

THE

Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

**VOL. I. No. 21.
21st MAY, 1964**

9d.

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1901

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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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EDITORS' LETTER

First, regarding our date of publication. Although the front is marked 21st May, the actual date is 22nd May. There is no great mystery about this discrepancy - it merely arises from the fact that even the editors of The Week sometimes take a holiday. Not only this, but the absence of a postal delivery on Whit Monday led to the delay of many valuable articles, which could not just have appeared unless we brought out the issue one day late.

We also have to apologise to several contributors whose material we have not used in this issue. In pretty well all cases we plan to use these articles in issue number 22. Please do ^{not} let this put anyone off writing - as by far the best position is to have too many articles than just one too few. And, in any case, all unused material is carefully filed away and used for various references. One last point, this time a more positive one!, we are pleased to report more readers taking bulk supplies and a continuous increase in the number of subscribers.

THE HOUSE OF LORDS ON UNDERWORK

"Peers" ran the headline in last Thursday's Times, "see pitfalls in more leisure time." Peers are among Britain's most bizarre social groups, and on the whole they are less well studied by sociologists than, say, gypsies or tramps. The pitfalls which peers see should be of a certain interest to socialists, because they provide clues about what is going on in the heads of our 'superiors'. Often more can be learnt from a non-political debate in the Lords than from an allegedly political one in the Commons. For instance, the values of their Lordships, laid bare in the famous Lady Chatterley trial debate of a couple of years ago, should be studied by all radicals not merely to enable them to arrive at an understanding of the moral bankruptcy of the establishment, but also to provide crucial signposts of the way not to go.

Last week's debate on leisure was fortified by a considerable influx of brainy life peers, who have presumably been posted to inject life into just such debates, or simply to talk long enough to prevent some of the genuine Lords from spilling the beans. Nevertheless, beans got spilt.

The most radical contribution came from Lord Willis, who proposed to nationalise the one-armed bandits. As he sat down all the two-armed bandits gave loud cheer and long applause. Lord Montgomery made an impassioned appeal for education, which, naturally, he felt should begin "in the home". He concluded his remarks with a witty reference to lavatory attendants, which was not taken up by the Bishop of Chester. This excellent pastor "envisaged a great increase in the numbers offering themselves for ordination to a part-time ministry." Earl Baldwin of Bewdley lobbied vigorously for "a little less self-expression and a little more discipline for children." Lord Auckland wished to extend the use of the feet. Lord Taylor admired the Beatles. Lord Milverton wondered if, deprived of economic necessity, the human character would collapse.

Having exhausted the subject, and referred it in this condition to Mr. Hogg, the House was in a position to recognise its own exhaustion. At 19 minutes before 10 o'clock on Wednesday, May 13th, it adjourned until Tuesday, June 2nd.

Meanwhile, adult manual workers in Britain continued to work an average of almost 48 hours a week, hundreds of thousands of lowpaid workers angled for Sunday shifts not in order to keep out of church, but in order to make ends meet, and 'mods' and 'rockers', all over London, were planning whether to visit Clacton or Brighton.

One hopes that the Young Socialists will before long be able to talk to 'mods', 'rockers', and millions of other youngsters. But in the meantime, if there are any rootless 'mods' who are looking for an interesting place to visit in June the 2nd, could we suggest one?

THE APRIL TRADE FIGURES

These confirm the assessment made in our columns (see issue number 18) that the March figures were not a sign of an improvement in British capitalism's trading position. Now at £107 m. we have the second highest trade gap in Britain's history. The political significance of these figures is that they reduce the room for manoeuvre by the Tories still further, thus making a Labour victory more likely, but under conditions of crisis.



LIFE'S BETTER WITH THE CONSERVATIVE

YET ANOTHER 'BOOST PRIVATE ENTERPRISE' ORGANISATION from a London reader

The Economic League, Common Cause, Freedom League, etc., etc., are apparently not enough to popularise 'private enterprise' against the threat of nationalisation. The Evening Standard of 16th May reported:

"Another private enterprise pressure group has arrived on the election-year scene. It is called Freedom Academy (U.K.) and is dedicated to "the promotion of free enterprise activities." It is a branch of the International Freedom Academy (INFRA), with headquarters in Vienna and a bank in Zurich."

The organisation has direct links with the Tory Party because the writer "...was surprised to find the name of Mr. Rippon, the Minister of Public Building, among the British trustees. The chairman is Mr. John Rodgers, MP for Sevenoaks and deputy-chairman of J. Walter Thompson, the advertising agency. The other Tory trustee is Mr. Albert Costain, MP for Folkestone and joint deputy chairman of Richard Costain, the contractors. Other trustees are: Sir Denys Lawson, who has more than a dozen directorships; Sir Douglas Nairn, a director of Nairn-Williamson; and Sir James Greenwood, chairman of James M. Greenwood, another advertising agency.

"Mr. Rodgers tells me that the Freedom Academy will produce "factual pamphlets and learned papers for public opinion formers." It will also co-ordinate its activities with similar European bodies. The trustees themselves put up the money to launch the organisation. Now they are writing to firms and individuals to get subscriptions. "We will not be engaging in party politics or propaganda," Mr. Rodgers says." (!!!!!!).

ALL VOTERS TO BE FINGER-PRINTED IN BRITISH GUIANA from a Croydon reader

The Government of British Guiana are complaining bitterly that the British Tory Government has changed the Constitution of British Guiana without the consent of the country's Government, says a report in the current issue of Railway Review. Not only is there a change but it is a bad change. A new form of registration of voters puts obstacles in the way of potential voters because of the distance from registration stations, the fact that the registration period is the same as the rice-planting period, and also the month of the floods. Identification by photographs has been rejected. Instead, fingerprints and a recording of age, height and colour of eyes of the voter will be taken, and the taking of fingerprints is associated with criminals. Anyway the interpretation of fingerprints is a matter for experts and not registration clerks.

NEARLY £500 MILLION SPENT ON ADVERTISING IN BRITAIN IN 1963

A special correspondent reports: Lord Robens, the self-styled miners' best friend and former Parliamentary Labour leader, boosted advertising in an introduction to a special survey on advertising in the Financial Times on May 4th. Our venerable Lord, who is President of the Advertising Association in addition to being Chairman of the NCB, wrote like an Enoch Powell-type "ory: "The life-blood of our economic system is competition" and "...the whole of the Western world is geared to the competitive system and even the Soviet bloc has to meet competition in world markets." His article concludes, "Britain needs good advertising men just as much as good production engineers. Success in both vital activities ought to be equally honoured." Considering the amount of money spent on advertising in Britain it appears likely that a large number of 'good advertising men' are being honoured (financially, anyway) as much as the miners whose wages Robens seems determined to hold down. More important than Robens' utterances are the figures given on advertising expenditure.

Advertising consumes about 2% of the national income and in 1962 this amounted to £479 million. The estimated figure for 1963 is just under £500 million. All the detailed figures in this article are of 1962 but it is certain that the figures for 1963 will be roughly in the same proportions. Nearly half the amount spent was on advertising in the press (£220 million); television came next with £83 million, and a surprisingly high item was that of catalogues and similar publications at £41 million. Also worth noting was the £16 million spent on free samples.

Unilever came top of the table of individual advertisers with an expenditure of £14.5 million, the remainder of the 'top ten' were: Imperial Tobacco, £6m.; Proctor and Gamble, £5.5m.; Mars/Petfood, £4.5m.; Beechams, £3.5m.; Cadburys, £3.1m.; Gallahers, £3m.; Reckitt and Colman, £2.3m.; Carreras Rothman, £2.2m.; and Rowntree, £2.2m. Of these, readers will note that 3 cigarette firms spent well over £1m.

Perhaps we could agree with Lord Robens that advertising is essential for what he calls the 'competitive system' and what we would call capitalism. Surely a Labour Government operating a 'Clause Four' policy will have to direct all these millions into more productive channels?

MARKS AND SPENCERS DO WELL IN 1963

Marks and Spencers sales rose by 9% between 1962 and 1963 to £201.5 million, net profits rose by the same proportion from £11.1 million to £12.2 million. The dividend is raised from 35% to 38 $\frac{3}{4}$ % and there is to be a one for two scrip issue. One of the main factors is the revaluation of its 239 shops, this put a surplus of £33.4 million into the capital reserve.

WORST YEAR FOR BRITISH INSURANCE SINCE 1906

Mr. H. Peake, governor of London Assurance, described the past year 'as the worst for British insurance since 1906, the year of the San Francisco earthquake.' London Assurance reported a total of underwriting losses of £1,403,306 for the year 1963, compared with a profit of £683,620 for 1962. London's fire department loss in 1963 was £1,216,170 (£381,145) and accident £1,017,136 (profit £163,265). The life and marine departments, however, continued to show profits and they transferred £130,000 & £700,000.

The front page of the first issue of A.E.I. Voice gives the story of the events which led up to the present struggle:

"The North's largest plant, the giant A.E.I. works, is now the scene of bitter labour struggle. Four men were sacked, 2 on May 7th, and the others on the following day. Why?There seem to be 3 main points: (1) the general economic position of the company, whose profits are falling; (2) management difficulties...the recent re-shuffling on the Board of Directors indicates such problems. Also the appointment of the new chairman of the A.E.I., Mr. Wheeler, seems to have indicated elements of a 'get-tough' policy towards the labour force. He has emphasised the need "to reduce costs."; (3) a firmer resistance to management pressures by leading unions in the plant."

The article gives a day by day account of what happened: "Thursday, May 7th, 2 stone dressers, J. Wright & G. Oliver...who by the very nature of their work move around the factory without supervision, were found to be talking...with a planer, C. Renshaw and his machine assistant A. Earith. Mr. Renshaw was...working on his job....the length of which allowed him to sit down for periods...(in fact a stool is provided)" The Superintendent, instead of saying something whilst the conversation was in progress, followed the two dressers and asked them what ^{they} had been doing. Mr. Wright, who later said that he said the first thing that came into his head, stated that they were discussing union matters. It is important to note that the dressers are in a different union from Mr. Renshaw.

"To sum up this incident, it seems that 2 maintenance men...stopped to pass the time of day with a planer and his mate. On being briefly observed to be talking, one of them was accused of holding a trade union meeting on extremely shaky evidence. It might not be without significance that Mr. Renshaw had been previously warned..about his taking action as a shop steward on two occasions earlier in the year. On the same day, the 2 maintenance men were given their notice and escorted off the plant. After a visit to the wages department they were led out through the factory gates at 4.55 p.m.. Jack Wright was clearly upset on receiving his 'reward' for 30 years service. Cliff Renshaw and Arthur Earith were told that their positions were being looked into....

"Friday, May 8th, first thing in the morning...Mr. Smith sent for Mr. Renshaw and told him that matters would not rest there. During the morning, Jock McKenzie, a works committee delegate for maintenance, raised the issue with his superintendent....Mr. McKenzie was told that "the position could not be reversed and there was an investigation going on. Mr. McKenzie reported failure to agree. "There is a real case that the management seemed to be adopting the policy of "sack first - investigate later.""at 3.45, Mr. Renshaw and Mr. Earith were approached and an attempt was made to escort them off the premises. Mr. Renshaw had the presence of mind to realise that he had an agreed right to see his convenor before he could be sacked" He did this and it was agreed he be allowed to work a week's notice. But the fact remains that all arrangements had been made to have the men out of the factory by 3.45.

Events after that moved quickly, when the men learnt that the management were not prepared to budge, they decided to strike (on Tuesday May 12th), the same day the Manchester D.C. of the AEU gave its full support to the strike, Next day the management sent its now famous telegram to 300 selected workers to the effect that if they ^{did} not return to work they would be sacked, and on the Friday, 10,000 turned up to a mass meeting and voted overwhelmingly to strike." The latest news (Tuesday 4.00 p.m.) from the strike committee is that 7,000 are out, and that both the management and the press are hardening their attitude. The management has now withdrawn the telegrams. (see page 10)

DERBYSHIRE MINERS PUBLISH "A PLAN FOR MINERS" from Derbyshire Area N.U.M.

Britain's mineworkers are voting with their feet and will continue leaving the industry at a faster rate than the Coal Board requires unless drastic steps are taken soon to improve miners' wages and conditions. This is the central theme of a pamphlet published by the Derbyshire Miners of the National Union of Mineworkers. (Price 6d. from the N.U.M. Derbyshire Area Offices, Saltergate, Chesterfield.)

In a foreword signed jointly by Mr. Bert Wynn, Secretary of the Derbyshire Area, and Mr. Will Whitehead, President of the South Wales Area, it is stated that the pamphlet was drafted by a group of persons, permanent officials of the N.U.M. and university teachers - with a long connection with the mining industry - only after much discussion inside the industry.

The situation inside the coal industry is described as the result of the concentration into a few years of changes that might be expected to take place over a whole generation. The £500 millions invested in the industry in the 1950s in major pit reconstruction and new pits raised the proportion of output ^{power} loaded from 23% in 1957 to 67% in 1963, and at the same time reduced the manpower requirements by nearly a quarter. On top of this a 10% decline in the demand for coal in the same period, as oil has replaced coal in many industries and as fuel efficiency has improved, has led to man-power requirements being reduced still further.

Thus over the 6 years from 1957 manpower has fallen from just over 700,000 to just over 500,000. At the same time, there has been a geographical shift; the 245 pits closed in this period have mainly been in Scotland and the North East, while output in the Midlands and Yorkshire has been expanded. The run down of manpower has largely been met by natural wastage, but the Coal Board now faces a manpower problem. The older men are staying on until retirement, but it is the younger men who are leaving. Three-quarters of the decline in numbers has been from among the under 40s. Moreover, an ageing labour force and a rapid turnover of younger men has combined with the introduction of machinery underground to raise the death and serious accident rate by 35% in the last 6 years. The Coal Board seems likely to have to recruit about 30,000 workers a year over and next 6 years, if young men leave at the present rate, and to find among them an increasing proportion of craftsmen, who are steadily more in demand as machines are introduced.

In this situation of pit closures the miners have been unable to raise their wages. A fifth of the men employed - mainly surface workers - earn less than £12 per week. Although productivity has risen in the 6 years by about 30% (nearly 40% at the face), face workers' real earnings have barely risen, and surface workers' earnings have fallen, while earnings in other industries have risen by about 15%. Miners are especially conscious of the fact that, while mechanisation has not raised their wages, it has raised the surplus of the Coal Board available for meeting compensation to the old mine owners, interest on money borrowed for modernisation, depreciation charges (including those for pits closed before their time) and now for debt repayment from £68 million to £127 million over the 6 years.

The pamphlet concludes with a four-point programme of action to meet this situation, including many demands to improve the wages and conditions of the miners. The pamphlet is supported by an eight-page statistical supplement.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CIVIL LIBERTIES IN CONFERENCE by Len Nicholas

The National Council of Civil Liberties was formed in 1934 to^a back-ground of rising Fascist terror on the continent and hunger marches in Britain. For thirty years it has protected the rights of minority opinion and recent police excesses have more than justified its continued existence.

This year's Annual General Meeting of the Council reflected also the serious view that the trade union and labour movement takes of the House of Lords decision that the traditional right of the worker to withdraw his labour is "intimidation", "an illegal threat" or an "economic club" ruled to be no different in the eyes of the law from a "physical club".

The Draughtmen's and Allied Technicians' Association called for a change in the 1906 Trades Dispute Act as a matter of the greatest priority and Kingston branch of ASSET urged the introduction of legislation to protect trade unionists and officials following the decision of the Law Lords in the *Rookes v. Barnard* case.

Prominent NUR activist Hughie Turner speaking for the Peterborough Trades Council resolution passionately pleaded for the right of all persons indicted for serious offences to free legal aid, and for persons acquitted of serious offences and those remanded in gaol, and subsequently found not guilty, to be compensated by the prosecution for losses incurred.

The conference condemned the growing army of private organisations used as security forces for private industry. A resolution submitted by the Executive Committee noted, that the uniforms worn by security guards similar to that of the police, and that the formation of these bands contravenes the 1936 Public Order Act. Delegates supporting the motion pointed out that many of these guards carried firearms, while British police were traditionally unarmed; and of the great danger when the responsibility for law and order passes out of the hands of a force controlled by a democratic body.

Committee of 100 Secretary, Peter Moule, spoke to a resolution which viewed with concern the encroachment into the right of political expression, and the use of outdated legislation to prevent the distribution of leaflets in the streets of London. He said: "I regret that there was no public outcry against the special laws introduced to bring charges of conspiracy against the organisers of peaceful demonstrations last July, following assurances being given that the demonstrations were legal, and would be permitted." In the belief that a person is old and mature enough to vote at the age of 18 years, the meeting agreed to press for legislation to that effect. John Horsfield moving the resolution drew attention to what he considered a ridiculous situation in that he had stood as a candidate in the recent elections but he had been barred from voting because of his age. He said: "Beaten by only 46 votes in the municipal election, old enough to marry, take out a mortgage..or join the army, I am not considered old enough to vote. Why not?"

The practice of police investigating complaints against themselves was condemned, and a strong plea made for independent tribunals. Further resolutions called for the revision of security procedures to secure adequate protection for the rights of the individual, welcomed the stand against racial segregation in schools, and called for provision for minority opinion on the radio. It is plain that the NCCL has done much for civil liberties and will do more.

'UHURU' - WIND OF CHANGE REACHES ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY by Robert Gray

A great meeting of Aberdeen students - described by the Union porter, a man learned in student affairs, as unprecedented 'in my 25 years here' - voted on May 14th to maintain the Union AGM's decision in favour of a boycott. The decision was narrow - by 5 votes - but left wing students are well satisfied with the break-through in political consciousness achieved. Some 800 or more students attended the meeting, and it had to move outdoors into a quadrangle. Thanks to the rapidity with which boycott supporters got their campaign off the ground, Tory students - who had probably hoped to reverse the boycott decision unnoticed - were caught on the wrong foot. The announcement of the result of the voting was greeted with scenes of wild joy, as boycott supporters danced about and shook each other's hands; cries of 'Uhuru' were heard, which somehow symbolised the relationship that the anti-apartheid struggle is building between European socialists and the African peoples.

Members of the Aberdeen University boycott committee - an ad hoc body which has functioned marvellously well - are determined that this victory is a foundation to be built upon. The decision is being publicised; student opponents of Apartheid elsewhere could well mount campaigns for their unions to boycott (as 5 - or, with Aberdeen, 6 - already do). All in all, the supposedly 'non-political' effort of the Tory students to reverse the boycott has led to the exploding of their claim that the original AGM decision was 'unrepresentative', and given the left the opportunity for what may prove a tremendous break-through in this - hitherto apathetic - University.

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY BOYCOTT COMMITTEE WINS OUT by Alec Bagley

Robbie Gray has sent you a report on yesterday's amazing meeting. Aberdeen University has never seen anything like it. The whole effort was a triumph for the ad hoc committee: John Chipangwe (from Malawi); Akin Fajemijo (Nigeria), president of the African Society; Joe Kasonde (Northern Rhodesia), last year's president of the Debater; Forbes Browne, president of the Socialist Society; Margaret Macmillan, president of the Communist Society; Beatrice Tredinnick, president of UNA, Robbie Gray and myself, formed a committee Saturday May 9th to defend the boycott. I've never worked with any committee on which every member was 100% reliable at all times before - it was really wonderful.

The Daily Mail have promised to print a correction of their article which appeared in the May 15th issue, headlined: "Students vote 'no' to South Africa ban". Apparently the Daily Record also got it wrong. The reporter who put the wrong story around claimed it was all confusing, but there was only him who didn't seem to know what was happening. We are considering whether we ought to take this thing to the Press Council.

SOVIET UNION ENDS DIAMOND CONTRACT WITH SOUTH AFRICANS

In his annual statement as chairman of the De Beers Consolidated Mines, Mr. H.F. Oppenheimer has revealed that the Russian Government has ended its exclusive contract with that company to handle all Russian diamonds sold to the West. This move is an expression of support for the international boycott campaign. Figures of these transactions are not published but Mr. Oppenheimer described them as 'substantial'.

BRISTOL CND DEBATES DISAFFILIATION

by Tom Nicholls

The Annual Meeting of Bristol CND was held on Tuesday, 12th May, with about 40 members present. There was a long and sometimes heated discussion, which took up most of the meeting on a motion advocating that the Bristol group should disaffiliate from the national Campaign and become an autonomous group. This was eventually defeated by approximately 2 to 1. Before electing the main officers for the year a motion was passed which decided not to elect any ordinary committee members and that the previous monthly committee meetings would now be made open for all campaign members to attend.

NOTTINGHAM CND ARRANGES PROGRAMME OF MEETINGS

from Jill Westby*

A series of three open meetings has been arranged with Stuart Hall, John Rex and Alan Shuttleworth as the speakers. Their subjects should be of great interest for both new supporters and for those who have been in the Campaign for some time. All the meetings will be held at the Friends Meeting House, Clarendon St.

First will be The Campaign Past and Present - CND aims, policy and methods of working from 1958 to the present. Speaker Stuart Hall, one of the three vice-chairmen of CND who was formerly editor of the Universities and New Left Review. He is now Director of the Centre for Contemporary Cultural Studies at Birmingham University. This meeting is on Tuesday May 26th at 7.45. Second will be The Thaw - from Cuba to the detente. Changes in the arms race and the cold war leading to the thaw. The speaker will be Alan Shuttleworth, formerly CND Research officer, and member of the editorial boards of New University and New Left Review, now a research assistant at Birmingham University. The last of this programme is Peace-Keeping - with and without nuclear weapons. The issues between the West and Russia, and the issues in relation to the problems of the colonial revolution, the role of the United Nations. Speaker John Rex, former chairman of the New Left clubs. Now a lecturer in sociology at Birmingham University.

* Jill Westby is secretary of Nottingham CND.

MORE DETAILS OF THE ANTI-POLARIS DEMONSTRATION

from a special correspondent

An Anti-Polaris Co-ordinating Committee has been established to organise the demonstration which is to take place on the week-end of the 27/28 of June. C.N.D., Scottish C.N.D., Y.C.N.D., Combined Universities C.N.D., and the Scottish Committee of 100 are all represented. The march will leave Glasgow at 1.00 p.m. on Saturday, June 27, and proceed to Dumbarton where overnight accommodation is to be arranged. On Sunday the march will go on to Helensburgh, where there is to be a rally, and then to Faslane, Gareloch, which is planned as the base for British Polaris submarines.

In view of the short time between now and the demonstration, and the general lack of publicity it is essential that the widest publicity be given to these plans. A flop would be very bad. Readers should contact their local C.N.D. about arrangements for travelling up. North West Region C.N.D., 14, Tib Lane, Manchester 2, have a plan of action to draw attention to where the Polaris submarines are made. Nottingham CND, c/o 27, Brookland Dr., Chilwell, Nottm., is organising a minibus up, and is in urgent need of minibus drivers. Please contact these two addresses.

ED. NOTE: Any local group wishing to use our columns for publicising their plans for the above, should write in at their earliest.

CURRENT PAMPHLETS

In response to requests from readers, we are beginning a service notifying readers of socialist and trade union books and pamphlets which may not generally advertised. As information comes to hand, we will classify it and issue it in the form of classified book lists from time to time. Publishers who wish to have their material itemised in it are requested to send copies of each item to our editorial address. This week we have received:

The Structure and Organisation of British Trade Unions: P.E.P. No. 477, 50 pp, 5/-, available from 12, Upper Belgrave St., London S.W. 1. A descriptive account of union structure, covering problems of amalgamation, industrial unionism, demarcation, federations, and union communications. A factual, but conservative, appraisal, which suffers from the use of out-of-date statistics (nothing much after 1961) although it appeared at the end of last year.

Trade Unions and the Law by John Cotton: P.E.P. No. 479, 28 pp, 4/-. Available as above. A potted, and orthodox, account of the background to trade union law in Britain, with a discussion of *Rookes v. Barnard*. Covers legal problems of expulsions, elections, collective agreements, strikes, and admission to unions. Warns unions that they must take steps to "recognise the public interest."

Busmen, What Next?: Solidarity pamphlet No. 16, price 6d, 34 pp, available from Bob Potter, 197, King's Cross Rd., London W.C. 1. Consists of a number of articles by busmen and others, and deals with both the present situation in London's buses and with the history of busmen's organisations. Some first-class reportage on conditions of work, and on aspects of organisation. The contributions are deliberately selected from representatives of more than one point of view, which shows a lively respect for the intelligence of readers: but which also results in very uneven quality. Quite the silliest part of the pamphlet is its attack on Frank Cousins and "union bureaucrats" in general. In this respect, negatively, the pamphlet shows up the need for a realistic sociological understanding of trade ^{union} leadership, which can help socialists to appraise events coolly without invoking devils and witchcraft, and blood-curdling yells of 'betrayal', every time an unsatisfactory settlement is concluded.

White-Collar Redundancy - A Case Study by Dorothy Wedderburn, Cambridge University Press, 7/6d, 56pp. A study of the effect of the cancellation of the contract for the Blue Water Guided Missile. The workers who were sacked were primarily technicians, highly qualified people. Although most of the workers quickly found new jobs, they also faced cuts in their wages. Mrs. Wedderburn describes the attitudes of the sacked men, and discusses the lessons which can be drawn from the experience. More useful as a picture of the effect of redundancy on people than as a guide to what to do.

Documents on Self-Management: 74 pp. Available free on request from the Algerian Embassy, 4, Halkin Place, London SW 1. Prepared by the 'Bureau for the Animation of the Socialist Sector' for the Algerian Ministry of Information, this invaluable pamphlet gives details of the self-management schemes which apply in nationalised enterprises throughout Algeria. With excerpts from the Tripoli Programme, the speeches of Ben Bella, and the decrees of the Government on self-management, it provides a linking commentary which gives clear picture of developments up to date.

See also page 5.

M.C.F. CONDEMNS TORIES OVER ADEN

The MCF issued the following press statement on 13th May: The MCF emphatically rejects the Thorneycroft out-dated militarist view of "shoot first and argue later" in Southern Arabia. The shooting need not have occurred if there had been discussion first; discussion now could save lives; unless the aspirations of the people of Southern Arabia are met British forces will have to remain and further British lives will be lost. A political solution demands that democracy be established in the feudal South Arabian Federation and that self-determination be extended to the people of the Federation and Aden.

The first action should be to release Abdullah Al-Asnag, the voice of the people of Aden, now in prison, and to open negotiations with him for a settlement. The British Government is defying the historical process of our time by attempting to continue colonialist and military domination of Southern Arabia and Aden. Sooner or later we shall have to withdraw our military forces and bases. Better begin the adjustment now by agreement rather than resist the inevitable triumph of democracy and self-determination.

UNION CRITICISM OF TORIES AND WILSON OVER SOUTHERN ARABIA

Not many organisations have met in the holiday season which has elapsed since Wilson made his statement supporting Tory policy in Southern Arabia. However, two reports have reached us of trade ^{union} organisations responding angrily to Wilson's statement:

Ramsgate Trades Council has passed a resolution which it has sent to the Prime Minister and Harold Wilson. It demands the immediate withdrawal of British troops from Cyprus and Aden, and calls for an end to ^{trying to} force the Arabs into the Southern Arabian Federation.

Tower Hamlets A.E.U. has passed unanimously a resolution protesting against the Labour Party leader's support of the Tory Party's adventures in Southern Arabia.

AUTOMATION AND WHITE COLLAR REDUNDANCY

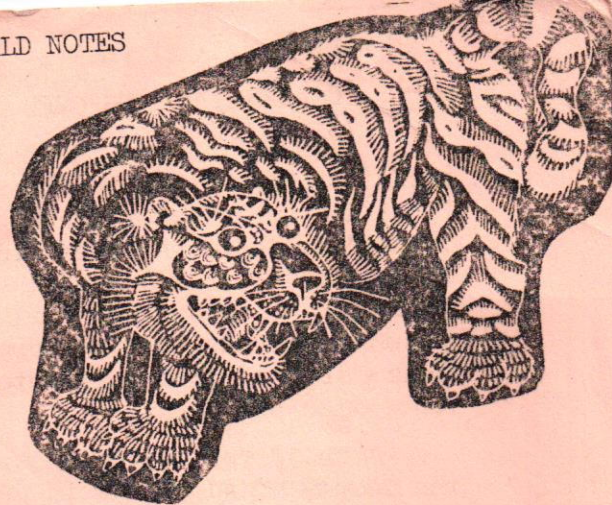
by James Wilcox

A recent report in the Wall Street Journal shows that whereas white collar jobs had risen by 2.81% per year between 1950 and 1960 this tendency began to fall off in 1962 when the rise was 2.6%. Last year there was an actual drop (of 0.9%) This decline is attributed almost entirely to office automation, for company presidents report that sales and profits are rising. The report suggests that the trend is likely to continue: computer manufacturers estimate that sales are rising by between 20 and 25% a year.

A pamphlet published this week by the Institute of Personnel Management reports the experiences of nine firms who either had or were installing a computer and warns: "A number of firms were able to cut down drastically the number of school leavers they would have normally recruited for clerical jobs each year." Redundancy of this sort is obviously going to pose an increasingly serious problem to the white collar unions. Experiences at Ford's Dagenham plant suggest that inter-union solidarity will be an essential weapon for opposing management on this question. At Dagenham the attack on the unions was followed by wholesale dismissals of office workers.

A.E.I. VOICE STARTS PUBLICATION: Another publication has joined the Voice stable: A.E.I. Voice. Its appearance at this time is most appropriate, and as can be expected much of the paper is taken up with the present strike. In fact one might say that it is essential reading for an understanding of the very important fight which is taking place at that factory. A.E.I. Voice can be obtained from: Labour's Voice, 8, Ashkirk St., Manchester 18. 6th p.p.

colonialism's Week



INTERNATIONAL CONSORTIUM TRIES TO BLOCK ALGERIAN PIPELINE from J. Atkinson

The Oil and Gas Journal, April 27th, reported:

"It may take 6 months or more to decide on just who will build the Sahara's third major crude pipeline system. Ben Bella's Government has let a contract to two British firms. Now TRAPAL, owned by 17 oil companies (5 of them American) has appealed for arbitration under the Evian Agreement of 1962, which supposedly guaranteed producing companies the right to build transportation for their oil. Each party in such a dispute has one month to select an arbitrator. Then the two will select a third. The three man board has six months to reach a decision.

"Technically, such an appeal for arbitration should mean an immediate halt to work on a disputed project. But the British contractors say they are continuing. TRAPAL doesn't really seem very confident of winning. It appears to be going through the legal motions to test the official Algerian attitude to the Evian Agreements."

The same issue of the journal carried an article about Algeria's attitude towards O.P.E.C. (Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries):

"Algeria may or may not become the 9th member of OPEC. OPEC officials are confident the Algerians will join....but after OPEC talks in Geneva, Bachir Boumarza, the Algerian Minister of Economics, refuses to say whether or when Algeria will join the group.

"Algeria, which is exporting more than 500,000 barrels a day of Saharan oil, is clearly eligible for membership. It has been content up to now to send observers to OPEC meetings. Boumarza is working overtime to keep his oil industry off balance" (that is, with greater demand than supply) "without any help from OPEC. He wouldn't talk about OPEC at Geneva, but some of his associates were not so close-mouthed. Privately they were pretty scornful of OPEC - which they regard as too conservative for the revolutionary frame of mind in Algeria."

ECONOMIC CRISIS LOOMS IN SENEGAL

Based upon Financial Times report

Serious economic problems are being encountered in Senegal as a result of a fall in groundnut prices and the departure of French troops. President Senghor recently declared that the national income would fall considerably because of these two factors. He said the 4-year development ^{plan} would have to be modified and the level of productivity raised by 25% in the groundnut industry. The last crop had been 100,000 tons down at 800,000, he added.

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There are many journals, periodicals and newspapers which, although they are not of general interest to socialists, often contain items of news and comment which are important and should be brought before the readers of The Week. We refer particularly to the many trade and professional magazines which circulate to people engaged in particular occupations. A magazine with voluntary editors and strictly limited funds cannot afford the time and money to read all of these, but each of our readers undoubtedly does read, in the normal course of their work, at least one of these publications.

Tucked away in the pages of the Oil & Gas Journal or The Accountant, for example, may be items of political and sociological interest which indicate trends and ideas which may be directly relevant to the socialist struggle. It is often in the pages of such publications that kites are first flown and ideas begin to gain currency which later come to have a more general import.

If the function of The Week - to provide news and analysis that will assist the Left to organise itself in the day to day struggle - is to be fully met, then it is essential that our sources are wide and comprehensive. We want to build up an index of readers whose proximity to developments in a particular industry, trade, trade union or profession can help us to remain alert. If you subscribe to particular publications which you are sure often contain such items of wider interest then we would like you to help us by sending occasional cuttings and information together with your comments and interpretation. We hope also that if we receive a request from another reader for more information, that you will let us refer this request to you. However parochial or confined the publication may be we hope you will help by filling in the form below.

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