transitional Constitution the Sudanese were given full internal self-government. The main features of the new Constitution, which went into operation on January 1st, 1954, was a two-chamber Legislature. A Senate of 50 and a Legislative Assembly of 97, elected by universal adult suffrage.

The instrument of government is an All-Sudanese Cabinet, presided over by a Sudanese Prime Minister. The Ministers are assisted in directing the work of the various departments by Sudanese Under-Secretaries and Permanent Secretaries, some of whom are Sudanese, but the majority are British officials appointed by the Foreign Office.

ELECTION RESULTS

The first general election under the new self-governing Constitution which took place last November and December resulted in a victory for the **National-Unionists**, who comprise a coalition of parties standing for independence, but integration with Egypt.

The National-Unionists won 50 seats, and their main opponent, the **Umma Party**, which also stands for independence but is opposed to amalgamation with Egypt, won 23 seats.

The other seats were divided as follows: Southern Party 9; Socialist Republicans 3; Anti-Imperialist Party 1; and Independents 11. For the Senate, the National-Unionists got 22, the Umma Party 3, Southern Party 3, and Independents 2.

RELIGION AND POLITICS

The National-Unionists, having won the election, appointed their leader, the 53-year old ex-schoolmaster, **Ismail Azhari**, the first Prime Minister. He, in turn, selected party stalwarts to the Council of Ministers, holding the portfolios of Minister of Works; Minister of Education; Irrigation and Agriculture; Minister of Finance; Minister of Economics and Commerce; Minister of Communications; Minister of Justice; Minister of Defence; and two Ministers without portfolio.

While the election was conducted along party lines, the real power behind the politicians are two religious leaders, for Islam, like Christianity, is divided into many camps. In the Sudan, the two main sects are the **Ansar**, headed by **Sir Sayed Abdel Rahman el Mahdi**, the son of the famous warrior El Mahdi, who led the "Holy War" against the Egyptians in 1885; and the **Khatmia**, led by **Sir Sayed El Mirghani**.

After the Sudan was freed from Egyptian rule in 1885, the **Ansar** sect persecuted the **Khatmia** followers in just the same way as the Protestants once persecuted the Roman Catholics in Britain. It was only after the reconquest of the Sudan by Lord Kitchener in 1898 that religious toleration was established.

To show their impartiality towards the quarrelling sects, the British conferred the Order of Knighthood on both religious leaders! They then started playing off one against the other in keeping with the traditional British colonial policy of "divide and rule."

However, when the Egyptians decided to stage a come-back after the end of the Second World War, the Cairo politicians looked for allies from among the Sudanese, and decided to back the **Khatmia** leader against his **Ansar** rival since it was the **Ansar** sect which led the revolt against Egyptian rule under the Mahdi. The British

officials in the Sudan then started to patronise **Sir Sayed Abdel Rahman El Mahdi**.

Consequently, when party politics was introduced into the country following the constitutional reforms of 1948, the political leaders of the **Ashigga** party, who favoured integration with Egypt, turned to the **Khatmia** leader, in order to get his religious followers to support the pro-Egyptian National-Unionist bloc, led by the **Ashigga** intellectuals in Khartoum. The political leaders of the opposition **Umma** Party effected a similar manoeuvre. They made the head of the **Ansar** sect their patron.

In this way the old religious conflict between the two political blocs—the National - Unionist Party and the Umma Party, which controlled the last Assembly and collaborated with the British administration.

This explains why the supporters of the **Ansar** sect invaded Khartoum on Monday, March 1st, to demonstrate against General Nequib and his entourage, especially the "dancing" Major Salem, the Minister of National Guidance, who toured the Sudan during the election, whipping up support for the pro-Egyptian National-Unionists. This was not difficult, as many Sudanese, even those who have no particular love for the Egyptians, support the National-Unionists because they fear a return of the Mahdist rule should the Umma come to power.

ACCUSED OF INCITEMENT

The Egyptians justify their open intervention in the election by accusing the British political officers working in the Southern Province of the Sudan of inciting the natives to vote against the National-Unionist candidates. And since the riots, the Egyptians have returned to the attack.

They allege that the anti-Nequib demonstration was inspired by the British officials, who allowed 30,000 armed tribesmen to assemble in Khartoum. The British on their part place the blame upon the Egyptians.

"We cannot understand," said **Mr. Selwyn Lloyd**, the British Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, "why the Egyptian Government does not perceive that if by continued interference it whips up feelings in the Sudan and causes a breakdown of law and order, Egypt herself will lose as much as anyone." Mr. Lloyd, who was present in Khartoum on the day of the rioting, made the above observation in a report to Parliament on Anglo-Egyptian relations in the Sudan.

Mr. Lloyd went on to say that "we have now reached a position in which there is strong feeling between Government (National-Unionists) and Opposition (Umma) in which sectarianism plays a large part." He concluded by issuing the blunt warning: "I fear it will not take much to cause deterioration in law and order both in the North and South Sudan. This is a situation of some danger."

Such a situation would suit the British nicely, since, unlike the Egyptians, they are already on the spot and control both the civil and military administration.

It would also enable the Tories to "justify" the retention of British troops in the Suez Canal Zone on the one hand and "prove" that the Sudanese are not yet ready for self-government, on the other.

There is no doubt that the Condominium Powers are fishing in troubled waters of the Nile.

The Colour Bar and Profits

How the colour bar policy of Malan's Government in South Africa pays off for the white minority is very clearly illustrated by the South African budget proposals introduced last week by Finance Minister, N. Havenga.

"There is scope," he said, "for a substantial reduction in the tax burden" and he proceeded to present some **£22 million in tax relief**, including a reduction in supertax from 15/1d. in the pound to 10/.

But—the nine million Africans still get only **£6½ millions** for their education—no increase despite the prosperity of which the government boasts.

News From Guiana

★ By Janet Jagan ★

The trial of **Nasrudeen**, charged with sedition, lasted for eight days, beginning on March 1st and ending on March 10th, with the acquittal of the defendants.

Represented by **Mr. D. N. Pritt**, Q.C. associated with Messrs. Burnham, Haynes, Sawh and Luck, the trial took a dramatic turn in the last two days when it was revealed that the Crown had withheld important evidence in the form of a tape recording of the meeting at which **Nasrudeen** was alleged to have uttered a seditious speech.

The Jury, after deliberating for two hours, returned a verdict of not guilty by eleven to one. Crowds carried **Nasrudeen** out of the court and tremendous applause greeted Mr. Pritt as he returned to Chambers.

On March 11th, when the trial of sedition against **Fred Bowman**, former Member of the House of Assembly was to begin, the Solicitor-General **Farnum**, announced that the Crown was withdrawing its charges. This decision was based on Judge **Hughes'** remarks to the Jury in the **Nasrudeen** case.

MORE OBSTRUCTION

P.P.P. efforts to send **Ashton Chase**, former Minister of Labour to Caracas to attend the 10th Inter-American Conference failed as the Governments of Curacao, Trinidad and Barbados refused intransigent entry. A cabled appeal to Prime Minister **Grantley Adams** of Barbados brought no reply. It is understood that the Conference will discuss the British Guiana situation.

ANOTHER PROSCRIPTION

In the Official Gazette of March 13th, the Governor proscribed the Union of Progressive Youth. This is the fourth organisation proscribed under the Emergency Orders. The others being the **British Guiana Peace Committee**, the **Demerara Youth Rally** and the **Pioneer Youth League**.

T.U. UNITY

Attempts are now being made by the **Guiana Industrial Workers' Union** and other unions to re-establish Trade Union unity following the recent creation of a breakaway T.U.C. embracing about one-third of the countries trade-unionists.

Socialist Outlook

59 FLEET STREET, E.C.4.

Editor: John Lawrence

What London Labour Thinks About The Tory Rents Bill

ALL sections of the Labour Movement were recently able to give their opinions of the Tory Rent Bill at a well-attended meeting in Shoreditch Town Hall organized by the North and East London Trade Union Committee Against Rent Increases.

Opening the meeting, the Chairman, Bro. M. Jacobs of N.U.F.O. 15 Branch, said that opposition to the Bill was especially important for Trade Unionists. Hard fought-for wage increases would be more than swallowed up by its implementation and its effect will be a further reduction in our living standards.

First speaker was Mr. Butler, M.P. for Hackney South, who said that we must look at this Bill against the background of previous Rent Acts.

TEN THINGS THE TORIES HAVE DONE

- (1) Cut your food subsidies.
- (2) Introduced a Bill to raise rents of six million tenants by up to £1 a week.
- (3) Cut the building of schools for working-class children.
- (4) Removed controls and bulk-buying of food, so that food prices are higher than ever.
- (5) Refused to grant higher old age pensions.
- (6) Refused to grant the rate for the job to women.
- (7) Imposed charges on prescriptions and dental treatment under the Health scheme.
- (8) Spent the fantastic sum of £1,700 million a year on arms and continued the two years conscription.
- (9) Denationalised steel and road transport.
- (10) Tailed behind the American Government.

SO HIT BACK IN THE MAY ELECTIONS

Frank Allaun

Strike at David Brown's

ON 24th March, 1954, Bro. T. Waterhouse, convenor of David Brown Ltd., Farsley, near Leeds, was escorted from the Works by the Factory Management because it was claimed he had infringed a factory rule. The infringement in question was bringing into the works and giving to fellow-workers newspapers which they had asked him to obtain. He was seen by the Management to distribute five of these on the morning of the 23rd.

The following morning after giving one man his paper, he was pulled up by the Management, taken to the Offices, and subsequently informed that he was on paid indefinite suspension. The workers held a meeting at lunch-time and made it quite clear that they intended to take immediate strike action to obtain his reinstatement.

The District Secretary of the A.E.U. whose members are largely involved, however, persuaded the members to hold their action until an opportunity for discussion had taken place.

A reply from the Management was received at approximately 9 a.m. on the morning of the 25th March and the workers left the factory at 10 a.m. The Management made it quite clear that the reinstatement of Bro. Waterhouse was completely out of the question.

The Leeds District Committee regard this as a deliberate attempt to smash the growing organisation at the factory, and with this in mind have endorsed the action taken and are requesting Executive Council to do likewise.

and over again by successive tenants. The principle of all the Tory Bills is that the Landlords, "having sucked the orange dry, from time to time inject more juice by legalising increases of rents."

"There's not the slightest doubt that the Landlords and Property Owners' Associations are prepared to do battle. We should be just as well organised as they," said Mr. Butler.

David Weitzman, Barrister M.P. for Stoke Newington and Hackney North, then dealt with the Bill from the legal standpoint. He said that legislation on Rents was a

Reported by Norman Goodchild

"complicated entanglement full of contradictions," giving lots of lucrative work for lawyers and nothing but difficulties for working people.

The arguments used by the Tories to justify this present Bill are exactly the same as those used in 1920 when rents went up 40 per cent. Then, as now, there was no guarantee that repairs would be done. The onus for asking for repairs to be done was on the tenant.

The cost of unsuccessful County Court Actions arising out of Landlords failing to comply with a "certificate of disrepair" would have to be met in full by the tenants. Legal Aid is only available for High Court Actions. How many working people have £30-50 to risk?

Furthermore, the landlord, with the backing of his wealthy association, could take the case to High Court. Mr. Weitzman went on to explain how the Bill was rushed through the Committee stage with some of the clauses not even discussed let alone voted upon. The Guillotine will ensure its passage through the House by the end of the summer.

Burly Arthur Lewis, M.P. for West Ham North, spoke next. He said that landlords claim that the cost of repairs is three times that of pre-war. But this makes no difference. "They haven't done any repairs for donkey's years, anyway." During the war restrictions were placed on repairs and since the war lack of materials and labour have been the excuse.

But even before the war, when materials were abundant and thousands of building workers were on the dole, still no repairs were done.

In any case, after the repairs are

completed and paid for, the rent increase still goes on indefinitely.

In a rousing conclusion to his speech, Lewis called for the T.U.C. General Council to set up Resident's Associations and Advisory Bureaux to explain and fight for tenants' rights.

The Steel Barons and Road Hauliers had put pressure on the Government for their demands. If the three wings of the Labour Movement united in a great campaign it would be possible to defeat not only the Bill itself but to bring down the Tory Government.

This statement was greeted with prolonged applause.

The committee has issued a leaflet explaining to tenants the procedure for applying for a certificate of disrepair, and it was planned to organise a mass lobbying of M.P.s on Tuesday, 30th March.

The last speaker, Alderman Cliffe, leader of Finsbury Borough Council and a member of the Tailors and Garment Workers' Union, stressed the importance of unity in the struggle. It's no use leaving it to the Parliamentary Labour Party with a guaranteed majority against it, he said.

Some measure of the enthusiasm felt by those present can be gained from the amount of the collection, which was £16 3s. 10½d.

Disunity at Unity House

★ A Plea To Close Ranks On The Railways ★

MONDAY, 22nd March, saw the end of balloting for a railway representative to the British Railways Sectional Council No. 2. The result will mean victory for the N.U.R. or the A.S.L.E.F., both of which have candidates. It is the end of a bitter struggle based on the actions of the two unions in the now distant wage-increase negotiations and strike threat.

The Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen issued in February a booklet to its members in an attempt to justify its actions during the negotiations.

This booklet summarises the causes of friction, the progress of negotiations, the partial settlement, and most important, attacked the policy of the N.U.R. with regard to percentage increases.

It says this on page 9 of the booklet under the heading "N.U.R. Policy Today."

"Recent events have proved beyond any possible doubt that the traditional policy of the N.U.R. is unchanged. That this main aim in fact is to uplift the lower-paid grades: this indeed is understandable having regard to the make-up of their membership.

It fully explains their allegiance to flat-rate increases." The "Associated" aim is stated thus: "On the other hand, the A.S.L.E.F. is controlled by locomen in the interests of locomen."

THE N.U.R.'s CASE

Two pamphlets were issued by the N.U.R. The first, in January, was called simply "Three, Two, One." It showed the unity of the three unions at the commencement of negotiations, and the gradual divergence of views as time passed, with first the Transport Safaried Staffs' Association backing down, followed by the A.S.L.E.F., with only the N.U.R. still determined to strike on the 20th December, 1953.

A fourth union was dismissed contemptuously as a union recognised neither by the T.U.C. nor the British Transport Commission and should be treated as such. This union was the Union of Railway Signalmen.

In February a second pamphlet was issued, "Fact or Fiction", in answer to the booklet of the A.S.L.E.F. and in support of the N.U.R. candidate for the Sectional Council elections.

Again the details of the negotiations were given and with them a declaration of the wage policy of the N.U.R. It is: "That wages and salaries must be based on the need of the individual and the responsibility and skill appropriate to the grade"...The N.U.R. is not allied to flat-rate increases."

As the last four applications for wage increases were on a percentage basis the argument of the A.S.L.E.F. carries little conviction. Its primary concern for the interests of the A.S.L.E.F. lie chiefly in the direction of maintaining existing wage differentials.

But the N.U.R. also states that it is not allied to flat-rate increases.

It also believes, though not as emphatically as the A.S.L.E.F., that a lower paid worker shall receive a proportionately smaller rise than a higher paid worker.

NOT MUCH DIFFERENCE

Whatever socialists may think of this belief, justified on the grounds of providing incentives to the lower grades, and ignoring the fact that someone must be at the foot of the promotional ladder and perhaps, through no fault of his own, compelled to stay there, the fact remains that the two unions disagree only slightly on this point.

Yet out of this slight disagreement on emphasis, not principle, the present conflict has largely arisen.

None of the unions are entirely blameless in this sorry spectacle of dissension and recriminations.

Even the N.U.R., which played such a splendid part in the negotiations, and was responsible for the increases gained and for those which may be gained as a result of the inquiry into the wage-structure, had to resort to abuse of the U.R.S.

Certainly the U.R.S. is wrong to attempt to divorce its members from railwaymen as a whole, but if the N.U.R. accepts the two other unions, why attack the U.R.S., unrecognised though it is, and then plead that only the A.S.L.E.F. is guilty of recriminations?

UNITY WANTED

As the railway deficit increases, inevitable now the profitable road haulage section is being restored to private hands, the Tory Government is going to demand drastic reforms. The efficiency drive agreed to by the unions may be only a prelude to measures which will cut costs regardless of working conditions.

In this case all the railwaymen will need to be in one mind, not three or four.

It would be a grand sight to see a grand body of workers marching under one banner to Unity House. Why don't the railwaymen give it a try?

One Shilling More Than The Dole

Average pay packet for all workers, according to Ministry of Labour survey is £8 0s. 1d.. For men, it is £9 9s. 2d.

Very nice. But the day before the Ministry of Labour published this report, a man with 6 children appeared in a county court, on two judgement summonses. He couldn't pay.

Why? He was unemployed. He drew £5.19s. Unemployment Pay and National Assistance.

The Ministry of Labour had offered him a job—at £6 per week!

Advert

Read James Cannon's new pamphlet **AMERICA'S ROAD TO SOCIALISM** 79 pages, 6d. per copy, by post 8d. from **New Park Publications, 266 Lavender Hill, London, S.W.11**

Breakdown In Public Transport?

THAT lively little journal, "The Platform", produced by rank and file busworkers, has published a special supplement proving in detail that Britain's Passenger Transport system is in real danger of completely breaking down.

Here are a couple of examples:-

GLASGOW

"Glasgow Transport Department employs 7,115 men and women in the traffic grades. In a single year, no less than 4,751 (over 60 per cent of the total) left their jobs. Replacements have left the department short of 987 drivers and conductors, and, as a result, 200 vehicles have had to be withdrawn from service."

BIRMINGHAM

"Of 4,742 drivers and conductors, 2,872 have been lost in a year (again over 60 per cent). More than 2,000 employees are at

present working a 7-day week, with a high level of daily overtime. The department is 1,000 under strength, but of these, 860 are conductors—a proportion that makes the situation even worse than it appears on the surface."

This is all due, says "The Platform," to: "The cumulative effect of years of greed and mismanagement, with its resultant staff wastage." It is now threatening, not merely "inconvenience" to the public—not merely fewer and more crowded vehicles, long waiting in bigger queues and higher fares, but "an actual collapse that will have serious consequences for industry and production as a whole."

Not only busworkers, but the "poor suffering passengers" are recommended to get hold of the busmen's journal. It can be obtained from G. Moore, 21 New Wanstead, E. 11.

EVERYBODY is now crying for an opening up of the markets in China and the U.S.S.R. The British Council for the Promotion of International Trade did a good job of work some two years ago when it took the trouble to organise business trips to Russia and China, but the only thanks that it received from some short-sighted officials in the Foreign Office was to be dubbed with the Communist smear.

Harold Wilson rightly questioned this "Cohn-and-Schine" department in the Foreign Office for pouring cold water on all efforts for East-West Trade. Those of us who went to Moscow to the Economic Conference had to suffer the same innuendoes. But now the wizards that used to peep and mutter about it all are almost united. We are all for East-West Trade!

Indeed, Three-Power talks on East-West European trade were held between Peter Thornycroft, President of the Board of Trade, Lord Reading, Minister of State, Foreign Office, a French delegation led by Maurice Schuman, and the United States, represented by Harold Stassen, Director of Foreign Aid Administration.

Mr. Stassen is concerned that we should come to agreeable policies on the question of trade. Unfortunately he told us as soon as he arrived that he couldn't stay



The Week at Westminster

by Harold Davies, M.P.

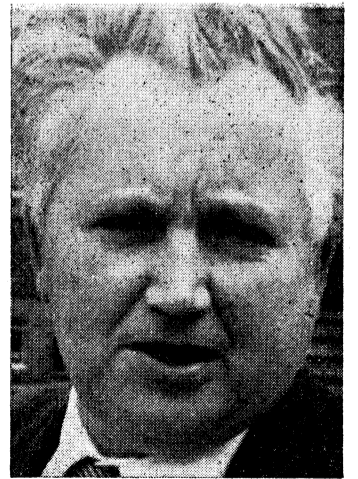
here very long. Let's hope he doesn't hustle us into the valley of decision to suit antiquated power politics.

THIS NONSENSE!

"Some of the strategic controls which are now in force have long ago been seen to be nonsense," said Harold Wilson, during the debate. "On 30th November, 1951, in a debate on the Consolidated Fund Bill, I pointed out that the Soviet Union was shipping goods to this country which were going straight into our strategic stockpiles."

Not only does this make nonsense of the "Cohn-and-Schine" attitude of the Foreign Office, but it is well to remember that America is moving into slump conditions. We shall need all the markets that we can find.

During the 'thirties about four-fifths of our machine tool exports went to the Soviet Union and other Eastern European countries. In 1938 42 per cent of our machine-tool exports went to the Soviet Union. In March, 1947, Ernest Bevin and Stalin talked about trade. It is a pity that last year some sections of the Trade Union Movement viewed the project with such disapproval.



FIGURES WORTH NOTING

Peter Thornycroft informed us that in 1951 imports from Russia were £60 million; in 1952 £58 million; and down to £40 million in 1953, while our exports to

Russia are down to about £3 or £4 million annually.

Before the war we used to export to the Soviet bloc about 4 per cent of our total exports. Today that is down to 1/2 per cent.

Before the war Germany exported about 12 1/2 per cent of her exports to Russia. Japan exported about 30 per cent of her goods to China.

Are we still to keep these markets closed and meet the full shock of Japanese and German trade?

As a result of the visit of the businessmen £12 1/2 million of firm orders have been notified to the Board of Trade. Of these, £6 1/2 millions have been approved so far and another £6 million of trawlers.

HOW MUCH PER KNOB?

Emrys Hughes wanted to know from the Chancellor of the Exchequer the weekly cost, per head of the population of the Army, Navy and the Air Force. Here is the answer:-

- Admiralty 2s. 8d.
- War Office 4s. 0d.
- Air Ministry 3s. 9d.
- Ministry of Supply ... 1s. 2d.
- Ministry of Defence. 2d.

Note that the Atom Bomb business is not in all this! As for the Civil Defence, well it leaves us radio-actively just guessing.

WHO STEALS THE OLD MAN'S SUPPER?

"Who steals an old man's supper, does him no harm." So says the old English proverb, but when it comes to school dinners for kids the old proverb says nowt. Let us look at some figures again.

Reg Sorensen quizzed the Minister of Education. He wanted to know the number of children receiving school meals and milk respectively, compared with two years ago, to what extent the number of free meals has increased or decreased during that period and the comparative costs. Let's have a look! The number of day pupils in maintained schools having school meals on a day in October, 1953, compared with October, 1951, is:-

1951 ...	2,494,522	279,005 (free)
1953 ...	2,431,215	248,508 (free)
Total in 1951	2,773,527	
Total in 1953	2,679,723	
Number having milk:-		
1951	4,691,798	
1953	5,068,567	

Look at this lot carefully and see how much water the Tory myth about cost of living not moving means.

There are about 100,000 less having dinners and yet the cost has gone up over £4 million for the milk and meals service to schools.

Take No Notice of the C.P.

[The following letter is typical of the many expressions of solidarity we have received following the recent attempts of the Communist Party to smear our paper.]

The big vote in the Parliamentary Labour Party against the re-arming of Western Germany, and the solid support which the Constituency Parties (and even some of the big unions) have given to the opposition to the suicidal policies of Attlee-Morrison, all adds up to a healthy state of affairs in the Party.

In fact, when the Front Bench was forced into demanding a cut in the phenomenal arms expenditure of the Churchill Government, those of us who have been fighting for at least three years to get the Party back on to the socialist road were greatly heartened. Despite the campaign of vilification against the "Tribune" and the "irresponsible" rank and file, the ideas of Nye Bevan are now common currency within the movement. Even Right Wing leaders must now pay lip service to "Bevanism" for fear of losing the last vestiges of support they possess. The "Daily Mirror"—chief vehicle of anti-Bevan hatred before the great Morecambe Conference—today opens its columns to the very man who not so long ago they said was wilfully leading the movement astray.

One lesson is clear: the Left Wing must persevere in its socialist course, never allowing the capitalist press to deflect it. Witch-hunters quite obviously come and go. But this simple lesson seems to have been quite forgotten by the Communist Party. Just at the time when the overwhelming sections of the Labour Party, Trade Unions and Co-ops are uniting on a Left Wing basis against the reactionary leadership of the movement—along comes the Communist Party, completely cut off from the main stream, and opens fire on the Left Wing! Instead of throwing in their weight behind the great movement for a change of policy in the Labour Party, they start sniping at the very people who are trying to push this movement forward.

The McCarthyite smear technique perfected by the Trade Union bureaucrats against the Communist Party is now used by the victims against the Left Wing! That was the meaning of the "World News" attack on "Socialist Outlook"—and the Editorial Board did right to condemn it as pure and simple witch-hunting.

Surely the Communist Party—which, I repeat, represents such a very small section of the British Labour Movement, has better things to do than join Transport House stoopigeons in marking out those who are conspicuous in their fight for socialism in the Labour Party? In any case, while the Communist Party lies marooned on the political shore, the socialists in the Labour Party are getting on with the job of making the mass Labour Party a really SOCIALIST Party. It is a job they can be proud of undertaking—and no amount of ludicrous witch-hunting from the Communist Party must be allowed to deflect them from that course.

London, W.2. Brian Rees

The Editor and Mr. Molotov

I do not understand why you take issue with me so bitterly for my criticism of the March 12th Editorial, nor why you adopted the same attitude towards C. Van Gelderen in the previous issue. The "Outlook" has in the past, been noted for the freedom it has accorded to the expression of left wing points of view—the German question, because of all its implications, must receive the fullest discussion in our paper.

In the reply to my letter appear-

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Our Readers Write . . .

ing in the 19th March, the Editor states "... Ireland did not lose one iota of its progressiveness because it was receiving the support of—Kaiser Wilhelm". True, but socialist supporters of Ireland's struggle for freedom did not suggest a **United Front with the Kaiser!**

The Editor continues "Socialists do not decide their attitude by the confused ideas of the participants... (but) aided of course by socialists with clear ideas" the movement will become clarified. It is not "aid" which is needed to clarify confused ideas, but leadership. And it is to the "Outlook" that the Labour Left wing look for leadership. Unfortunately, the editor only adds to the confusion.

He says the Molotov proposals offer an opportunity to the British Labour movement to explore the question of a united peaceful Europe, with the Soviet Union. Molotov did not offer his plan to the British Labour movement—he offered it to British capitalism and the Wall Street Bankers! What is important about the Berlin Conference is not so much the window dressing of the Molotov proposals and the Eden plan, but what took place behind the scenes. From the anti-German propaganda which has gushed forth from the C.P. press in recent weeks, it has become obvious that Molotov went to Berlin to do a deal with British and American imperialism over the heads of the German workers. A deal which can only

London U.S.D.A.W. Opposes German Rearmament

The following resolution was carried at the London Divisional Conference of U.S.D.A.W., representative of over 46,000 distributive workers, with only one dissentient.

"This London divisional Conference calls upon the Executive Council to do everything within its power to reverse the decision of the Labour Party leadership on the question of German Rearmament.

result in disaster and defeat for the German workers in order that the Soviet bureaucracy can maintain the status quo with world imperialism.

I do not regard the Soviet Union as the "enemy," as the editor implies, but I will not support the Molotovs and Malenkovs and their diplomatic appendages, the Communist Parties, in selling out the German workers.

All socialists are opposed to German re-arming. The first condition for this is the complete withdrawal of troops from both East and West Germany and the task of disarming the German capitalists is then the task to be undertaken by the German workers themselves. Our job in Britain is to oppose the war plans of British Imperialism. This the editor has correctly stated, but by his support of the Molotov proposals, which he confirmed in his reply to my letter, he undermines the genuine opposition of the workers to re-arming.

Nottingham M. Shaw

★

The Bomb

In recent weeks two very illuminating articles have appeared in the "Outlook". One, it may be said dealt with the destructive side of the atomic research, (Prof. Hyman Levy's) and the other with the constructive field (by Sam. Goldberg).

Wrote the professor, "... your life and my life lie in the hands of some atomic strategist to be sacrificed when... military needs require." He went on, "... there are some people who tell us that these things are done 'to bring civilisation to the natives' and he warned us, "We must speak now, or we shall be silent for ever."

Recent events have shown it is later than we think and it was good to see our paper wasted no further time by publishing the very revealing article by Harold Davies in last week's issue.

All of us, must spare no effort to bring home to the man in the

street the danger ever persistent if we continue to permit this so destructive, yet so constructive force, atomic energy, to be used for the purpose of mass extermination of others, and ultimately ourselves.

As Sam Goldberg says, in his article, "The utilisation of this great source of energy can only be done by a superior social organisation—one in which the means of production are socially owned and where increased production does not lead to slumps, but on the contrary to increases in living standards."

British Labour has the power, it has the will, to lead the world on this merciful journey.

Cleethorpes (Lincs.) S. R. Pearson

★

The Rent Bill

The report by John Brown of the Bevan Meeting on the Rents Bill was factually correct but I feel that it failed in not drawing attention to:

1. Bevan's failure to give a fighting lead on the issue of the Housing Repairs and Rents Bill and his advocacy, at this closed Party meeting, of the official N.E.C. "line" can only serve to demoralise those left-wingers who look to him as their leader.
2. His dodging of the question posed by many delegates as to why the N.E.C. had not already mobilised the Movement against the Bill.
3. His scathing reference to "The Militants" and acceptance of the Parliamentary game in spite of his own words that the L.P. attempt to amend the Bill satisfactorily

M. Banda will comment next week on the letter of Paul Daulnay which appeared in our last issue.

Is the "SOCIALIST OUTLOOK" in your Local Library?

How Shall Labour Beat The Rents Bill?

IN a somewhat oversimplified fashion it is fair to say that there are two different conceptions as to what should be done against the Tory Government's Rents and Repairs Bill.

One section of the party argues that we must rely upon the constitutional forms—namely argument, representations by Labour M.P.s and local authorities, and resolutions from the movement. If this fails—and few among the supporters of this type of struggle believe otherwise than that it will—then we must as "democrats" accept the Bill once it is law.

In order to make the best of a bad job the Labour Party should then, according to these comrades, set up advice bureaux to inform tenants what their legal rights are.

The other section of the party argues that, while the movement must utilise debates, representations, protests to the full, the fight against the Bill means nothing unless the whole movement is mobilised for action to stop the Bill.

This discussion in the Movement is of fundamental importance. At a recent meeting in London Aneurin Bevan argued against "militant action" by posing various objections. (1) Extra-Parliamentary action was not a correct means of struggle. (2) Tenants would not be served with a notice of increase of rent at the same time. It was not right to expect a minority of tenants, isolated in some cases, to refuse to pay the increases, thereby facing the power of the state on their own.

OBJECTIONS NOT VALID

To deal with the first objection. The Rents Bill has been brought in by a government ruling on a minority of votes and without a mandate for this measure. Harold Laski argued that the Parliamentary system would not be understood unless we recognised that

By Cllr. D. Finch

beneath the appearance of democracy, the capitalist economic and social system was being upheld. The "Landlords' Endowment Bill" (as Bevan aptly called it), proves Laski right.

Why then, if we are supposed to stand for a different system where common ownership replaces

A Discussion Article

private property, must we go in awe of a constitution borne out of and dedicated to, the preservation of a system we are out to destroy?

SOME HISTORY

Furthermore, the Rent Acts, now being torn asunder by the Tories, were born out of a movement of tenants, housewives and industrial workers, which defied the constitution and the forces of the state.

In 1915 the Labour Movement in Scotland took action to prevent rent increases for the few, in order to prevent them for the many. The tenants who were the first to suffer under the attempt to increase rents were not then isolated—because the Labour movement supported them.

A QUESTION

The Bill is not going to be amended. Is the Labour movement then going to sponsor and encourage a movement as they did in 1915, or are we going to oppose such a movement and kill it? I believe we must encourage it and give it a clear lead. On this I must say a word about an article a week or two ago by a fellow contributor to "Socialist Outlook"—Councillor John Goffe.

Councillor Goffe suggests that "to prevent increases without re-

pairs becoming operative all Labour Parties must explain to the greatest possible number of tenants what the Bill is proposing to do." No-one can be opposed to the dissemination of knowledge, but the question remains, how does this prevent unscrupulous landlords making false statements as to their repairs—assisted by an unscrupulous jobbing builder? How many tenants, informed or otherwise, will risk County Court action?

Councillor Goffe's wording also gives the impression that rent increases after repairs are carried out are in order. Why? Landlords were given a 40 per cent increase in 1920. 25 per cent of that increase was supposedly for repairs. In the vast majority of cases it was never used for that purpose.

Does preparing the tenants to get certificates of disrepair meet the situation? In my opinion, no! It is entirely inadequate. It can only come after the Bill becomes an act, and in any case, in practice, this procedure of certificates of disrepair is almost certain to be ineffective. The 1920 Act allowed tenants to obtain these certificates. The number applied for nationally was negligible.

What is really needed is a mass campaign, led by the Labour Party and the trade unions, against the Bill, encouraging the setting up of tenants committees prepared to resist rent increases, firm in the knowledge that the Labour Movement will back them to the hilt. The campaign should encourage the mobilisation of the Labour controlled Authorities, behind the tenants, and prepared themselves to oppose the implementation of the Bill should it become law.

That is the only way to defeat this Bill, and prevent it from being operated as an Act.

Note: This discussion will continue in our next issue when Cllr. John Goffe will reply to the points raised in this article.

'Satellite Sovereignty'

It was as long ago as August, 1950 that Churchill first came out with his "European Army". Since then, the other inter-state notions—e.g. "Benelux"—have failed miserably. Unity amongst thieves is difficult, but not impossible.

Why this near success of Churchill? There is one explanation only—rivalries can be suppressed only because this war is an **anti-soviet** war. For that reason alone, if for no other, Labour should oppose N.A.T.O., E.D.C., and, consequently, this re-arming of a U.S. satellite territory.

"Satellite sovereignty" is a new term coined by the U.S. to brand East Europe. But this status is at least better than that proposed for West Germany under the E.D.C. and Bonn Treaty. The U.S., in fact, now threatens France with "Satellite sovereignty" for West Germany should E.D.C. fail to be ratified. What a commentary on those who support by default this arming of a U.S. satellite in this reactionary war!

in Committee would fail. I feel that the "Socialist Outlook" should have used this as an opportunity to break down the Parliamentary illusions of the workers and to urge the need of extra-Parliamentary activity.

Many delegates were expressing dissatisfaction with the meeting as they left and, therefore, it seems to us that the "Outlook" ought to have carried a critical appraisal of the meeting and of Bevan's part in it rather than a straight report which we feel can well be left to other papers. That no other paper may produce such a report does not seem to us to be very important for only the delegates' contributions are thought to be worthy of report as putting any alternative line to the attitude of the N.E.C.

London, W. 14.

Paul Newton Peckham

R. Hood

When will the Min. of Health realise that Florence Nightingale Is Dead!

A RECENT article in "Socialist Outlook" correctly drew attention to the grave shortage of nurses in Mental Hospitals and T.B. Hospitals. Perhaps it is not so well-known, but there is also a serious shortage of nurses in many General Hospitals.

What is the cause of this shortage of trained personnel in such a vital "industry"?

In my view, the fault lies in the method of recruitment and training of nurses and in the poor pay. On this latter point, Mr. Jack Waite, General Secretary of the **Confederation of Health Service Employees**, has said:

"The full truth is to be found in the miserably inadequate student salary scales under which a resident first year male or female nurse must scrape along on about two guineas a week after deductions for board, lodgings, superannuation and insurance." The Ministry of Health, said Mr. Waite, seem to turn "a blind eye to the crucial economic factor that nurses with private means went out of fashion with Florence Nightingale and working for pin-money is a thing of the past."

The whole manner of reaching agreements in the terms and conditions of nurses is unsatisfactory. For example, the Mental Nurses applied **more than twelve months ago** for an increase in pay. The claim went to an Industrial Court of the Ministry of Labour on Friday, February 12th—and we are still awaiting the reply and decision of the Court!

RECRUITMENT

Recruitment and training of nurses should be taken out of the control of Hospital Management Committees and done through the Regional Hospital Boards. It would reduce considerably the

number of training schools and lectures could be given at a central point.

The number of nurses in training at some schools is in many cases as low as... 10. If these schools, with their large staffs, were merged there would be more efficient training and a considerable saving in expenses, equipment and time.

Another point. Persons who wish to be nurses should only be

By

A Student Nurse

allowed to apply through the Ministry of Labour Appointments Office. This would cut out the waste of money in advertising through the nursing journals which each week devote more than half their space to these adverts for nursing appointments. Recruitment of nurses should be carried out in the same way as recruitment for the Post Office—by advertisements in the national press and on the hoardings.

TRAINING

The existence of a Tory Government doesn't help matters much. Last year a recommendation was made to the Minister of Health that students should be trained in general and mental nursing subjects in a comprehensive four-year course. This would enable a better distribution of nurses throughout the country to be made instead of the present maldistribution. But the Government have done nothing about it.

The important thing is to make the Health Service a really **National Service**—with proper pay and conditions and the most up-to-date methods of training and recruitment. The age of Florence Nightingale has gone forever—and its about time that fact was recognised if the people are to ever get a really adequate Hospital Service.

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