

International Bulletin

Vol. 1. No. 34

Price Threepence

Aug 17th 1962

SPATE OF STRIKES SHOWS FIGHTING SPIRIT OF BRITISH WORKERS

As the holiday season draws to a close a whole series of small strikes has followed in its wake. The issues vary; the size varies from the Avonmouth docks strike, which completely stopped that port, to that of the strike of 26 drillers and lathe hands at the Wednesbury Tube Co. Ltd.; Some were unofficial (like the Avonmouth one) others official (as was the Wednesbury dispute); but they all shared one thing in common: the determination of workers not to be pushed around. This mood of refusing to give up positions and conditions won in the period when there was a 'sellers' market' in the labour field, and of even going forward for new demands in the field of labour/management relations, augurs well for the coming period. Coming in a period when all over the country thousands of workers face the threat of sack, in the aircraft industry, railway workshops, mining, shipyards, etc., it means that the stage is set for big industrial battles.

Some of the actions are of quite a high level of consciousness, for example, the banning of overtime and working to rule by 5,000 A.T. & E. workers at the Edge Lane works of that factory as a protest against the sacking of 50 workers at a smaller factory of that firm. Others represent the attempt by workers to impose the 'normal' worker/management relations in sectors where unionisation is still far from complete, as was the victorious work-to-rule (and banning of overtime) of Sainsbury's factory workers in London, designed to force the management to recognise the union (U.S.D.A.W.). The latter was significant too, because of the solidarity of workers organised in other unions - electricians, lorry drivers, etc. The struggles covered (and are still covering in some cases) many parts of the country - from Kincardine and Renfrew in Scotland, to Kent and Bristol in the South; from the shipbuilding towns of Barrow and Sunderland, to the Midland towns of Birmingham, Bilston and Coventry.

Trade union bureaucrats' attitudes ranged from strike-breaking activities of the E.T.U. and the T.G.W.U. officials in the Kincardine and Avonmouth disputes to that of the Vehicle Builders in the Fisher & Ludlow demarcation dispute (where union officials 'aided and abetted' their men). A nasty impression was left by the refusal of the local T.G.W.U. official to intervene in the strike of coloured workers in a Luton Plastics firm who claimed that the firm was operating a colour bar in the way in which they cut wages by up to £4 per week. No one disputes that wages are being cut to this amount and the firm's statement that it is just coincidence that only coloured workers are affected seems very flimsy. Instead of a rigid application of the Union's rule-book the local T.G.W.U. official would have been well advised to rigidly apply his Union's policy of militant opposition to wage-cutting and colour bar.

All these little strikes are symptomatic of what Trotsky called a molecular process which is taking place. They are part and parcel of the new, and very unapathetic, attitude which is arising in bigger and bigger sections of the working class. They are a parallel to the swing away from the Tories in the electoral field. They show that the working class will respond to a militant lead, a fact which not be lost on many people (including 'left' trade union bureaucrats whose position is being undermined by the present, but only commencing, process of rationalisation in British industry - private and nationalised). They show on the other hand that a basic strategy is lacking, and this remains to be thrashed out. A policy of action, both realisable and combative, would evoke a response from big sections of the workers. Marxists must contribute in this way, we must say that the fight should not be about the size of severance pay, but about the length of the working week; not about how to get the Government to provide contracts but about how to get a Government which will be committed to a policy of no unemployment; if a boss says he is making a loss, let us reply: we are very sorry for you and propose to relieve ^{you} of your burden by putting into a power a Government with a policy of nationalisation. To participate fully in the process of working out such a strategy is one aspect of the duty of marxists, the other, and often neglected, is that of building the instrument ^{which} will enable this policy to be become the property of the workers. To that we will return.

HELP THIS HERO

Anyone who has been in the forces will know what heroism is required to stand up to the military authorities and openly express radical ideas. This week's Tribune and Peace News carry the story of R.A.F. technician Brian McGhee who is facing a court martial as a result of his C.N.D. activities. We should use these exposures and do all in our power to mobilise support for McGhee. Young Socialist branches in particular should campaign on this issue, he faces two years imprisonment and deserves every bit of solidarity action which can be mobilised.

THE STRUGGLE IN THE AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY AGAINST NUCLEAR WEAPONS

The following report is from International, organ of the Australian Section of the Fourth International, of 15th July: Ed. Note.

In the recent session of Federal Parliament, the Menzies Government passed a regulation giving the United States Government the right to establish a base at Exmouth Gulf, Western Australia, for submarine communications. By this action the Government makes very real the threat of having Australia turned into a nuclear base and invites this country's annihilation as a No.1 target area. This proposed base is more than a nuclear base. Rather it is to be the nerve centre and control headquarters of a whole chain of nuclear weapon carriers. Under its direction will be the submarines, each carrying 16 Polaris missiles.

By use of a low frequency range, transmitted signals can be received by submarines operating at great depths and the Polaris submarines do not have to surface to fire their deadly missiles. The transmitted signals tell the submarines where to go and enables them to accurately fix their position, necessary if their missiles are to reach their target hundreds of miles away.

There is no question that the Menzies' Government is obedient to the dictates of U.S. imperialism. Of great importance to the Australian people is the development of Labor Party policy on nuclear weapons and related questions, since Labor speaks for the great mass of the workers and is the present governmental alternative to Menzies and Co. On May 9, the Executive of the Federal Parliamentary took a big step forward in its declaration that the government:

"should assure the United Nations that Australia, in its desires to make the Southern Hemisphere a nuclear-free zone, will renounce nuclear tests, stock piling and bases on Australian soil."

When the recommendation came before the Federal Labor Party caucus it was referred to the Federal Executive of the Party for determination. Then a speech by the Federal Parliamentary Labour Party leader, Mr. A Calwell showed he was taking an attitude in opposition to unqualified repudiation of any moves to make Australia a base for testing and stock piling.

Before the end of May the Labor Council of New South Wales by resolution called for Southern Hemisphere nations to meet in conference with the object of abolishing a nuclear-free Southern Hemisphere and, significantly, rejected the Commonwealth Government's refusal to give to the United Nations an undertaking not to acquire nuclear weapons, or to allow such weapons in its territories on behalf of other countries - and rejected the policy of the Government endorsing a resumption of nuclear tests.

Next came the Annual Conference of the two biggest Branches of the A.L.P. New South Wales and Victoria, on June 2-4. At the New South Wales Conference discussion of these vital issues was prevented although the platform made it clear that officers would oppose any unilateral repudiation of nuclear weapons by Australia. After a long debate the Victorian Branch Conference resolved by a large majority in favour of the Southern Hemisphere being made a nuclear-free zone and also accepted an amendment by Dr. J. Cairns, M.P., that Australia should undertake not to allow the conduct of nuclear tests nor the establishment of nuclear bases and stockpiles on Australian soil.

Mr. G. Bryant, M.P., in support said that Australia should be prepared to take the leadership in the world to ban nuclear weapons. On 23rd June the State Executive of the N.S.W. Branch assumed the function of the recently-concluded ruling body, the Annual Conference, and set out its attitude in a resolution rejecting the principle of unilateral nuclear disarmament as "impracticable". On July 4, the Federal Executive set out a somewhat ambiguous position which is the authoritative declaration until the Federal Conference set down for May 1963. It set down as an objective the establishment of the Southern Hemisphere as a nuclear-free zone, much to the chagrin of the capitalist press and other arms of reaction such as the D.L.P. (the so-called Democratic Labor Party - a right wing catholic action break away from the A.L.P.: Ed. Note).

While endorsing the above mentioned speech of Mr. Calwell, it stated that the various propositions considered by the Parliamentary Party Executive were, by and large, embraced by policy approved by succeeding conferences since 1955 and that the documents considered by the Parliamentary Party could have been combined. Included in these propositions was the one renouncing nuclear tests, stock-piling and bases on Australian soil.

continued over/

While an addition proposed by the Victorian Branch delegates, Messrs. J.V. Stout and R. Brebner, for unconditional banning of the weapon was defeated, it will be appreciated that no declaration of opposition to a unilateralist position was written into the Federal Executive declaration.

Thus the struggle proceeds to rally mass support for the position of the Victorian Branch with the perspective of securing a Federal Conference stand next May declaring for unilateral action by Australia. New South Wales items for Conference Agenda are to be in the hands of the N.S.W. Branch Secretary by 24th October 1962. This is a matter of life or death for the Australian people and the Labor Party left wing carries a heavy responsibility.

Y.C.N.D. RE-ESTABLISHED IN NOTTINGHAM

by V. (Nottingham)

A meeting to re-establish a Youth for the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament group in Nottingham on Monday 13th August was attended by over 20 people. A provisional committee was elected and future activities discussed. These are: the establishment of a "Y.C.N.D. coffee club" every Monday night at a Nottingham coffee bar (the management of this coffee bar have since given permission), public meetings every Sunday evening in the Old Market Square, fortnightly educational meetings.

The proposal to establish the Y.C.N.D. coffee club (perhaps the best substitute for a Left Coffee Bar) was met with enthusiasm by a sizable contingent of young workers who promised to bring down their mates from work and youth clubs. Such a meeting place will provide an excellent opportunity for the Young Socialists to turn up, sell Young Guards, and recruit people into the Labour Party. Such a meeting place will also allow us to sow the ideological seeds of a schism within the Y.C.L. which is supporting the new group.

It is essential that our comrades in the Young Socialists should give serious, active, support to this new group, a benefit not accorded to previous Y.C.N.D. groups. Support involves not merely lip-service, and marching in C.N.D. demonstrations, but helping in canvassing, serving on their committees and giving an urgently needed ideological lead at meetings. We should aim to gain their respect so that they turn to us for a lead when problems arise. Should we do this I am sure we can persuade them that work in the Labour Party is the answer to their ever-increasing bewilderment at the impotence of C.N.D..

NOTTINGHAM BOROUGH LABOUR PARTY CALLS FOR CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN LABOUR

At a special meeting called to consider the resolutions which had been submitted for the Annual Conference an amendment was moved to an existing resolution on the Common Market. The amendment calls for a conference of European workers organisations regardless of religious or political creed to consider the situation created by the Common Market and drawing up a plan of action to combat any attack on workers conditions or positions.

Also at the meeting battle was done over the nomination of Ernie Roberts for the constituency section of the N.E.C., the chairman and secretary tried to maintain that it was out of order to make the nomination as Ernie is a trade unionist. The proposers pointed out that this was irrelevant (and in fact nearly all the present members of the N.E.C. are active trade unionists including those on the constituency section, e.g. Ian Mikardo) after some argument the issue was put to a vote, and there was a big majority for nominating Ernie Roberts. (Ed. note: we understand that in at least one other C.L.P. the nomination of Ernie Roberts was prevented by similar arguments to those used at this meeting - this suggests some kind of campaign by the right wing)

CENTRAL NOTTINGHAM C.L.P. CALLS FOR SUPPORT FOR FENNER BROCKWAY'S BILL

At its meeting to consider the resolutions for Annual Conference, the Central Nottingham C.L.P. passed unanimously an amendment to an existing resolution on Fascism. The amendment calls for a campaign for the passing of Fenner Brockway's Bill to outlaw racist activity as part of a campaign using the whole labour movement against the resurgence of Fascism.

At the same meeting the delegate to the Annual Conference was mandated to vote left on almost every important issue: support for the resolutions opposing the N.E.C. undemocratic practices, support for workers management of nationalised industries, for nationalisation of land and the building trades, for nationalisation of I.C.I. (and all other basic industries), for reaffirming opposition to all tests, etc., etc. and against the proposed 'association' amendment.

PERU STUDENTS EXPLAIN BANK ROBBERY

(The following is the text of a letter sent to the press by three students who participated in a bank holdup during the recent election in Peru).

Rio de Janeiro, April 21, 1962. To the workers, campesinos, students of our country: To our dear and unforgettable comrades of the Engineering School: To our friends, parents, brothers and sisters:

Having already accomplished the task which as revolutionary militants we set for ourselves, completely safe from persecution by the police, since when you receive this we shall already be in Colombia, we want to give you all the reasons for our attitude and for the creation of our organisation

Our people are among the most miserable and exploited of the whole world. Malnutrition, tuberculosis, inhuman exploitation, unemployment, and illiteracy accompany the Peruvian from the cradle to the grave. The other side of the coin is the foreign and native bankers and businessmen who reap their harvest, winning riches and luxuries on the basis of exploiting our fellow workers.

The July 26 movement in its time gave an example to all the peoples of America of how to rise against a regime that exploited the country. Fidel's uprising was carried out against all the opinion of the traditional left which held that it was necessary to wait until the masses rose and took up arms. Various peoples of America are already following Fidel's footsteps, "replacing the arms of criticism with the criticism of arms." These are Venezuela, Colombia, Guatemala, and Paraguay.

In our country, the traditional left - Communists, Socialists, Trotskyists - with distinct variations, in whose ranks some of us have fought so that we gained close knowledge of their people and their line, continue to hold the same opinions as in Cuba before the defeat of Batista: now is not the time for action.

In order to propose passivity and coexistence in face of the regime, they advance various pretexts: the FLN (National Liberation Front of Peru) and the Communist Party say that objective conditions do not exist for the revolution.

The Socialists and the Social Progressives have a positive program. But in participating in the current election they bring doubts to mind. All those who utilise revolutionary declarations to win seats in parliament, are they revolutionists or opportunists?

The FIR (Left Revolutionary Front), the Trotskyists and the various workers parties even having Trotskyist leaders, make brilliant and revolutionary analyses of the present regime but believe that you have to wait until the masses go into action by themselves while we, the revolutionists, stay with them and lead them. When will they realise that the masses of our country at the present time are not ready for struggle, and that consequently they have to be given an example?

All these reasons brought to us the conviction that it was necessary to constitute a new organisation which we have called the TUPAC AMARU and whose first manifestation you already know.

Our next one will be to struggle with the guerrilla fighters of our Colombian and Venezuelan brothers in order to learn in action how to struggle and to die to liberate our dear Peruvian country and its working people. But in order not to go with empty hands we have recuperated from the bankers - thieves and swindlers of the public - a bit of what they have stolen from us.

This money will be utilised to give an impulse to the revolutionary struggle of the Latin-American peoples.

Fellow patriots, heroic descendants of Tupac Amaru, if we should die in our enterprise, we are sure that we have blazed the trail which other students, workers and campesinos will follow - that of the definitive liberation of all the Peruvians and of our dear country.

Long live Peru ! Long live the Peruvian Revolution ! Death to Imperialism !
Down with the oligarchy, International Petroleum, the Cerro de Pasco Corporation and the bosses !

To the revolutionists, and the exploited of Peru, a fraternal embrace.

(Signed) Jorge Tamayo Flores, Oscar Joel Silva Espino,
Fernando Lopez Aliago Ledesma.

COMMENT BY MILITANT OF AUGUST 13, 1963

In an editorial on the above letter it the following to say (for space reasons we reproduce extracts only):

After giving some of the factual details, that the robbery took place in a suburb of Lima, during the election campaign (which had as its conclusion the takeover by the military) and that something like \$100,000 had been stolen, it says:

"3 of the participants sent a letter, which was mailed from Rio de Janeiro, to the well-known Lima newspaper, Expresso, admitting the deed and explaining that it was a political act; the money being destined for guerilla fighters... The 3 participants..... were young engineering students with brilliant scholastic records. They said that they belonged to a revolutionary organisation named Tupac Amaru in honor of the heroic Cuzco Indian who led a rebellion of 70,000 against the Spaniards in 1780. By the time their letter appeared, they added, they would be safe in Colombia. However, it turned out that they were still in Peru and the police managed to locate them. In Cuzco, in the heart of the peasant area, the police also arrested others, charging them with involvement. Front page stories said that 424,000 soles (about \$16,300) were recovered when this group was taken into
continued over/

The following report is extracted from the American Magazine Newsweek of August 6th. Ed. Note.

In Massachusetts, where the bitter battle between the Kennedy, McCormack and Lodge dynasties is in full swing, the political surprise of the year erupted last week when upwards of 125,000 signatures petitioning a place on the November ballot for an independent candidate for the U.S. Senate were filed with city and town clerks. H. Stuart Hughes, grandson of late Chief Justice of the United States Charles Evan Hughes, Harvard history professor, and candidate of the state's major peace and disarmament groups, had accomplished the impossible.

Using about 1,500 canvassers, mostly women and college students who belong to the Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy and Political Action for Peace, Hughes easily had garnered the 72,514 valid signatures of voters needed to earn a place on the ballot as the first statewide independent candidate since 1948, when the supporters of Henry A. Wallace put him on the state ballot for president.

EGGHEAD APPEAL: Hughes appeal in the suburbs (in South Hadley he received 3,500 signatures, representing one out of every six voters) and his popularity had Kennedy Democrats particularly concerned. If Edward Kennedy, the President's brother, does on Sept. 18 as handicappers expect and wins the Democratic primary for the Senate nomination from State Attorney General Edward McCormack, nephew of U.S. House Speaker John McCormack, the egghead, liberal wing of Massachusetts Democrats might well defect to Hughes. And Republican chances would be greatly helped. (the Republican candidate will be the winner of the primary between George Lodge, son of former Sen. Henry Cabot Lodge, and Rep. Lawrence Curtis.)

A self-styled "unrepentant liberal," Hughes operates from a pamphlet-crammed headquarters in a gray, three-story building just off Harvard Square in Cambridge. He doesn't expect to win - though it is not impossible - but he believes his campaign will make Democrats and Republicans face issues. Among them: Ending nuclear testing, disarmament, and recognition of Red China.

EUGENE DEBS MEMORIAL

from Militant of 13/8/62

The Eugene V. Debs Foundation, organised in 1961 by a group of Indiana State College teachers, has purchased the Debs home in Terre Haute (a coal mining and agricultural town in Indiana, U.S.A.) and is restoring it as a memorial to the great socialist leader. Debs received nearly 1,000,000 votes for U.S. president in 1920 while in federal prison for his opposition to the imperialist war.

ROBERTS WILLIAMS ON RADIO HAVANA

from Militant of 13/8/62

Afro-American leader Robert F. Williams, who escaped into exile... from framed-up kidnap charges by police and KKK elements in Monroe, North Carolina, has announced a series of weekly radio broadcasts beginning July 27.

Williams said his program, "Radio Free Dixie," will be broadcast over a 50,000 watt, long-wave station, 690 on the radio dial, and will be heard every Friday night from 11 p.m. to midnight, Eastern Standard Time (5 hours behind Greenwich mean time). It will consist of commentary, interviews, news, Jazz and Afro-American folklore.

Peruvian students bank robbery continued/

custody after a gun battle. Some of them had been known as prominent Peruvian Trotskyists, but now adhered to the Tupac Amaru organisation. Those arrested included A.P. Perez, an Argentinian who had previously been deported from Peru for revolutionary political activities, J.M. Soto, a Spanish revolutionary who lives in Venezuela, A.Finken, V.A. Sanchez, R.R. Luna, J.N. Marchand, S. Jimenez, R.T. Zagarra, and L.B. Barrantes, a Peruvian poet. According to information received by the Militant, the police beat the young revolutionaries upon arresting them and then after throwing them into cells, used torture. No more money was rediscovered through such means, however. One of the students insisted that it had 'all been spent.'

".....Although the Peruvian Trotskyist movement is split into various currents, all of them would probably agree with the attitude towards the holdup expressed by Ismael Frias, editor of Obrero y Campesino....he held that any action undertaken in isolation from the masses is an 'adventure', but at the same time he offered his 'full moral solidarity to those who act in accordance with revolutionary motives even though we reject their methods as mistaken.' Actions of this kind in which anger at social injustice and fervor for change lead inexperienced fighters to attempt to by-pass an unfavourable relations of forces, are bound to occur where objective conditions for revolution are ripe...and where a powerful mass revolutionary socialist party does not yet exist. But revolutionists will learn from their mistakes....and turn more and more toward what is most essential: the construction of a party (in which the youth) can find the means adequate to the task."

The Kessingland campaign is gathering momentum very rapidly. Every day enquiries are pouring in, and in the past weeks there have been 12 from Glasgow 6 from Renfrew, 3 from Italy (including one from Sicily), 1 from Belgium and one from Austria, and others from Thurrock, Ilford, Yarmouth, and South Wales. Registrations are coming in much faster, and since our last report they have come in from Harlow (2), Nottingham (3), Ilford, Prescot, Yarmouth, Glasgow (2), Kenton, Cheltenham and London (4).

The big drag now is that very many people are holding back the money which completes their payment. This creates all hell for the camp organisers, who have to square the camp owners with all kinds of nebulous promises. The owners naturally think that they provides services for money not promises.

The new provisional programme is appended; readers will note that it includes an arrangement with the Yarmouth Young Socialists to join in with their cavalcade on the Saturday.

Provisional programme

<u>Saturday, 8th September</u>	a.m. E.P. Thompson p.m. Henry Collins	} Reform or Revolution?
There will be a break in the afternoon to allow people to participate in a motor cavalcade organised by the Yarmouth Young Socialists.		
<u>Sunday, 9th September</u>	a.m. Ernie Roberts p.m. Claude Bourdet	Power in the Labour Party. European Reaction and the Common Market.
<u>Monday, 10th September</u>	a.m. John Rex p.m. Mike Kidron Tony Cliff	Imperialism's Last-ditch stand. Democracy and Development. Russia and the cold war.
<u>Tuesday, 11th September</u>	a.m. Ralph Miliband p.m. Ernest Mandel	Reform and Revolution in the Under-developed world. The growth of the left in the European Welfare states.
	Evening: Seminars on Cuba and Algeria led by Eric Hobsbawn and John Baird M.P.	
<u>Wednesday, 12th September</u>	a.m. John Hughes p.m. John C. Daniels	The Industrial movement in Britain. Socialism and education.
<u>Thursday, 13th September</u>	a.m. Alan Lovell p.m. Ken Coates	The peace movement in Britain - what next? Socialism and the Labour Party.
<u>Friday, 14th September</u>	a.m. Symposium	The future of Socialism - Reform or Revolution?

Normally there are three sessions every day: - 9.30 to 12.30 in the mornings
2.15 to 4.00 in the afternoons
5.00 to 6.45 in the evening

Where the programme includes less than three items, the exact timing will be settled by decision of the school. Informal seminars will be arranged for those who wish to attend them in the open periods.

Film Programme: The Battleship Potemkin, by Eisenstein; Westfront 1918, by Pabst; Walk to Freedom, the film of the Alabama bus strike against racial discrimination; Strike, by Eisenstein; Under this same sky, the film of the Warsaw Ghetto; We are the Lambeth Boys, by Karel Reisz; Cuba - Island Aflame, the Russian film about Cuba; The German Story; Its a Grand Life, the Polish satire. Other films, including an Indian documentary on Ghandi, and a new film on the General Strike in Belgium, will also be shown.

STOP PRESS ITEMS

NIENNI SOCIALIST YOUTH TO PARTICIPATE: We have just been informed that a telegram has been received confirming the participation of the Nenni Socialist Party Youth organisation. Two members of the national leadership of the movement are to take part by attending.

BELGIUM SOCIALIST MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT HOPES TO COME: An enquiry has been received from a well-known Belgian Socialist M.P. as to whether he can make a provisional booking for the camp as he is not quite certain he can attend. Similar enquiries have been received from socialists from the U.S.A. and Canada.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE TO REGISTER: Some comrades are under the mistaken impression that it is too late to register for Kessingland. This is not the case, although it is advisable to do so as soon as possible as the camp owners need to know the exact number of people coming well before the camp.