

# THE

# WEEKLY

**A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS**

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CONTENTS

PAGE	1	Editorial: The crisis of the pound and Labour's future.
PAGE	2	Congo notes: The world-wide front against U.S./Belgian aggression in the Congo.
PAGE	3	Campaign notes: The Boycott: Cambridge next? Rochdale apprentices start <u>Industrial Bulletin</u> . Students campaign for the release of Vic Allen.
PAGE	4	Political and industrial notes: Glasgow busmen work to rule. Struggle against redundancy at Linwood. Rickets re-appears in Glasgow. First Day School of Hull Labour College.
PAGE	5	Labour notes: New Voices in 1964.
PAGE	6	Campaign notes: Some notes on CND Annual Conference. CND to lobby Parliament in multilateral force for peace campaign.
PAGE	7	Industrial notes: Hull busmen want Christmas at home.
PAGE	8	South African notes: South African students hit back at Minister of 'Justice'. Trial of former Reading University lecturer.
PAGE	9	Economic notes: British industrialists fail in export field.
PAGE	10	West Indian notes: Automation in Trinidad. Pressure for secure employment in Jamaica. Grenada youth march forward.
PAGE	11	West Indian notes: Foreign investors in Grenada. Strike spiral continues in Trinidad. Jamaica and Trinidad and the OAS. New West Indies Federation.
PAGE	12	Soviet notes: Less sales - more profits; more sales - less profits; complaint in Pravda.

EDITORS' LETTER

In a number of parts of the country there has been a spontaneous move to form discussion groups around The Week. We are, of course, highly pleased with this development and will assist anyone who feels they can work in this way to the best of our ability. We have duplicated a form which, by cutting down writing to time, place and subject, may be of use to the groups. Also we can, if appropriate, announce meetings in our columns. It has also been suggested that we include a directory of people to contact. Of course, much of this could only be properly applied once the journal is printed.

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For sometime past the much-vaunted growth target of 4% per annum, first elaborated by NEDC and since built in to the heart of Labour's strategy, has been under question. A long article in the latest issue of the Westminster Bank Review speaks of the 'fetish of 4%', and this notion, that 4% growth is a distant unapproachable dream goal, has increasingly filtered through the financial pages of the heavy newspapers into the calculations of political commentators. The financial crisis of last week has intensified speculation on this matter. The Sunday Times carried a most interesting item by Michael Shanks, under the heading "Requiem for 4%." He emphasises the fact that the three billion dollar credit which has been negotiated to buttress the pound against the danger of devaluation leaves Britain "more thoroughly in pawn to international finance capital than at any time since the war."

"He who pays the piper", he continues, "calls the tune. It is an illusion to think that the Government can conduct its internal economic and social policy without reference to the views of its foreign creditors." Indeed, the explosion in the Parliamentary Labour Party against the deferment of pension increases, in which numerous members stood firm for an immediate payment, seems to have been scotched only by recourse to this argument.

The fact that devaluation did not take place has insulated the workers from the most severe cuts in living standards for some time. It has also insulated the City from a shakeup which many key industrialists would have been pleased to administer to it. But now that the weapon of devaluation has not been employed, there is an interim in which it becomes possible to jell out a campaign for offensive, socialist policies which will meet the crisis. If this is not quickly done, there can be no doubt that the question of devaluation and other severe attacks on the standard of living of the workers will be posed again, in circumstances which may not be so easy for the left to fight. Of course, the whole of Labour's social security and welfare programme depends on increasing output substantially. The 4% is a crucial part of the strategy. But the 4% is not readily attainable in circumstances in which the "pre-election Go" of the Conservatives has now been replaced with measures which amount to post-election Labour "Stop" on economic growth.

Michael Shanks shows his appreciation of this problem: "To a Labour Government walking the narrow tightrope between a slender majority and dependence on the goodwill of international finance this is an agonising and frustrating predicament. The political consequences could be very serious indeed. There is a danger that the Labour Party, remembering the "bankers' ramp" which, according to the party's mythology, cheated it of power in 1951, may conclude that the same thing is happening in 1964, and that any attempt to treat with capitalism is therefore impossible. There is a definite possibility that a Labour Administration, under pressure, might swing sharply to the left and revert to the regime of controls and socialisation of the post-war years."

It is the duty of the left to clear the field for action to ensure that this prediction is fulfilled with interest. There is a "bankers' ramp", which has already confiscated the old age pensioners' Christmas bonus, and will, unless checked in time, lead to worse inroads in the future. Labour's targets can only be achieved by a policy of far-reaching structural reforms, including the widespread take-over of obstructive enterprises and a serious apparatus of physical controls. The physical controls which Mr. Shanks fears were elaborated during the last war, and administered by safe supporters of the system (see Rogow and Shore's account: "The Labour Government and British Industry, 1945-51") and on the whole they failed. The physical controls we  
continued page5/

## THE WORLD-WIDE FRONT AGAINST U.S./BELGIAN AGGRESSION IN THE CONGO

Ed. Note: We have compiled a summary of the world-wide protest movement against the Stanleyville landings for the information of readers. Our list is by no means complete - there has been a partial news 'blackout' on this question - and does not include demonstrations, etc., which have already been widely reported. To save space we listed protesting organisations, etc, country by country without going into detail, except where important.

Afghanistan: Government newspaper, Kabul Times; Africa: All-African Trade Union Federation; Algeria: Government, Ben Bella said "we will send troops and arms to help", demonstrations: Algiers (50,000), Oran (15,000), Dellys (4,000), Medea, Biskra, Tougart, Lghourt, etc., all mass organisations; Angola, emigre orgs. in Algeria, UAR and Tanzania; Basutoland: Congress Party in exile; Belgium: Congolese students (leaders were promptly expelled by Belgium Government), pro-Chinese C.P.; Burma: Government newspaper Ludu and other papers; Cambodia: Government newspaper La Depeche du Cambodge and other papers; Central African Republic: Government; Congo (Brazzaville): Government, mass demonstrations, Government party leader declares: "We cannot co-exist with Tshombe clique"; Costa Rica: Radio Station "Impacto", newspaper, "Libertad"; Cuba: Government calls for world united front against U.S. in aid of Congo liberation forces; Dahomey: Government; Ethiopia: Government; Egypt: Government, demonstrations against U.S. and Belgian embassies by Egyptians and African students; Ghana: Government; Guinea: Government and all mass organisations.

Indonesia: Government, all mass organisations and newspapers; Iraq: Government, all newspapers; Italy: student demonstrations in Venice, Florence, Parma, Alessandria, Foggia, Biella, Lucca, Pesaro, and other towns, mass demonstration in Rome preceded by picketing of U.S. Embassy (much police violence); Japan: various mass organisations including the biggest trade unions; Kuwait: main newspaper "Akhbar el Kuwait"; Kenya: Government, mass demonstrations against U.S. and Belgian embassies, Kenya dockers to boycott U.S. and Belgian ships; Mali: Government, mass organisations and all newspapers; Morocco: all important newspapers, student protests and demonstrations; Mozambique: emigre organisations in Algiers, Cairo and Tanzania; Nepal: main newspapers "Naya Saya Daily" and "Matribhumi"; Pakistan: Government, all main newspapers; Rhodesia: emigres (Zimbabwe African People's Union) in Cairo and Algiers; Portuguese Guinea: emigres in Algiers and Cairo.

Somaliland: Government, all mass organisations, demonstrations; South Africa: emigres in Algiers, Tanzania and London representing the African National Congress and the Pan African National Congress; South West Africa: Emigre organisation in Cairo, Tanzania and Algiers representing the South West African People's Organisation and the South West African National Union; Sudan: Government which has also given permission for the Congo liberation forces to cross into Sudanese territory, demonstrations against U.S. and Belgian embassies, all newspapers and mass organisations; Tanzania: Government, demonstrations against U.S. embassy, all mass organisations and newspapers; Switzerland: the newspaper "Gazette de Lausanne" described the whole affair as reminding one of the old days of gunboat diplomacy; Uganda: Government, demonstration against U.S. embassy; Zanzibar: virtually every organisation of any kind has denounced U.S. and Belgian action.

This is the by-no-means complete list; but lest anyone gloat over U.S. discomfort it must be pointed out that in many of the demonstrations slogans were carried denouncing our Government as well. All the above actions are also directed at the Labour Government too. By allowing the U.S. and Belgians to use Ascension Island, Labour became an accessory before and after the fact in a foul crime which has cost the lives of thousands of Congolese (and probably led to death of Europeans). Do we want the whole of the third world to echo what the Omanis and Yemenis are saying: "There is no difference between Labour and Tory"

THE BOYCOTT: CAMBRIDGE NEXT?

By Robert Gray

Cambridge students intend to mount a campaign to boycott South African goods. This follows a resolution at the Business Meeting of Cambridge University UNA. At a meeting today (27/11/64) initial steps were taken. Because of the Archaic structure of this University, the boycott will have to be fought college by college. It is hoped, therefore, to have College groups under way by the end of this year, in readiness for the struggle next term. A parallel campaign in the town is also ultimately envisaged: Labour, although the largest single party on the council is not in control, owing to the feudal institution of University representation. Week readers can, I trust, expect to hear more of this next term.

ROCHDALE APPRENTICES START INDUSTRIAL BULLETIN from a special correspondent

A duplicated journal - Industrial Youth - was started by Rochdale young workers just prior to the apprentices' strike. Issue number 2 came out during the strike and was designed to be a campaign bulletin. The articles in the two issues cover all aspects of the apprentices' struggles going both into details of their demands and the methods of struggle. These Rochdale comrades are to be congratulated on their initiative, and it is to be hoped that this effort, together with similar ones up and down the country, will contribute to building a national leadership amongst apprentices free from sectarian motivation.

\* Industrial Youth can be obtained from 63, Curzon Rd., Kirkholt, Rochdale, Lancs.

STUDENTS CAMPAIGN FOR THE RELEASE OF VIC ALLEN from Ian Taylor

The E.C. of NALSO passed the following resolution unanimously on Nov. 21:  
"NALSO adds its voice to the widespread condemnation of the vicious and unsubstantiated sentences passed on Dr. Victor Allen, Sidi Kayam, J. Kiomas-etenagh and O. Adebayo.

(a) NALSO calls on the Nigerian Government to intervene for the release of these people.

(b) NALSO calls on the British Government to put pressure on the Nigerian Government, through their embassy in this country and through the United Nations, to this effect."

A committee has been formed in Newcastle to raise money for the Vic Allen appeal and to lobby Parliament. There was a demonstration attended by about 40 people. Motions condemning the sentence have been passed by Durham University Students Representative Council, Durham Union Society, Durham University Socialist Society and other bodies.

After prolonged correspondence between the Vic Allen Defence Committee based on Newcastle and the North-East group of MPs, all the indications are that the MPs have changed their mind and are not now going to present the petitions, collected in this area demanding Vic Allen's release, to Nigeria House. The MPs seem to be concerned because to do this would give the impression that it was an official Government view that the sentence of Vic Allen was unwarranted. NALSO members in the universities of Newcastle and Durham, and in the training and technical colleges in Sunderland, Darlington and Newcastle are believed to be writing to the N.E. Group of MPs protesting against this change of mind.

GLASGOW REPORT

from Tony Southall

Busmen work to rule

Following the unofficial strike some months back the Corporation busmen have again initiated action. On this occasion their complaint is over the lengthy delays in introducing the 40-hour week and in the national pay negotiations for provincial busmen. The district officials of the TGWU have been compelled to recognise the action which is so far limited to a ban on overtime and a work to rule. Busmen at many garages outside Glasgow are joining in and there was a strike in one garage in Midlothian over a conductor who tried to work overtime. There is a likelihood of Edinburgh busmen joining in. Some indication of the conditions under which Glasgow busmen work is that one of the key provisions in the rules which are being worked to is that buses will not exceed the speed limit to make up lost time! The overtime ban has led to  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the buses being off the road at the peak period.

Struggle against redundancy at Linwood.

Given the isolation of the car workers at Linwood (Rootes), the agreement reached last week that each man in some sections should be laid off for 1 week in 5 is the best that could be expected. The production line has been on a 4-day week for the past 3 months and the management proposal was to sack 400 of the 2,600 labour force. But the new plan, advanced by the shop stewards, without any aid from their local officials, has saved these men's jobs and shown, in that it was overwhelmingly endorsed by the workers, that some degree of solidarity exists in the plant.

Rickets re-appears in Glasgow

Rickets has re-appeared in Glasgow - 9 cases in 1963 and 24 already this year. The disease had been non-existent since 1956. A look at the area distribution shows that poor housing conditions and overcrowding are the chief contributing factors. Other aspects revealed in <sup>the</sup> Medical Officer of Health's report for last year are that the infant mortality rate remains at 32 per 1,000 (national average 24) - this too varies with area, e.g., Gorbals: 52; Kelvin-grove: 19; Death rate per 100,000 from TB has increased from 18 to 21 (Birmingham: 7; Liverpool: 7; Edinburgh: 3).

FIRST DAY SCHOOL OF HULL LABOUR COLLEGE by Dave Godman (Hull NUGMW)

Socialist education in Hull started with a resounding success. The winding up of the NCLC proved a major blow for trade unionists in Hull, so they organised a body to ensure the continuance of genuine socialist working class education. Thus the Hull Labour College was formed. It is essential to note that the committee consists entirely of trade unionists who were elected by members of many unions, and other branches of the labour movement. It is completely democratic in its organisation and choice of classes, believing success will be assured only with the active democratic participation of the rank & file.

The first day school was held on November 22nd at the AEU Headquarters. Harry Newton, B.Sc., was the lecturer and Harry Lewis (AEU), the chairman. The subject was a topical one: "Economics of your wage packet"; over 60 people came along representing all trade unions. Harry Newton's approach was a Marxist one explaining the effects of capitalist economics on the working class. An important point was made about the effect of NATO, etc. on the British economy. A good discussion followed, with questions and comments, the body of the meeting proved very sympathetic to Harry's marxist approach. It was altogether a great success, and the majority of the members expressed hopes for the future program.

NEW VOICES IN 1964From Labour's Northern Voice

We have opened many new Voices this year. In August, Nottingham and Huyton Voices came out for the first time. Earlier in the year, a completely resuscitated Stockport Voice shot its circulation figures above the 1,000 mark. On the industrial scene, we produced two strike editions of AEI Voice, which caught the eye of the Unions and the Shopstewards' Movement. And then we brought out "Aviation Voice" with a national circulation of about 3,000, selling in aircraft factories up and down the country.

From December, another Voice will be heard, this time in Hull. An editorial team has been formed in Hull to bring out "Hull Voice" every month. It will be an eight-page paper selling at 6d. We know it's going to be packed with material of immediate interest to socialists in the area. If you live in or around Hull and you'd like to see the paper or think you could sell some among your friends or local party, why not get in touch with us here at 8, Ashkirk Street, Manchester, 18? Or better still, write to Tony Topham, "Hull Voice", 1 Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull.

There's sad news, too, though. After a magnificent record, "Merseyside Voice" is to close, at least for the present. After discussions with the local editor Frank Murphy, we decided to suspend publication of the Merseyside issue. Ironical, really, when you weigh it up. Four Labour gains, one of the highest swings to Labour in the whole of the country, and the Voice can hardly get a hearing.

It's our intention to continue printing Merseyside news and comment in "Labour's Northern Voice" and to circularise existing Merseyside readers with Northern Voice. It will still cost 6d, but instead of eight pages you will now receive twelve. In the meantime, we're looking for bright young men with bright ideas who feel they can run a "Merseyside Voice" that really catches fire and sells. As soon as such a person turns up, there'll be a new "Merseyside Voice" on the press in double quick time.

Have you considered starting a Voice in your area? We'll be glad to answer any queries you may have at 8 Ashkirk Street, Manchester, 18. Write now for full details.

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Editorial continued/

need now must involve trade union and shop steward inspection and supervision of management at every level: embracing not merely the maximisation of output but also the distribution of the product. To think that the parlous condition of capitalism in Britain opens up possibilities of its rescue would be fatal to Labour. The Conservatives might, with difficulty, pull it off, provided they could find the force to dispense sufficient knocks and thumps to the working class in the process. But if Labour treads this path, it will lose everything. Now is the time for a complete repudiation of paternalism in every field. Only the initiative of the working people can save Labour's Government and open up the prospect of social advance at tremendous pace. The test of Wilson's administration is whether it is willing to unlock the initiative and give it scope.

SOME NOTES ON C.N.D. ANNUAL CONFERENCE\*

by Dick Nettleton

If you ever want to assess anything, a useful method is to sit down and make out a list of all the good things you know about it, and then make out a list of all the bad things. Alan Rooney, Brian Turton and I, did just this on the way back from our Annual Conference last weekend. This is how it came out:

- Positive:
- (1) The campaign still attracts a wide spectrum of people, who in spite of their different outlooks are able to work together. This is done, not so much by compromise, as by tolerance, a quality that seems to evade most other organisations.
  - (2) We are, very slowly, perhaps too slowly, pulling out of our financial difficulties. It must be said frankly that the N.W. Region is lagging behind badly on this....
  - (3) Conference recognised the urgency of the position, and time and again on the MLF, on NATO and proliferation the delegates re-affirmed that the question of nuclear weapons could not be relegated....
  - (4) There was a growing recognition of the important role that young people are playing in the campaign, and the youth campaign was given added status.
  - (5) The closely allied subjects of positive neutralism and the economics of disarmament were given practical treatment, and this means that the Campaign will begin to move on these questions in a more positive way.
  - (6) The new officers and National Council elected reflect the spread of the Campaign, and we have a capable leadership. Here we should congratulate Rosalind Delmar and Peter Worsley, both of N.W. Region, who were elected to the National Council.
  - (7) Conference took practical decisions on the MLF campaign, on strengthening our organisation and the Easter March.
- Negative:
- (1) The attendance was not good, including ours from the N.W. region. YCND was not well represented, though a little more than last year.
  - (2) The very good activities of the Christian Campaign were not reflected at Conference. For instance I did not hear any reference to the controversy that is taking place in the Catholic Church.
  - (3) The Campaign at all levels tends to be out of touch with the mass organisations, especially of the Labour movement. No one talked of the trade unions until we did. There was, I think, a recognition of this weakness, but it must be tackled.

\* From North West Region Campaign 64, number 31.

C.N.D. TO LOBBY PARLIAMENT IN MULTILATERAL FORCE FOR PEACE CAMPAIGN

As part of the 'Multilateral Force for Peace' Campaign the CND is to lobby Parliament on Wednesday, 9th December. In a statement on the lobby, CND explains: "It is hoped that the lobby will represent a wide area of public opinion, and Groups are particularly asked to include in their parties representatives of local Parties, trade unions, churches, etc....CND will issue a briefing document for lobbyists, and, in addition, a simple give-away leaflet, urging people to write immediately to their MPs calling for opposition to MLF and any extension of nuclear forces in Europe.



HULL BUSMEN WANT CHRISTMAS AT HOME

by Ray Edwards

As we approach the season of "good will to all men," one section of a city's workpeople are faced with a situation which is far from a spirit of "good will". The Transport Department of Hull, Yorkshire, has always prided itself on operating a service 365 days of the year. However this year it is faced with only being in operation for 364 days. The reason for this loss of one day's service is that the busmen want Christmas day off.

The first move for Christmas Day services to be withdrawn and the day granted as a holiday was made by the busmen as long ago as February this year. Since making this first approach the busmen's representatives have experienced the frustrating and humiliating situation of being shunted between the Transport Manager and the Transport Committee of the City Council in an effort to get a settlement. On each occasion that they have met either of these bodies they have been unable to make any headway due to the lack of participation on the part of the other side. Only once has a concrete proposal been made, and it must have been obvious even to the Transport Manager who made it, that it was wholly unacceptable to the busmen.

In October a report was published in the local press giving details of a meeting between the Transport Manager and the Transport Committee. At this meeting members of the Transport Committee were reported to have said that, "the busmen cannot just take the good and leave the bad points of the job," also that, "the bus service as operated on Christmas Day is a social service, and people need it for visiting families and friends and it would be wrong to deny them this at this festive time of the year by withdrawing the buses."

Perhaps one should point out that these statements were made by "socialist" councillors, and that the City Council is "socialist controlled" and has been for many years. This is what strikes the hardest blow, when members of a trade union have to fight long and hard for only a small concession against so-called "fallow socialists."

What the councillors forget when talking about "three weeks holiday", is that one of these weeks is made up of days in lieu of Bank Holidays worked by the busmen. Also to say, "the busmen cannot take the good and leave the bad" contributes nothing to solving the immediate problem, nor the long-term problem of shortage of staff. It is up to such people as these very councillors to make the job more "good" than "bad" in order to attract more staff. As for the pitiful plea that "Christmas Day services represent a social service," these same councillors should bear in mind the fare increases and cuts in services inflicted upon the traveling public over the past few years. They cannot, as they have done in the past, claim that the Transport Department is a trading undertaking and as such must pay its way, and in order for it to do this take economic steps to correct any deficit, and then when it in some spurious way suits them claim it is a social service.

However, the Hull busmen have now decided for themselves what is to be done about Christmas Day working. A resolution has been adopted determining that in 1964 they will enjoy the festive season with their families and friends. One feels that this is one time when there will be no need for pickets to be posted.

SOUTH AFRICAN STUDENTS HIT BACK AT MINISTER OF 'JUSTICE'

A South African correspondent reports:

The so-called South African Minister of Justice, Vorster, seems to be ready to go to any length in his vendetta against those who have dared oppose apartheid. On Saturday 14th of November, Vorster, speaking at a meeting of the National Party at Klerksdorp, said that people imprisoned for political offences would serve the full terms imposed by the courts without remission for good conduct. But he went on to say that he would make an exception in the case of those who had been "led astray" by the 4 past presidents of that National Union of South African Students. He said: "Because of my sympathy for the prisoners" (sic) "and their parents I will, if their parents can prove that they were misled by these offspring of snakes, give them a remission of their sentences."

This disgusting blackmail, clearly designed to put pressure on parents to get them to give evidence against former NUSAS officials, evoked a quick response from the present president of NUSAS, Mr. Madeer Osler. He described Vorster's speech as "shallow propaganda used to advance the narrow ideology of one political party" and accused the Minister of "resorting again to inaccuracies, generalisations and McCarthyist tactics." He asked whether the Afrikaanse Studentebond (the Nationalists' student wing) was held responsible for the "violent activities" of some of its former members. He said: "When former members of the Afrikaanse Studentebond, including some who are today high officials of the National Party and the Broederbond, engaged in such activities in the past, was the Afrikaanse Studentebond responsible?" Other officials of NUSAS made similar statements. But as Rand Daily Mail, November 18, put it in an editorial: "...we have no doubt that the vendetta against NUSAS, however unfair it may be, will continue."

Ed. Note: The courage of these South African students, operating in the most difficult circumstances within the confines of the 'legality' imposed upon them, cannot be praised too highly. We should draw inspiration from their example to pursue our campaign against British big business support for Apartheid.

TRIAL OF FORMER READING UNIVERSITY LECTURER

from a Pretoria reader

The state is trying to link Mr. Bertram Martin Hirson, and three other defendants, with the accused who appeared in the Rivonia trial, the Spear of the Nation, the Communist Party and the bomb explosion in the Johannesburg station. On November 18th Lieut. Viktor, of the Security Police, said that he obtained a file of papers belonging to Hirson from the University of the Witwatersrand. He alleged that these documents had suggested the advisability of co-operation between all liberation movements, including the National Committee of Liberation, etc., and had discussed the idea of having a unified command for these bodies. Another document mentioned an organisation which it called "S". The organisation was to establish a "revolutionary government" which would institute a system based on the socialist principles of redistribution of wealth and land.

Mr. Hirson is charged, together with Hugh Francis Lewin, Frederick Prager, and Raymond Eisenstein with conspiring with 25 other people to liberate the non-whites in South Africa by means of a campaign of sabotage designed to intimidate the Government. All four originally pleaded not guilty. Later, Hirson, Lewin and Eisenstein changed their pleas to guilty. On the first day of the trial the main prosecution witness was a man who claimed the accused had betrayed him to the police.

BRITISH INDUSTRIALISTS FAIL IN EXPORT FIELD by Pat Jordan

Striking evidence of the inefficiency and inadequacy of British big business was given in the latest issue of the Board of Trade Journal. This contained a special survey entitled "Trends in United Kingdom and World Exports of Manufactures." This 24-page supplement contains pages and pages of tables comparing the performance of British and other countries' export endeavours. The poor performance by British industry is, perhaps, best shown in the table comparing the exports of manufactures by main exporting countries. This showed how the exports had changed each year, and I have reproduced the figures for <sup>the</sup> last five years:

Country	Percentage change on a year earlier				
	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963
United Kingdom	+4.6	+6.6	+4.0	+2.4	+6.7
E.E.C.	+13.0	+18.8	+9.0	+6.2	+9.7
West Germany	+11.6	+16.8	+10.6	+4.7	+10.0
Belgium-Luxemburg	+9.5	+14.3	+3.4	+9.9	+9.8
France	+15.4	+21.4	+2.9	+3.6	+8.2
Italy	+16.5	+34.4	+16.7	+11.4	+10.3
Netherlands	+16.0	+12.2	+9.0	+6.4	+10.7
Sweden	+7.8	+17.9	+11.9	+10.9	+10.2
Switzerland	+8.7	+11.3	+8.8	+8.4	+8.1
United States	-1.5	+17.8	+0.1	+5.1	+5.3
Canada	+7.1	+5.3	+0.2	+4.5	+7.4
Japan	+20.8	+18.8	+4.5	+15.6	+13.0
World total	+8.0	+15.5	+5.4	+6.1	+8.4

Scrutiny of these figures will show that the U.K. lagged behind every other country with the sole exception of the U.S (and to a lesser extent, Canada). Britain's average rise per annum over the last ten years was 5.3% compared with a world average of nearly 9%. Of the industrialised countries only Canada had a lower figure.

Another important feature revealed in the survey's figures was the extent to which trade between the industrialised countries has been growing much faster than between the industrialised countries and the primary producing countries. As a result, the proportion of world exports of manufactures going to industrial markets went up from 50% in 1954 to 65% in 1963. In the past five years Britain's exports to the primary producing countries (in general, the under-developed countries) have increased at a slower rate than her exports to the industrialised countries. In fact, in 1959, 1961 and 1962 there were decreases in the figures. British businessmen, not spurred by any social consideration, preferred the markets in the already industrialised countries. For instance British exports to EEC countries went up 11.6% in 1959; 12.2% in 1960; 22.9% in 1961; 14.3% in 1962; and 13.9% in 1963. Thus, in search of quick profits British exports were distorted to depend upon what would become an increasingly protectionist market.

The whole pattern of world trade (and British exports in particular) is an argument for socialism. Present trends are making the poor countries poorer and the rich countries richer. A socialist Britain, taking <sup>into</sup> social ownership the basic industries would plan trade to assist the under-developed countries to rapidly industrialise themselves instead of trying to sell more motor cars to Europe and North America. This would not be social justice but <sup>only</sup> also the only long-term way of balancing Britain's trade.

REPORTS FROM THE WEST INDIES\*

Following the discussions and disputes about automation and mechanisation in Jamaica (See Week Vol 2 No. 13), the National T.U.C. of Trinidad and Tobago too has been discussing the related issues of mechanisation, automation and jobs in view of the serious unemployment problem (14%) in the country. Dr. Williams, the Prime Minister, sought the solution in discussions with Shell, British Petroleum and Tate and Lyle when he was in London. The Government is seeking to solve these economic problems by borrowing \$30m. (West Indian) for development. Already more than half of this has been raised on the U.S. market, but Trade Unionists are demanding the end of a system of acquiring public loans only from Western countries. James Lynch, of the N.U.G.E., said, "If Russia has money and we want it, what else can we do but take it?", and George Weekes, Pro-Tem chairman of the T.U.C., stated that Trinidad can get money borrowed from "sources other than the U.S., including the U.S.S.R., but fear makes them go to the United States." Meanwhile the political monthly, the Circle, has come out in favour of trade with Cuba.

There has already been considerable discussion on this point, and now the Liberal Party opposition in Trinidad is demanding to know if the Trinidad delegate at Cairo made contact with Dr. Dorticos, the Cuban President. The Party refers to a quote in the Fleet St. Newsletter saying that the delegate, Sir Ellis Clarke, arrived early so as to discuss "Dr. Williams' plan for a Caribbean Economic Community based initially on Trinidad, Puerto Rico the Netherlands Antilles and Cuba."

PRESSURE FOR SECURE EMPLOYMENT

Miss Lynne Beckles, West Indian journalist, commenting on the Jamaica Employers' Federation Bulletin of Sept. 1964, noted that the Federation had callously stated: "Employers were in no way responsible for the devising of ways and means of maintaining employment levels or of relieving unemployment! She called it the "rationale of greed and bloodsucking".

The organised workers throughout the West Indies are showing concern for job security for the employed, and jobs for the unemployed. For perhaps the first time in 300 years of sugar exploitation of the West Indies, the sugar workers from the main sugar producing territories met to consider the questions of mechanisation, automation and unemployment, and took decisions covering severance pay, maximum advance notice and legislation to protect their interests. The Minister of Trade in Jamaica, knowing the explosion they are sitting on, has warned private business men of their duty to provide jobs, while land reform (however inadequate) is being pressed by the Government so as to help to provide jobs on land at present kept idle. He claimed that those employers who disclaimed responsibility to provide jobs were in fact advocating communism. But certainly the most interesting commentary on the crisis of sugar, and mechanisation and jobs, and the political and social crisis which is emerging in the West Indies is the suggestion of the Jamaican Manufacturers of the possible need to find alternate crops if sugar cannot meet the social bill. This may yet come about.

GRENADA YOUTH MARCH FORWARD

The National Youth Movement of Grenada has issued a public document explaining colonialism, and recently 25 boys of the Grenada Boys Secondary School petitioned the Minister of Education against the witch hunting and book banning and were suspended, and their cases taken up by lawyers and doctors in a further petition. They are seeing red in Grenada.

FOREIGN INVESTORS IN GRENADA

The Industrial and Commercial Workers Union have complained to Chief Minister Blaize about investors getting a five year tax holiday and leaving the country on the expiration of this term. The workers also wanted protection from low wages paid by these investors.

STRIKE SPIRAL CONTINUES

There is a recent history of big strikes in Trinidad and Tobago: last Summer 800 members of the Transport and Industrial Workers Union won a 56 day struggle against the Princes Town Bus Company, during which the Union called on the Government to take over the bus franchise and operate the service as a public utility. It reminded the workers of the 4 month strike of telephone workers which made the Government take over the Telephone Company, which is now the Trinidad and Tobago Telephone Service. During this strike Eugene Joseph, General Secretary of the T.U.C., said: "The workers may have to adopt a policy of massive confrontation and take over industries that were not willing to cooperate and work for the benefit of the nation. George Weekes, president of the T.U.C., called for revolutionary action on the part of the working class. If the employers use their weapon as they have done, "the only way to get your just due is with a struggle."

This struggle is being carried forward: in Trinidad 600 garment workers are on strike demanding a basic weekly wage of \$18.00(W.I.) in place of the \$16.50 that the employers have offered. In Jamaica Bauxite workers (members of the National Workers Union) went on strike because of the dismissal of their members without proper cause. In British Guiana another sugar strike loomed after negotiations between the M.P.C.A. and the Sugar Producers Assoc. About 700 cane farmers journeyed 50 miles to demand \$600,000 outstanding to them as compensation for losses sustained during recent floods in S. Trinidad.

Meanwhile the 2 year old Trinidad Sugar Manufacturers Federation (Originally comprising 8 companies and now reduced to 2) folded up on 22nd October. Tate & Lyle monopolise the industry through its subsidiary Caroni Ltd.

JAMAICA AND TRINIDAD AND THE O.A.S.

The U.S. wants Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago inside the Organisation of American States. This is because the U.S. is anxious at these countries' increasing alignment with the Afro-Asian bloc, including their attendance at the recent Afro-Asian talks in Cairo (where British Guiana's independence was called for).

NEW WEST INDIES FEDERATION

The old West Indies Federation (1958-1962) has now finally broken down into four groupings: the new West Indies Federation with its capital in Barbados, the independent states of Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago, and British Guiana fighting for its independence. One important change in the announcement concerning the new Little Seven Federation is that income tax will now be a matter in the hands of the Federal Government. The details of the crucial question of a Customs Union and Free Trade Area are still to be decided. Nevertheless the tendency towards unification among the West Indian people persists.

\* These reports are all taken from the West Indies News Service.  
For literature on the West Indies, write for a list to:  
W.I.S.U., 1, Collingham Gardens, London, S.W.5.

LESS SALES- MORE PROFITS; MORE SALES - LESS PROFITS. COMPLAINT IN PRAVDA

A discussion is taking place in the pages of Pravda about how production must be planned and what should be the link between the supplier and the consumer and what is to be considered the main thing in the enterprise's economic activity. An article entitled "Demand, Quality and the Plan" by M. Kuznetsova writing for the officials of the Bolshevichka Production Association of Moscow appeared in Pravda recently. It had this to say: "First of all, a few words about the work of most garment enterprises is now planned. A draft of the new plan is composed prior to the next economic year on the basis of the level achieved. In it the assortment and the gross commodity and market output are set down. The draft is handed over to the garment industry administration of the economic region's economic council. And it "releases" the ratified plan to the garment workers. Let us say that one such plan prescribed: "In 1964 the Bolshevichka Association must make 100,000 suits of high quality" And high quality suits means expensive suits. They are priced at 140 to 200 rubles. So we assembled the representatives of the trade organisations and told them: "Accept 100,000 suits of high quality" And the trade organisations were compelled to distribute all 100,000 suits among their stores. As you see the stores found themselves in an unenviable position. Nor was ours any better. The way we obtained the textiles was precisely the same as the way we disposed of our ready made output. So there we were, delivering to the counters suits that enjoyed no demand made of obsolete fabrics in depressing colours. They gather dust on the shelves, then were sold at reduced prices. The state lost tens of millions of rubles on this, but the summaries and the records showed that the enterprise had fulfilled the plan for accumulations, and the trade depots sent it money regardless of whether or not the goods had been sold.

...A showroom for the sale of semi-finished goods was opened at a factory. An almost ready to wear suit could be purchased there, and a master tailor would then sew the final stitches according to the purchaser's measurements. On the basis of sales results in the showroom, we drew conclusions as to what our people like and what they do not. ....The right has been granted to us to compose plans on the basis of orders from the trade organisations and to determine for ourselves the volume of production, the volume of output sales, the necessary materials and wage fund. The only report indices now are the volume of output sold on orders and the % of return, i.e., the profit. Now it is not the economic council that imposes the assortment on us, but we who inform the economic council of what we are going to be making in our shops.

....When calculations were made, it was learned that our gross output would decrease by 70,000 rubles as compared with the preceeding plan. The profit rate for the 2nd half year, as previously confirmed, amounted to 9%, but the profit rate calculated according to the orders was 5.6%. At the moment it was learned in the economic council and other depts. that the profitability of production after the shift to new conditions would be somewhat lower than provided for in the plan, voices could be heard saying, "Look at the harm done by planning from orders!" For example, representatives of the USSR Ministry of Finance arrived at the association. They sat around for about a week and studied indices from past and present. And although we offered to discuss our temporary tribulations with them, these representatives refused to participate in such a conversation.

....The index that was confirmed last year took absolutely no account of the probable volume of sales of the output as elaborated by the association. The 9% inscribed in the plan is paper profit, since much of the output gathered dust in the warehouses and store shelves. But the 5.6% profit that was determined after the receipts of orders reflects the real state of affairs.