

THE ⁽¹³⁾e

Week

A news analysis for socialists 9d.

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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

Business Address:
54 PARK ROAD
LENTON
NOTTINGHAM 48369

Editorial Address:
19 GREENFIELD ST.
DUNKIRK
NOTTINGHAM 74069

Editors: KEN COATES, ROBIN BLACKBURN

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EDITORS' LETTER

Some hundreds of people will be seeing our journal for the first time this week. We hope that all new readers will seriously consider subscribing and, more important, how they can help to make our venture a success. We are exactly what we say we are at the top of this page and if you think there is the need and a place for such a service keep in touch, send your reports and help us to reach wider numbers of people.

LABOUR AND CND

Anyone who says that CND is dead will be proved a liar this Easter. The fact remains that no other organisation or campaign can bring the people out on the streets by their thousands as can the anti-nuclear weapons campaign. Not even the most fanatical supporter of CND, on the other hand, would deny that the movement is suffering from confusion and lack of direction. There are no simple remedies to this malady. It is very easy to say (and impossible to refute) that if all the activists of CND were active members of the Labour Party the battle for a unilateralist Labour Party would easily be won. To translate this almost mathematically exact formula into political reality is no easy task. CND won its mass support and its particular character from by-passing of traditional and routine methods of political action. It appealed directly to people to do something themselves unhindered by the political machines of the traditional parties. Hence the strong resistance to the formula of fighting through the Labour Party.

Indeed the formula of fighting for unilateralism through the Labour Party is meaningless unless it is explained that the fight against nuclear destruction is a fight to change the social system, and that the point in joining the Labour Party is ^{to} use the Labour Party as a device for changing the social system. What is needed is the integration of the two wings: those who are determined ^{not} to be straitjacketed by politicians with those who see the futility of merely protesting against the most extreme evil of the system. From this point of view we will make two simple calls: (1) all out for a maximum turn-out for the Easter demonstrations; and (2) maximum support and publicity for the Labour Party CND Committee, which would in our opinion be the ideal vessel to contain the two tendencies.

IS CND STILL NECESSARY?

The best answer to this question can be given by merely quoting what Patrick Gordon Walker wrote in the last issue of Foreign Affairs: he said that the Labour Party accepted "without question" the need for a western deterrent so long as Russia had nuclear weapons. He continued "We are ready to bear the full moral and political responsibility of membership in an alliance which possesses such weapons..."

EXTEND THE BOYCOTT

The battle in Aberdeen has highlighted the campaign to extend the boycott in Britain in ^a way which will really hurt South African big business. It has also demonstrated the responsibility of Labour controlled councils. There are scores of these councils up and down the country - there is no reason why every one of these should not emulate Aberdeen and the 13 other authorities which have boycotted South African goods. What is needed is a determined campaign to push this forward in the speediest and most vigorous way. Every reader of The Week must ask themselves what they can do in this respect. Already we have been informed that the question is to be posed in some half a dozen local authorities - that is just about good enough for a start.

POLITICAL PRISONERS: By chance this issue of The Week has reference to several sets of political prisoners. For the most part they are in gaol for doing little more than we will do over Easter. Their real crime is that ^{they} constitute a bigger threat to their establishment than we do to ours. Spare a thought for these comrades and more important see if you can do something for them at the conferences and demonstrations.



INDUSTRIAL week

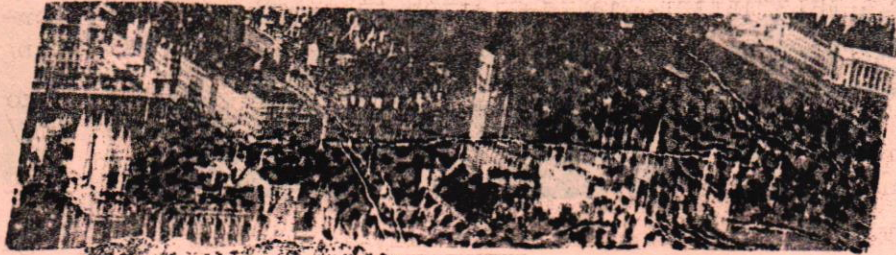
MARTELL CAMPAIGNS FOR TRADE UNION ENQUIRY by a legal correspondent

Following the Rookes v. Barnard judgement, in which the House of Lords ruled against the Draughtsmen's union, and in so doing placed in jeopardy the right to strike, a whole chorus of employers' and conservative organs have begun to demand legal action to 'protect the unions.' This unlikely campaign has been taken up by the Financial Times, the Times (in a first leader), the Economist, and leading spokesmen of the British Employers' Confederation. They demand two things: a Royal Commission to enquire into Trade Union Law and Practice, and a system of registration of unions that would give the Registrar powers to pronounce on the legality or otherwise of strikes. Neither of these things is calculated to help the trade union movement, and both could have serious repercussions, particularly at factory level and for shop stewards.

Warning should be taken from the fact that Mr. Edward Martell has joined in this battle, and is using his New Daily to whip up a campaign to force the Conservative Party to take action (Ed. note: since this article was written the Government has indeed announced that an enquiry is to be made into the trade union movement after the election) Two motions have been put down on the Parliamentary order paper, one by Kerby, which has been signed by seven Tory M.P.s and which poses extremest terms of reference for a proposed Royal Commission; and the other by Rodgers, which makes the demand for an enquiry in a more 'moderate' way. This has been signed by 142 M.P.s, all Conservative. Martell is whipping up the activists of the Conservative Party to write to their M.P.s about this matter, and assisting them by publishing the names of all Tory M.P.s who have not signed. He is also providing a series of arguments which can be used by the less literate of his supporters in this crusade.

All this should help to persuade the Labour movement that the only acceptable demand is the restoration of the legal position as it was before the Rookes v. Barnard judgement; and that it is essential to insist that any house-cleaning in the trade union movement will be done by its own card-holding members. A campaign of education and preparation which will mobilise all trade unionists for the return of a Labour Government pledged to defend the unions in this field is a matter of urgent necessity.

N.B. In the 23rd March issue of the New Daily Martell threatened to take legal action against the power unions if their 'work to rule' and/or ban on overtime damaged his business concerns. He invoked the Rookes v. Barnard judgement.



Politics week

BRITISH STUDENTS TO MEET EUROPEAN SOCIALIST LEADERS.

Plans for the annual summer school of NALSO, the Labour student organisation were released last week. Jointly sponsored by NEW LEFT REVIEW, the school brings together a cross-section of European socialist thought. Speakers invited include Andre Gorz, well-known as a contributor to Sartre's review "Les Temps Modernes"; Lelio Basso, leader of the new left-wing party formed in Italy; and Ernest Mandel, editor of the Belgian left-wing weekly "La Gauche". British speakers invited include Perry Anderson and Robin Blackburn from New Left Review, Jim Mortimer of the Draughtsmen's Union, Tony Topham author of the Fabian pamphlet "Worker's Control in Yugoslavia", Alasdair MacIntyre the philosopher, and Ken Coates, co-editor of "The Week".

Dates for the school are Sept. 12-18 and the venue is WOODLANDS HOLIDAY CAMP, Nr. Sevenoaks, Kent. Cost will be 7 guineas and a deposit of £1 will reserve a place if sent to C.J. Arthur, Flat 3, 6 Crick Road, Oxford.

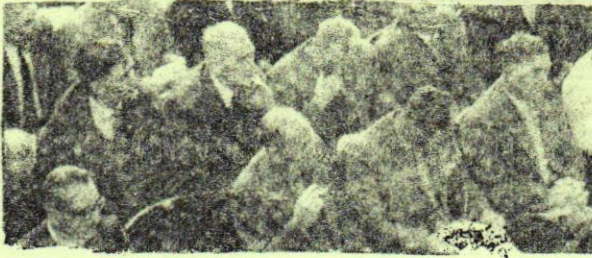
NORTH MIDLANDS LABOUR CND ANNOUNCES SERIES OF SCHOOLS.

On Sunday, April 12, a day school will be held in the Memorial Hall, City Hall, Sheffield. Called by the Labour Party Section of CND it will be addressed by Terence Heelas (of the London Institute for Strategic studies) and George Darling MP, (Hillsborough Constituency, Sheffield). An attempt to bring the rank and file of the Labour Party together to fight for unilateralist demands, this day school deserves wide support. Credentials may be obtained from Len Youle, 87 Heavygate Lane, Sheffield 10.

WIDE SUPPORT FOR WORKERS' CONTROL STUDY GROUP.

Plans by the Trade Union paper, "Voice of the Unions" to develop the study of Worker's Control, encouraged by support at last year's TUC and Labour Party conferences, are now well under way.

Some 75 personalities in the Trade Union and Academic world have been invited to a seminar to be held in Nottingham on Saturday, 25th April. Already, some 25 have signified their intention to attend. Documents and reports are being circulated as preparation for the seminar. To be followed on the Sunday by a Day School, this promises to be a rewarding and stimulating weekend. Enquiries have been received from Shop Stewards' Committees and Cambridge University Socialist Society may charter a bus to Nottingham for the occasion. Write to: Tony Topham, 1 Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull, for more details. Early enquiries are advised as space is limited.



Trade union week

A.E.U. YOUTH CONFERENCE 1964

by Dave Ablitt

The A.E.U. held its 21st Annual Youth Conference at Bournemouth over 19-20 March. The Conference is traditionally inclined to the left and this year's conference proved to be no exception. The 48 delegates, representing the union's 70,000 youth members, were in a militant mood.

A resolution calling for pay increases to give apprentices 60% to 90% of the skilled rate, according to age, was carried without dissent. Only one speaker opposed the suggestion of strike action, which many delegates called for. This resolution has been passed by the Conference for many years, but the executive has had little success in its negotiations with the employers. Indeed, the E.C. has been successful as it has been militant. The only significant increase for apprentices was a result of the strike in 1960. Delegates made this point forcibly.

The call for strike action was again heard from the mover of a resolution demanding "a charter for young engineering workers." This was a comprehensive resolution calling for the 35-hour week, 4 weeks paid holiday, the establishment of factory training committees, and a procedure agreement for apprentices.

Hugh Scanlon, for the executive, argued that the delegates were too critical of their executive council and officials. The employers were the main enemy. He said that the E.C.'s duty was to pursue the demand for the 40-hour week for all engineers rather than a 35-hour week for one section. While his assertion that the employers were the principal enemy was undoubtedly correct, he failed to enthuse the youth on the role played by their E.C. The resolution was carried with one abstention.

The Thursday afternoon session began with Tony Greenwood speaking on behalf of the Labour Party. He exposed the role of the Tory Government and outlined Labour's plans. His speech was well received and appreciated by the Conference.

The Conference continued in its radical manner, and before its conclusion, committed itself to demanding: the nationalisation of industry, expansion of educational facilities, comprehensive schools and an investigation by the next Labour Government into the examination system with a view to its abolition, 4-year apprenticeships, negotiating rights for apprentices, and stricter enforcement of safety precautions. Particularly noteworthy was the high standard of the contributions and the absence of personal bitterness or factionalism.

RALFEIGH A.E.U. STRIKERS VOTE TO STOP OUT

At a meeting held on Tuesday, March 23rd, the Ralfeigh A.E.U. strikers voted overwhelmingly to stay out on strike. They also voted a resolution thanking the maintenance men at the Dunlop factories in Birmingham who are refusing to maintain machines turning out tyres for Ralfeigh. Among the donations made to the strike fund was one of £8 from delegates at the A.E.U. youth conference (see above).

THE ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN (1) - ABERDEEN by Alec Bagley

Details are being sought of the financial position of the South African Foundation, the anti-boycott propaganda organisation which is backed by the South African Government. This is being done after the S.A.F. intervened in the recent struggle in Aberdeen. Councillor Hughes has asked Mr. Yeowart, the Foundation's London director, for details of its source of funds, "in order that we know to what extent British as well as South African firms contribute to the running of the Foundation."

I am not entirely convinced by local assertions here that the SAF is a paper tiger! There's little doubt that if the trawler order had been cancelled, the Council would have been under considerable pressure to climb down. Other areas might be as vulnerable (or more vulnerable) as Aberdeen to South African pressure. And the SAF only need one victory of this sort to seriously harm the boycott movement. In my view any local boycott movement will in future have to consider the power of organised South African capital, and relate local action to a comprehensive economic policy. This may not be the concern of the Anti-Apartheid Movement, but it has to be the concern of all those who want to protect jobs in this country. Another point which emerged sharply is the amazing ignorance of people inside and outside the Labour movement of the sensational nature of the oppression in South Africa....

THE ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN (2) - DURHAM by Brian Whitton

A local travel agent, who also happens to be mayor at present, sent out invitations to a South African wine-tasting party. (These have apparently been held here annually in the past, and are probably widespread elsewhere). When the student newspapers published an editorial attacking the party, the university authorities suggested that it was libellous, whereupon the editors agreed to publish an apology.

Before this apology was published, one student from the Labour Club (but without its backing) duplicated copies of the editorial. A copy of this was passed to the travel agent who then threatened to sue. At this point the student also apologised. However an effective demonstration was held by about 40 people outside the hotel where the tasting of apparently not very good sherry was going on. The demonstration provoked extreme wrath among many of the sherry drinkers, although one did comment that the agent was stupid to send out the invitation term-time.

THE ANTI-APARTHEID CAMPAIGN (3) - NOTTINGHAM by Tony Morris

At its last meeting on March 19th, the North Nottingham C.L.P. passed a resolution unanimously to the effect that it pledged support to the Nottingham City Labour Party and the majority of those councillors in the Labour Party City Group in their opposition to the proposed civic reception for the South African bowls team. Copies of the resolution were sent to the City Party and to the Labour Group.

UNION BACKS ABERDEEN

The Scottish Horse and Motormen's Association (20,000 members) at its annual conference in Dunoon ^{Council} decided unanimously to send a telegram of support to the Aberdeen on March 20th for its stand on the boycott issue. Also passed unanimously was a call for a joint TUC/Labour Party campaign for non-co-operation with the South African Government.

According to Johnston's Our Noble Families the Home family sprang from Ada, a bastard of William the Lion.

Sir Alec on Unemployment in the 1930's:

In the counties of Kent, Surrey and Middlesex, "there is a very definite and extensive demand for a certain type of labour.... which can roughly be said to be covered by the term 'domestic service of every kind'...I propose that transference should be started...I believe there would be room for some 2,000 or 3,000 families...from mining areas.."

Sir Alec on Munich:

"It would be cowardly and dishonest for me to pretend that I disagreed in any way with Mr. Neville Chamberlain's decision at Munich.."

Sir Alec on Suez:

"It is in the defence of justice and the need to keep peace that H.M. Government with all the risks.. have intervened."

Sir Alec on the Bomb

"The great advantage of the nuclear bomb is that at last ordinary decent men have been given a weapon which can stop the wicked.."

All these quotes are from Emrys Hughes' biography: Sir Alec Douglas Home Available from The Week, 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham, costing 5/-.

or from Housman's, 5, Caledonian Rd., London W.C. 1.

17,000 IN BELGIAN YOUTH ANTI-NUCLEAR WEAPONS MARCH based on Peace News report

A march organised by the Belgian National Anti-Nuclear March Committee took place in freezing and snowy weather last Sunday (16/3/64) when over 17,000 people walked from Anderlecht, a suburb of Brussels, into a square in the borough of St. Joost. There were large German and Dutch contingents, some French Communists, and a hundred Spanish residents in Belgium present on the march. A small group of British people led the march with a Committee of 100 banner.

NIGERIAN STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST HOME based on Hsinhua report

About 300 students from Lagos University staged a demonstration on March 19th demanding that Sir Alec Douglas-Home leave their country. The demonstration was held when the British Prime Minister visited the University Teaching Hospital. The demonstrators held up placards saying "Africa detests British hypocrisy", "Home, go home", and "Away with Apartheid." The students said they were demonstrating against Britain's support for the Verwoerd racist Government of South Africa, and the white settlers' regime in Southern Rhodesia. On the same day, the Nigerian paper Daily Times said the British Prime Minister "is trying to enlist support for Britain's proposal to grant independence to (the white settlers of) Southern Rhodesia."

VOTES AT 18 IN CANADA?

The Canadian Labour Congress has made a proposal to extend the franchise to all those over 18 years of age. This is before the Canadian Parliament, and if it is approved it will add $\frac{3}{4}$ of a million voters to the federal lists. Since something like half of Canada's population is under 25 years old, this will give youth a powerful political vote.

NALSO CRITICISES LABOUR PARTY OFFICIALS' ATTITUDE TO Y.S.

A working paper drawn up for discussion at NALSO's annual conference (to be held in Leicester April 5-10) has this to say about the relationship between Labour Party officialdom and the Young Socialists: "The Labour Party has never had much success with its youth movements....the official youth paper has usually languished while unofficial papers thrived...." at present "A state of civil war exists between a large section of the Young socialists and the officials of the Labour Party..." The paper ends with a call for the cessation of tedious formalities of trying to stop political discussion at area and regional level, and suggests that a different constitutional set-up is needed.

TECHNICAL STUDENTS WIN RIGHT OF POLITICAL CLUBS

Although in the universities the right to form political clubs is now taken for granted, other students still have to struggle to assert this right particularly in Teachers Training Colleges and Technical Colleges. A recent victory on this front has been won in Nottingham. At the last meeting of the Union Council of the Nottingham Technical College the constitutions of the Socialist and Conservative societies were approved by the chairman's casting vote. This was the conclusion of a 3 month fight according to the secretary of the Socialist Society.



LIFE'S BETTER WITH THE CONSERVATIVES

THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS

by Unitas

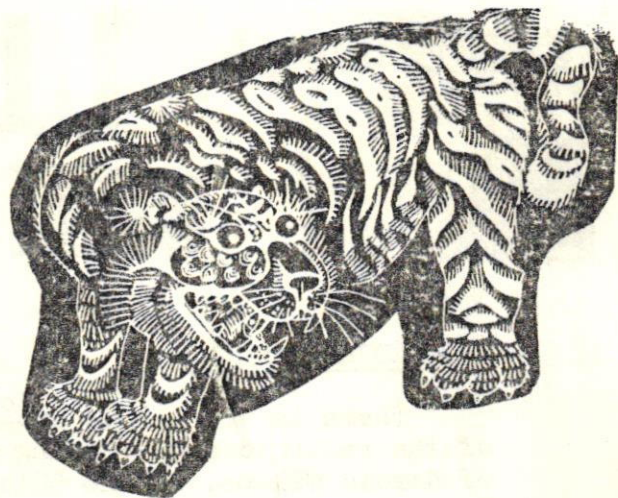
There is no need to apologise for circulating once again the text of the resolution on housing adopted unanimously, and in the presence of Harold Wilson, at the 50th Jubilee London Labour Party Conference last week end. This reads:

"That this Conference, being deeply concerned at the callous exploitation and victimisation of tenants by Rachman-type landlords made easier by the Rent Act of 1957 and the decontrol provisions in it, calls for a bold Socialist offensive to meet the housing situation in London and Middlesex. Believing that private landlordism affords neither solution to London's housing problems nor security to private tenants, Conference urges plans for a housing offensive be prepared by the National Executive Committee, Parliamentary Labour Party and by local authority Labour groups as appropriate, along the following lines:

- (1) The repeal of the 1957 Rent Act and the restoration of tenant security.
- (2) Legislation to facilitate the speedy compulsory acquisition by local authorities of properties where tenants are terrorised or subject to pressures from the landlords to vacate the premises in order to free them from control.
- (3) The requisition of decaying and empty properties by local councils.
- (4) The municipalisation of privately rented house property.
- (5) The fixing of a reasonable rents formula for properties subject to control following the repeal of the 1957 Rent Act.
- (6) Legislation to afford leaseholders adequate protection on the expiry of their leases, and on reasonable and practical terms.
- (7) The encouragement of direct labour, through consortia of direct labour organisations, and the preparation of a long-term house building programme.
- (8) The restriction of luxury and office building.
- (9) The reduction of interest rates to two per cent.
- (10) The public ownership of all land in London."

The call for a 2% interest rate is fundamental to the whole approach of a Labour Government to economic policy. A Socialist Government will set out deliberately to satisfy the needs of the people - and many believe that adequate housing is the most important need. A neo-capitalist Government will merely try to make capitalism work better. Reduction of interest rates for housing as a first step to the reduction of all interest rates - and thus, the reduction of unearned incomes and profits. It is said that at least 2 major unions are considering incorporating the 2% rate demand into resolutions for the Labour Party Conference on the grounds that high interest charges are a major cause of inflation. Trade unionists and L.P. members should follow London's lead by sending in a record number of resolutions for Conference on these lines.

colonialism's Week



NEWS OF THE STRUGGLE AGAINST
PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM

ANGOLAN LIBERATION ARMY - REPORT.

The "SUNDAY NATION", published in NAIROBI, recently carried a report of a visit to a base of the Angolan National Liberation Army which heroically continues its struggle against Salazar's policy of extermination. At a rebel base in the Serr de Canda in Northern Angola the scene was described: "Experienced soldiers and trainees ranging in age from 14 to 40 hoist the yellow, white and red flag of the Liberation Army every morning, undergo guard duties and go out on patrol. Five sections are established, each under its own commander and two more are soon to start. The regional H.Q. is in the jungle under the trees two hundred feet high and consists of 20 or so bamboo huts". The freedom fighters use surprise tactics, inflicting damage, but conserving their forces by retreating. Recently 18 trucks and two jeeps in a Portuguese patrol were sighted between Bembe and Demba by a unit of 22 men of the Angolan army who let the trucks pass and then attacked the jeeps, retreating into the hills before the Portuguese were able to commence mortar fire. The Liberation Army is increasingly using mines to foil its oppressors, so the report goes on.

"MOZAMBICAN REVOLUTION" - 'A FIGHT TO THE END'

The journal "Mozambican Revolution" in a recent editorial avowed that the struggle for liberation "will continue as long as exploitation exists". The editorial goes on "National independence is only the first stage of the revolution. In order to bring our revolution to success we should co-ordinate our actions against international imperialism with the revolutionary peoples of Asia, Latin America, Europe and other places who are also fighting for the complete liberation of their countries". The editorial accused the USA of continuing to aid Portugal "both directly and through NATO". It denounced "The USA and other NATO powers as partners in crime in applying fascist policies in South Africa and Portugal". We know very well that certain countries pretend to be our friends. They do so only because we are fighting. But at the same time they are helping Salazar to carry out his policy. They are preparing the ground that will permit them to maintain their position as exploiters."

THIRD WORLD



POLITICAL PRISONERS IN PERSIA

by a special correspondent

During the last ten years over one thousand army officers have been gaoled or shot in Persia. Countless thousands of civilians have been imprisoned or executed for political offences. Recently, Engineer Bazargan, a professor at Teheran University and leader of the Freedom Group section of the outlawed opposition National Front, was sentenced to ten years imprisonment. All opposition parties are banned; trade unions are run by the SAVAK secret police and unofficial strikes ruthlessly suppressed. The Shah does not hesitate to massacre his subjects.

Recently an appeal was smuggled out of Persia from 19 army officers, arrested in 1954, shortly after the Government of Dr. Mossadegh was ousted by a royalist coup d'etat, for which chief credit must go to CIA head Allen Dulles, ex-Nazi sympathiser General Zahedi and Teheran underworld boss, Shaban Bi-Mukh. The royalist Government set about ruthlessly eliminating all oppositionists from the army and the civil service. The officers named below were among those purged; they fear that their plight has been forgotten. They have been moved from prison in Teheran to Brazjan, in a desolate area near the Persian Gulf. They can make no contacts with the world outside their prison, but they remain confident that their country will be liberated soon. Socialists everywhere should support the anti-Shah and anti-imperialist struggle in Persia and agitate for the release of all political prisoners.

<u>RANK</u>	<u>NAME</u>	<u>SENTENCE</u>
Major	E. Nik-Ain	15 years.
Captain	A. Vassegh	Death, commuted to life.
	A. Hojari	Life.
Lieutenant	Gh. Boghei	Death, commuted to life.
	A. Forotan	Life.
	E. Zolghard	Life.
	Eng. A. Tadayon	Life.
	M.A. Shakori	Not known.
	A. Ghanoon	15 years.
	A. Amoei	Death, commuted to life.
	Dr. H. Vahabzadeh	Life.
	A. Bagherzadeh	Death, commuted to life.
	T. Kaimanesh	Death, commuted to life.
Military College Cadet	R. Shaltoki	Life.
	H. Ghorban-Nezhad	Life.
	M. Reza-Zadeh	15 years.
	R. Zarandi	Life.
Warrant Officer	B. Fartsh-Pour	10 years.
	J. Liaghat-Rabesh	15 years.



NEGRO WOMAN RUNS FOR CONGRESS IN DEEP SOUTH

From the SNCC (Atlanta)

A Selma (Alabama) Negro woman - long active in civil rights activities - has qualified to run for the United States Congress against Kenneth Roberts of the 4th District of Alabama. She is Mrs. Amelia P. Boynton, who qualified February 29. She is the first Negro to run for Congress from Alabama since the Reconstruction period after the Civil War. She is the first Negro woman to ever make a try for the office.

An insurance agent and employment office operator in Selma, she will oppose Representative Roberts of Anniston in Alabama's "9-8" plan used to select Democratic nominees. Under the "9-8" system, each of the old nine congressional districts nominates a candidate. The district winners will face a June 2 run-off to determine the eight party nominees. The candidate with the fewest votes in the run-off will be eliminated. The other eight will have their names placed on the general election ballot against Republican or other opposition.

Mrs. Boynton joins three Negro men who have qualified for the upcoming March 17 Selma Democratic primary. They are: Ernest Doyle, James Gildersleeve, and F.W. Reese, all candidates for City Council. She is chairman of the Civil Liberties Department of the Alabama Temple Division State Elks Association. Negroes form 30% of Alabama's population. Despite this although there are 860,073 white voters in Alabama there are only 66,009 Negro voters.

AID FOR CUBA CONTINENTAL CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN MONTREAL

The second continental congress for the sovereignty and independence of the peoples of the Americas and for solidarity with Cuba is to be held in Montreal next July 16-19. Originally scheduled in Uruguay, the change was made after Michel Chartrand, leader of the Parti Socialiste du Quebec visited Havana in January and urged it be held in Canada. The first congress was held in Brazil.

Montreal city authorities and the Canadian minister of external affairs have assured officials of the movement that delegates will be welcomed and that there will be no difficulties over admission to the country. The congress will discuss economic, political and social conditions in Latin America. In addition a discussion will be held on the five points submitted by Cuba to the United Nations during the November 1962 Caribbean crisis. These include: the cessation of the economic blockade, cessation of all subversive activities against Cuba, cessation of pirate raids, the cessation of all violations of Cuban air space and territorial waters, and the evacuation of the Guantanamo base.

BERTRAND RUSSELL SUPPORTS WITCH-HUNTED STUDENTS

Bertrand Russell has become the Honorary Chairman of the Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, and has made the following statement on the Indiana "sedition" case:

"The attempt to persecute independent political thinking in the United States is indicative of the extent to which those who are pushing mankind towards nuclear annihilation are unprepared to allow independent and critical consideration of the alternatives. The persecution of the Bloomington Students is the most naked authoritarianism; it affects not only academic freedom, but the duty on the part of all of us to oppose the mad policies which governments have followed. The danger to survival today is intimately related to the inability to speak out effectively against governments, East and West. I hope that there will be an international demand for justice in the case of the Bloomington Students, whose example should inspire everyone who follows individual liberty."

The case of the Bloomington students is one of the ^{most} drastic attacks on the constitutional rights of American citizens to take place in recent years. It is being brought by the state of Indiana against officers of the nation-wide Trotskyist youth group, the Young Socialist Alliance. Three men: Tom Morgan, Jim Bingham and Ralph Levitt, are being charged with such offences as: being Moscow-trained agents, being in a running gun battle with the state of Kentucky (this is apparently because they organised aid to striking miners), and being connected with Lee Oswald. Their real crime was to organise a meeting at which Leroy McRae, secretary of the YSA, spoke.

Indiana has a particularly bad record in being a centre of extreme right wing activities. It won world-renown, when certain officials wanted to ban the story of Robin Hood as being "subversive." In the 1920's Indiana was a seat of power of the Ku Klux Klan. In the 1930's the Silver Shirts, a fascist stormtrooper organisation, flourished there. More recently, the John Birch Society was founded in the state capital. The Indiana Anti-Subversion Law states that it is public policy of the state of Indiana to "exterminate Communism, Communists and any or all teachings of the same."

The Committee of which Bertrand Russell has become the Honorary Chairman is a national committee representing various schools of thought which are united on the one issue of opposing such flagrant witch-hunting. All expressions of international support are very welcome and useful. These should be sent to: Committee to Aid the Bloomington Students, P.O. Box 213, Cooper Station, New York, U.S.A.

SHOWDOWN ON CIVIL RIGHTS BILL

from Chris Arthur (Oxford)

Southern diehards in the US have launched the last-ditch offensive with a warning against the "amalgamation and mongrelisation of the races" from Senator R. Russell. He said he was still waiting for evidence to prove "a mongrelised race" had been capable of creating civilisation. He protested against legislation under threat of civil disobedience and with remarkable honesty expressed his real fears by complaining "Eventually the mob will be demanding that the wealth of this nation be divided up equally on Saturday night." Referring to white southerners he said the rights of the minority had been "ruthlessly trampled underfoot."

FRANCO-GERMAN 'HORSE DEAL'?

The Statist of March 13 reports rumours of what it calls "a mildly unsavoury piece of horse-trading between Paris and Bonn." It continues: "The rumours suggest that the Germans have agreed to back the French desire to associate Spain with the Common Market in return for French moral support on occasions when it may be necessary to promote former Nazis to prominent political positions in Western Germany. Such a bargain, if indeed it has been struck, would, however, at least have the merit of enabling the Germans to avoid having to resort to the sort of embarrassing camouflage which accompanied the appointment of Herr Ernest Lemmers as Minister of Refugees in Bonn."

OVER FIVE MILLION UNEMPLOYED

An article in the February issue of Barclays Bank Review discusses unemployment in 'the west' arriving at a total of 5.3 million out of work. However this figure only includes the advanced capitalist nations - unemployment is, of course, very high in many of the exploited countries of the underdeveloped world; it runs currently at 24% of the work force in South Korea, for instance. The bulk of those included in the 5.3 million are in the United States. The article says of the U.S., "her problems today can, unhappily, become Europe's tomorrow." It suggests that the Nedc economic target is not enough to mop up the technological unemployment which is bound to follow the overdue modernisation of British industrial plant - U.S. unemployment has actually increased despite a growth rate of 3.9% over recent years. The article concludes: "The future could be between a well-prepared utopia and chaos with great social suffering."

APPEAL ON BEHALF OF PORTUGUESE POLITICAL PRISONERS by J. de Silva

Since early 1962, 82 people, arrested in connection with the Beja revolt, have been in prison awaiting trial. Several of them have families who are in a desperate financial situation. Your contribution will be a great help to ease their lives. Please send it to:

ALVARO MEIRANDA, 4, Sherwood Gardens, Barking Essex, or directly to the families of the prisoners whose names and addresses are given below:

ANTONIO POMBO MIGUEL - foundry worker, 33 years old, was arrested on January 1, 1962. He is married to Julia Pombo Miguel and has two daughters of school age. His wife does domestic work and earns about £6 per month. She lives in Avenida D. Joao, N.4, 3^P, Dto. ALMADA, Portugal.

RUI ORTEGA LOPES - tailor, 24 years old, arrested in March, 1962, is still awaiting trial. He is married and has a son. His wife works in a bookshop where she earns £6 per month. Help may be sent to Rui Lopes, Livraria Castro e Silva, Rua da Rosa, 29, LISBOA, 2, Portugal.

AUGOSTO DA SILVA RIBEIRO - foundry worker, 47 years old, was arrested in January, 1962 and is still awaiting trial. He had been in prison previously for taking part in a strike. His wife, Adelina Viegas, who is 55 years old and very ill, had to take up a job in a cotton mill. The work is temporary. She has to support a grand-daughter.



Conscription—NO!

STATEMENT OF THE LABOUR C.N.D. COMMITTEE

We reproduce herewith the statement of the Labour C.N.D. Committee and hope that readers will give this committee the maximum support:

"During the last few years events have created a world situation for which there are no precedents and no traditional solutions. In this nuclear age, positive political solutions must be found to ease the stresses and strains of the cold war. This is a job for the politicians and we look to a Labour Government to give a lead.

Labour Party members, working within C.N.D. have decided that they can make their best contribution by working as a team, within the constitution of the Labour Party, towards this end. We have, therefore, established the Labour C.N.D. Committee, as a specialist autonomous body, with its own officials, to undertake educational campaigns within the Labour movement in the special fields of foreign policy and disarmament.

The extraordinary and terrifying technical developments in nuclear weapons and means of delivery, leaves mankind with no option but to match this development with changes in the machinery of Government, military alliances and diplomatic custom and practice. (A Labour Cabinet will require exceptional courage to break through the traditional outdated concepts enshrined in the Service Depts. and Foreign Office) The United Nations must be brought more and more into international relationships. Recent events, culminating in the Cuba crisis, brought this home to the two world powers; the direct line between Washington and Moscow was an immediate outcome. Indeed, the immediate danger to the peace of the world, as we see it, arises now not so much from the activities of the two world powers, as from the narrow nationalist ambitions of some of the smaller powers. At all costs, we must prevent those powers controlling or using nuclear weapons.

To find practical workable solutions to these problems, is not the exclusive responsibility of experts and Governments. True collaboration with the rank and file is essential. A well informed and responsible rank and file must assert its point of view. We propose, therefore to organise schools in various parts of the country, at which experts will consult with the rank and file on the best ways and means to maintain peace in this nuclear age. We contend there is a real need for this kind of activity and we hope your Committee, trade union branch, Council or Group, will collaborate with us to make these schools successful."

The Committee make a strong appeal for financial help. The statement is signed by Olive Gibbs, (Chairman), Len Nicholas, (Secretary), and Len Youle, (Treasurer). All enquiries to the secretary, 8, Leigh Rd., London E.6., donations to the treasurer, 87, Heavygate Avenue, Sheffield 10.

FEBRUARY TRADE FIGURES SHOW WEAKNESS OF BRITAIN'S ECONOMY by J. Wilcox

The energy that has been displayed by the Government and its press in squeezing the last ounce of comfort out of the February trade figures is a token of how weak the economic situation really is. For some time every event on the economic front has been subjected to similar frenzied interpretation - the Beaverbrook press proclaimed the January import figure as if it was the aim of economic policy to maximise imports, while the bank rate rise produced the following Evening Standard headline: "Bank Rate Boosts booming Britain," as if the rise was not meant to have rather the opposite effect. As for the February figures the most objective judgement on them was passed by the Stock Exchange: the Times City page reported that the February returns "though showing a considerable and encouraging improvement on the alarming January returns, fell perhaps a little short of expectations and some of the earlier gains were lost."

Perhaps of more lasting significance than one month's trade returns were two reports which concerned the structural weakness of the economy at the present time. Statistics released by the Bank of England revealed the following international position. Short term liabilities are running at £2,462 million (excluding subscriptions to the International Monetary Fund) compared with gold and convertible currency reserves of just over £1,000 million. The Statist commented: "We can now see more clearly what a weak position the UK has been left in on account of official short terms assets and liabilities by the growth of sterling balances and other commitments....On the long term account, too, the Government comes out heavily 'in the red' with debts of £2,640 million to be set against assets of only £1,069 million - especially when it is borne in mind that the assets figure is largely made up of loans to developing countries which in many cases we would be fortunate ever to see back." In its February issue the Federation of British Industries Review carries an article on the quality and modernity of the physical equipment of British industry concluding that "an altogether too high proportion of the machine tool population was of advancing, if not indeed venerable, years." In fact, the article states that both Government inducements and the spur of recent industrial booms "have failed to convince industry of the need to replace its machine tools and the age of UK machines is now much higher than that of our competitors."

What is the implication for the left of the in-built defects of the British economy today? Firstly it means that in the event of a Labour Government the seriousness of the situation itself will help make clear the inadequacy of the timid policies of the Labour right. This should be an excellent context in which the left can press immediate programmes that lead first to structural reforms and finally to a challenge to the property system itself. Above all the left must be vigilant in ensuring that the problems of British capitalism are not solved at the expense of the working class. Extensive re-investment in industry and on expansion of the social services will all have to be financed. Those who should pay are not the workers who have only suffered from Britain's economic stagnation and backwardness but the capitalist interests who are responsible for it.

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