

# Socialist Outlook

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## IT'S A RICH MAN'S BUDGET FOR WAR

### The Poorer You Are—The Harder You're Hit!

"A CRUEL underhand blow at the poorest families of all" . . . "rob the poor to support the rich" . . . "£2,500 a year gains £1 6s. per week" . . . "nest egg for the city is equal to three times the value of all the family allowance increases put together".

That's how Butler's budget is described in an excellent leaflet from Transport House entitled "The Meanest Budget in British History".

We have no desire to try and improve on this description of the effects of the budget on working-class families. But where the leaflet stops, the real problem really begins—namely, *What to do about it?*

Budgeting for a £5,200,000,000 arms expenditure—as Mr. Gaitskell discovered—means goodbye to the Welfare State. You have deliberately to reduce the purchasing power of the workers to effect a "smooth"

re-conversion of industry for war. So long as the workers have money to spend they will create a demand for useful things like food, clothing and houses. All these things are considered "unessential" in an arms drive. The Budget therefore sets out to mop up what they call "inflationary demand" by deliberately allowing prices to rise, charging for health services, restricting credit (by raising the Bank Rate) and creating unemployment.

Mr. Butler says that the workers can offset rising prices, by . . . *working longer hours!* Reduced income tax is supposed to provide the incentive to overtime working. But there's no overtime on the dole. As unemployment develops so will increased competition develop among the workers for jobs—even for jobs in the arms factories. If anybody believes that the Tories won't take advantage of this to try and cut wages, they don't know a good Tory when they see one.

#### WHAT TO DO NOW

The workers' answer to this Budget is simple. The ruinous arms programme must be abolished. Industry must be turned over to the production of things the workers need. Millions of people want all the cloth that slump-ridden Lancashire can produce. Trade with Russia, China and the Colonies must be the alternative to a new cut-throat competition for a declining capitalist market.

The State must advance long term credits to these countries. If we don't get paid immediately for the exports, at least we shall know that our labour is being used to build non-capitalist and non-competitive economies. At the present moment we get nothing in return for the labour spent on armaments. It may as well have been thrown into the sea.

Will a Tory Government adopt such a programme? Never in a thousand years! Conclusion—use every means in our power to throw out the Tories and return Labour pledged to abolish the burden of a capitalist arms drive.

#### "LIBERATED"



Answering Mrs. Cooper (see article below), General Ridgeway, the man who is so brutalised that he named his war in Korea "Operation Meat Grinder", said: "Why are we in Korea? I think the question discredits him who asks it."

## But there are TWO Americas

**WITCH-HUNTING.** The American socialist weekly *The Militant* reports this example of the witch-hunt.

All the penny candy vending machines in Wheeling, W.Va., were confiscated by vigilant police after it was discovered that along with chewing gum balls some of the machines now and then dispensed "subversive" prizes. These prizes were postage stamp size emblems of 16 different countries—including Soviet Russia. On one side was a hammer and sickle and on the other side appeared the subtle propaganda: "U.S.S.R., population 211,000,000, capital Moscow." City Manager Plummer ordering the machines confiscated, declared: "This is a terrible thing to expose our children to."

But not all Americans are witch-hunters. Those who suffer at the hands of the witch-hunters, and those whose sons and husbands are being slaughtered in Korea are an ever-growing army.

**NO PURPLE HEART.** Mrs. Donna Cooper, of Memphis, Tenn., spoke for that army, the other America, the America of the working class, when

she returned a medal awarded to her son, a machine-gunner killed in action in Korea.

To President Truman she wrote these bitter words:

"Today I buried my first-born, my son . . . I can find no place among his memories for the Purple Heart or the scroll. I am returning it to you with this thought—to me he is a symbol of the 109,000 men who have been sacrificed in the needless slaughter, a so-called police action that has not and could never have been satisfactorily explained to patriotic Americans . . . I cannot mar his memory by a medal and stereotyped words that fail to promise a better tomorrow for the ones that he and others have died for . . ."

To the American rulers who are dragging the world into war, British Labour must be opposed tooth and nail. But to Mrs. Cooper and the great American working class, we must strive to weld a bond of friendship, Socialist friendship, that will finally topple over all the war-mongers throughout this grief-stricken world.

## 'Socialist Outlook' is NOT proscribed THE END OF A RUMOUR

WE are happy to inform our readers that the rumour which has been freely circulating inside the Labour Movement to the effect that the *Socialist Outlook* is, or was soon to become, a "proscribed organisation" is a rumour now without foundation.

On March 10th we addressed a letter to the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party asking for their comments on a public statement made by Mr. P. Cavanaugh, of the National Agent's Department that " . . . while the *Socialist Outlook* has not been proscribed . . . further consideration is now being given to this publication by the N.E.C. . . . and . . . I have reason to believe that the *Socialist Outlook* will be placed on the list of proscribed organisations."

On March 27th we received a reply from Mr. A. L. Williams, the National Agent, informing us that our letter was considered by the N.E.C. who had decided to take no further action in this matter of proscription.

We have also received a written apology from Mr. Cavanaugh for his statement made to the Atherton College of the N.C.L.C. that the *Socialist Outlook* is the official organ of the "Socialist Fellowship". We appreciate his honest retraction of an incorrect and misleading statement.

It should now be clear to all that the *Socialist Outlook* is not, and never was, the organ of the "Socialist Fellowship"—nor is it in any way proscribed by the Labour Party.

We should like here to express our sincere thanks to all those Labour Party members and working class organisations who, on hearing of the possible proscription of our paper, vigorously protested to the N.E.C. or to their own Trade Union Executives.

Finally, now that the confusion has been cleared up regarding the standing of the *Socialist Outlook* inside the Labour Party, we appeal to all our readers to re-double their efforts to make the new FORTNIGHTLY *Socialist Outlook* an even greater success than the Monthly. With your continued support and vigilance we feel confident of being able to produce a WEEKLY *Socialist Outlook* before 1953.

Jack Stanley (Chairman)  
Tom Mercer (Secretary)

For the Management Committee  
Labour Publishing Society, Ltd.

## Bevan dispute is part of world-wide resistance to war plans

**WORKING class opposition to the Tory Government is shifting the Labour Party to the Left. The economic consequences of re-armament—mounting prices and unemployment—is creating a deep anti-war feeling at the base of the Labour Movement.**

When, therefore, Hugh Gaitskell declares that "the rearmament programme must on no account be reduced" he now speaks for

only a very small section of the Party.

On the other hand, when Aneurin Bevan demands a reduction in the Arms Bill, accuses the Americans of "preparing ideological war with weapons against the Soviet Union" and warns that "not one British soldier, sailor or airman would risk his life for a policy of that kind", he undoubtedly speaks for the great majority of the workers.

That is why Mr. Attlee's attempt to muzzle him, after the revolt of the 57 M.P.s, was such a dramatic failure.

When the working class base of the Party is moving to the left, it is not easy to carry right-wing motions—not even with the sup-

ported in this discussion is the relationship of British Labour to the world struggle for socialism and peace. We cannot have an anti-Tory policy at home and a pro-Tory policy abroad.

The shift to the left in the Labour Party—important though it is in itself—is only part of an international resistance to war which, over the past few months, has been greatly strengthened.

Re-armament in Germany and France means for the German and French workers exactly what re-armament in Britain means for the British workers—a sharp decline in living standards. The political consequences too, are the same.

"The trade union rebellion against re-armament is in full swing" writes the *New York Times*. "At a recent conference in Dusseldorf speaker after speaker rose to denounce the national (T.U.) leadership for having accepted re-armament."

In France the story is the same. As soon (continued col. 1, page 2)

### Editorial

port of Arthur Deakin and the hysterical leader-writer of the *Daily Herald*.

It is in this sense that we are entitled to speak of Aneurin Bevan's victory over Attlee and Morrison as a victory for the working class wing of the Party.

#### WHAT NEXT FOR LABOUR?

Following this dispute in the leadership, the Labour Party is being compelled to reconsider all its old policies. "Opposition" to the Tory Government which is reduced to saying that Churchill—of all people!—is unfitted to spend £5,200,000,000 on armaments is ludicrous, ineffective, and unworthy of the Labour Movement.

We are now confronted with a serious policy discussion, the successful conclusion of which will require, as the supporters of Aneurin Bevan so rightly maintain, an atmosphere inside the Party free from all threats of organisational reprisals and witch-hunts.

The place to finalise this discussion is the coming October Conference which is going to be the most important in our history.

#### FIRST THINGS FIRST

In our opinion, the first thing to be deter-

### MURDERED!

Shot by Greek Fascists  
March 30th, 1952

Nicos Beloyannis  
Nicholas Kaloumenos  
Ilyas Argyriades  
Dimtrio Batsis

We Salute these four  
MARTYRS IN A SOCIALIST CAUSE

See article, page 4.

**Tax-Dodging**

# How the Wealthy Stay That Way

**MR. RALPH ASSHETON** the member for Blackburn West, but formerly Tory member for the City of London, has described Mr. Butler's handiwork as "... a brave Budget... realistic and, above all, not vindictive..." He, and all the Tory Press are now busy spreading the illusion that financial reward will now attend the deserving. But will it?

The worker—if he earns enough to pay income tax — pays it AS HE EARNs with unflinching regularity. But for Mr. Assheton's friends—the unearned income brigade—many are the ways (all quite legal) of dodging tax. Some of these tax-evasion methods are even encouraged by the income-tax authorities.

**THE LIFE-INSURANCE RACKET**

As is well-known, an income-tax allowance is granted for payments on life-insurance, it being argued that such payments reduce the amount of purchasing power competing for scarce goods (thus reducing inflation) and at the same time provides capital for industrial development.

Many people with small incomes have been in the habit of taking out a policy as an insurance against the insecurity of life under private enterprise. But now these small policy holders are being joined by an increasing number of people whose incomes are assured by gilt-edged investments (subject to super-tax!) and who are taking up insurance policies worth tens of thousands of pounds. Why?

Because, by this means, part of their income which would be subject to super-tax is now used to pay premiums on a policy re-payable at death, or after a limited period. Such repayment is made as capital AND IS NOT SUBJECT TO TAX.

**THE "LOSSES" DODGE**

Here is another neat little racket. The Inland Revenue Department does not make claims against firms making a loss, instead it allows losses which it has "agreed" to be set against the profits of a firm which buys out another with a loss.

Consequently, a brisk trade has arisen in the sale of firms which have nothing to commend them except an "agreed loss"! A number of brokers even specialise in this "business" which is no doubt considered as "essential work".

Firms with an "agreed loss" of £25,000 have been offered and sold for £5,000. The buyer being compensated by the balance of £20,000 worth of exemption from

tax for the profits of his own firm. But the real plums in this line are those firms who are able to advertise an "agreed director's loss". You see, the distribution of dividend rescued from profits tax will leave the recipient still liable to income tax. But the transfer of an "agreed director's loss" from one director to another provides exemption from income-tax also!

**THEY DON'T PAY THAT 19/6d.**

The people who derive large incomes from trust funds find it most inconvenient to pay tax at 19/6 in the pound. And the Insurance

By **ALF ROSE**  
(E.C. Member Bebington C.L.P.)

Companies have every sympathy with them. So investors can sell for a limited period those parts of their holdings yielding dividend subject to super-tax.

The money received from such sales is considered to be "return of capital" AND IS EXEMPTED FROM TAXATION.

Since the dividend-drawer would have

had to pay supertax at 95%, and the Insurance Company will have to pay profits-tax at only 30%, there is obviously plenty of scope for them to strike a bargain profitable to both.

The bonus-shares racket is based on the same conditions for its success, namely, that capital is free of tax. The release of reserve funds as bonus shares, which are regarded as capital and not taxed, has put hundreds of millions of pounds into the pockets of shareholders.

**WHY THEY GET AWAY WITH IT**

All these dodges were practised during the lifetime of the late Labour Government, and they will continue to operate to a greater or lesser extent under any Government which permits the economy to remain predominantly capitalist. It is an illusion to think that taxation alone can ensure a fair distribution of wealth.

While private ownership of industry continues to provide unearned income it will also guarantee that a great part of it will go untaxed. Only common ownership can stop up unearned income at its source, and and thus give to all a fair share of the country's wealth.

## The Issue in Local Elections



Working class flats under construction on the L.C.C.'s Lansbury Estate, Poplar.

A LETTER circulated to business-men by the Tory "London Municipal Society" (President Sir David Maxwell-Fyfe) tells how a victory for the Tories... "in this election will materially strengthen the hands of the Conservative Government in putting through the unpopular measures which are inescapable if the nation is to survive".

In plain words—if the Tories win the local elections they will be able to work hand in glove with the Tory Government to cut down expenditure on education, housing and other local services.

Decent housing conditions, such as those illustrated here, will be no more than a pleasant dream.

**So Vote Labour in all the Local Elections.**

## THE GREAT DECEPTION

By H. E. CASTENS

**PROBABLY** nothing that Butler said in his Budget speech was a lie.

Yet when he said he was putting up the price of food by 1/6 per week, and with exquisite meanness went on to underbalance the charities he dispensed to the poor against this figure, he implied that this would be the limit of harm that his Budget would do to the worker's standards.

So doing, he implied a lie, for the Budget must cause far greater harm than this.

The worker must pay for the old age pension rise with an added insurance contribution of 7½d.

The increased cost of petrol must lead to a rise in costs of goods and services adding up to nearly 6d. per head per week.

The increased bank rate raises costs every time money is borrow to pay for machinery, stocks, or labour, or to sell by hire purchase; and the total effect of this must be in the neighbourhood of 1/- per week per head.

The destruction of the utility system will raise the cost of better clothes hitherto tax free, and (by leaving the quality of the cheaper clothes to the whim of the maker) lower their quality and increase their real price.

The direct effect of the Budget on the cost of working class living will thus be nearer to 4/- per head per week than to 1/6d. Some experts say it will be 5/- All this before the health charges.

**THE LIE IN FIGURES**

Against an increased cost of 8/- per week, a couple on the old age pension get a 2/- rise.

Against an increased cost of 16/- per week, a married couple with two children (allowing for increased family allowance and income-tax reductions) will get:

- Up to an income of £8 a week ... 3/- per week.
- At an income of £10 per week ... 9/4 per week.
- At an income of £15 per week ... 19/- per week.
- At an income of £20 per week ... 24/- per week.

One reason Butler has given for cutting food subsidies was that they made a taxfree gift to the rich. So, as a moral man, he took that gift away. But was he so moral when he gave back to the rich, as tax reduction, not only what he had earlier taken from them as subsidies, but also all the subsidies he had taken from the poor?!!

Butler may indeed have told no lie, but if he goes down to history as the eighteen-penny-liar, he will have little to thank but his own sanctimonious hypocrisy and the good sense of the British worker in separating the word from the meaning.



Bevan, and not even Mr. Stalin. The credit must go, first and foremost, to those thousands of simple workers and peasants of China and Korea who, possessing little except a fierce desire to be free of foreign domination, have stood up to and halted, the better-fed, better-equipped, imperial armies of MacArthur, Ridgeway and Van Fleet. It is this resistance which has shocked the American people, caused them to question the very purpose of this "dirty war" and thus created further obstacles inside the U.S. itself, to the extension of this horrible conflict. Once that fact is recognised, Labour's official support for Ridgeway in Korea will be ended and replaced by the demand for the withdrawal of all British troops.

**CONCLUSION**

These are just some of the great questions of policy which have been raised by Aneurin Bevan's clash with the Right Wing of the Party. They must be settled at the October Conference which will give Labour a wonderful opportunity to place itself in the right camp—the camp of international labour.

The war which is being prepared against the Soviet Union, Eastern Europe and China—and which is causing this shift to the left in Britain—is not OUR war. These countries cannot be OUR enemies if they have done what we have still to do, root up the capitalist way of life. They all have economic difficulties and there are serious distortions in their forms of Government.

Bureaucracies, however, cannot flourish where there is an abundance of the good things of life—and abundance there will be, just as soon as the industrial might of the Western world is linked in a planned socialist way, to the enormous agricultural resources of Russia, China, and a liberated colonial world. That is Labour's task.

## Editorial: (from page one) Anti-War Forces Gather Strength

as the French Government attempted to raise the huge sums of money to finance its commitment to the proposed European Army... the Government fell!

Small wonder that an anxious note can be detected in the capitalist press. "The fall of the French Government" says the *New York Times*... "the growing agitation against re-armament in Germany, and the success of the lunatic fringe in driving the British Labour Party towards pacifism... are causes for concern."

You will note that the Americans regard the growth of the Left Wing in Britain, equally with the opposition to re-armament in Germany and France, as serious obstacles to their plans for war. (They will have even greater "cause for concern" when they realise that the "lunatic fringe" represents the majority of Britain's 8 million organised workers. *Some lunatic! Some fringe!*)

Isn't it time we turned our practical opposition into a conscious political one? Labour is officially committed to support re-armament. In reality, the workers have rejected this policy because of its ruinous economic consequences. Isn't it time we brought our policy officially in line with the reality by withdrawing all support for this re-armament programme?

**AMERICAN "AID"**

Implicit in a rejection of rearmament is, of course, a refusal to accept American "aid", which is designed almost exclusively for war purposes.

The so-called Military Security Act under which American aid is given is "an agree-

ment to contribute materially to the defence of the free world whenever and wherever the countries participating in the programme consider it necessary."

For this reason, no less than 10 countries have turned down such "aid" during the last few months.

The Mexican Government, for example, "considered this (M.S.A.) to mean a commitment to send their troops outside their national territories. They were not prepared to accept anything that even hinted at such an undertaking." (*New York Times*, 22/2/52).

In Indonesia, the acceptance of the terms of "Mutual Security" by the Foreign Secretary, caused a government crisis. A majority of the Cabinet, together with the two main Indonesian parties, denounced the agreement as a violation of their pledge "to conduct an active and independent foreign policy for the promotion of world peace."

As a final example, Burma. Here is a country which occupies a key position in the American plan to invade China. Chiang Kai Chek's troops are clearly there for that purpose. Realising this, and having no desire to see their country "liberated" in the Korean style, the Burmese people have forced their Government to turn down American "aid".

If millions of people in Burma, Indonesia, and Mexico have had the good sense and the courage to turn down American "aid"... why should British Labour still be committed to accept it?

**FREE THE COLONIES!**

The increasing success of all the great popular movements for national liberation in the colonies—progressive movements in themselves—are today becoming a powerful deterrent to the American rulers in launching World War Three. The situation, from the point of view of the Churchill-Truman Axis, is deteriorating.

The armies of the United Nations have failed, despite the most inhuman methods of warfare, to crush the just resistance of the Korean and Chinese peoples.

General Templar, in Malaya, is so far from restoring "law and order" that, in desperation, he has cut in half the rice ration of little Malayan children! Punishing women

and children because their men fight for the liberation of their country is reminiscent of Hitler's marches across Europe. It will have the same result—the popular movement of resistance will grow in strength and determination until Templar the Terrorist is thrown into the sea.

As for the French in Indo-China, bled white of men and materials in this hopeless attempt to defeat the anti-imperialist army of Ho Chi Mhin, they are now seriously talk of... pulling out altogether! Meanwhile, the movement for Egyptian and Sudanese independence has now been joined by a mass revolt in all the colonies of French North Africa.

If this resistance of the colonial peoples is frustrating the American plans for war, how can British Labour stand aside?

Isn't it clear that if our weight is thrown into this struggle—by agitation for the removal of all British troops from the colonies—the "concern" of the imperialists will be increased a thousandfold.

**THANK THE KOREANS**

Would such a development make the Americans so desperate that they would gamble all on an immediate declaration of war? Yes, that is possible... providing the American millionaires can be assured of the continued support of their own working class.

But should the American workers break their present alliance with Wall Street, the difficulties confronting American Imperialism would be almost insurmountable, paralysing its drive for world domination.

Today there are definite signs of such a development in America. The letter of the American mother (published on page one) is an indication of the changing mood of the American workers. As the casualties mount up among the G.I.'s in Korea, so the patriotic fumes grow less dense in America. The shape of the real American worker—the worker who organised those great union struggles in the '30's—is beginning to emerge. And he doesn't look a bit like his American boss, but just like a working man of any nationality.

Who is responsible for this most significant development? Not Mr. Attlee, not Mr.

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# POLICY and LEADERSHIP - A PRACTICAL PROBLEM

By Phillip Williams

**HOW can we change the present policy of the Labour Party and replace the present right wing leadership with people who will operate a full socialist policy?**

These are questions which require practically no less than political answers. They cannot be dealt with simply by passing resolutions or making occasional speeches. The left wing must adopt a more consistent perspective of work politically and organisationally if this is to be achieved.

## THE TRADE UNIONS

Every member of the Labour Party should, according to the Constitution, be a member of a trade union. One hears repeatedly inside C.L.P.s that "trade unionists are inactive in the Labour Party", but it is also an unfortunate fact that many members of the Labour Party are inactive inside the unions. This is the first big mistake.

We cannot do serious political work in the Labour Party unless we are active trade unionists, and the trade union rank and file, no matter how hard it fights on the industrial field, will make slow progress unless it participates to the fullest extent inside the Labour Party.

**Shop stewards and factory militants must pack the C.L.P. Management Committees no less than the union branches.**

The trade unions today are in the forefront of the struggle against the Tory cuts. On the factory floor there is complete unanimity on the need to resist—the only trouble is that the Labour Party, which is the only political instrument capable of achieving this, remains in the hands of people who in many cases have never been inside a factory in their lives!

Yet there exists machinery to alter all this. Every union branch can actively work within its local C.L.P. It is only necessary to see that the affiliation fees are paid and that reliable delegates, genuinely representing the opinions of the branch, are in regular attendance. Union branch delegates to the C.L.P.s hold a job of first-class importance.

## LIAISON NEEDED

To assist this work forward, each C.L.P. should, if it has not done so already, appoint a trade union liaison officer whose job it would be to check up on the unions which meet in the locality and see to it that they are represented on the Management Committee.

He must also be familiar with the situation in the local factories, urging the shop stewards to see to it that their members become active Labour Party workers in the district where they live. These are jobs which can be started right away, and needless to say the trade union liaison officer should be a person who understands the trade union movement.

Unity between the trade union and L.P. rank-and-file means almost inevitably a *strong left wing combination*. It means that a breath of the class struggle blows through the Party meetings, thereby sorting out the careerists and bureaucrats. This unity must now be realised in matters of policy.

## THE BLOCK VOTE

Each year the trade union block vote strikes terror into the minds of C.L.P. members. They understandably criticise the right

wing leaders who hold this vote, but, unfortunately, they fail to see that in reality it rests on shifting sand.

To change Party policy, Labour's left wing must start with union conferences. This is why trade union activity is so essential. Resolutions must be pushed forward to a successful conclusion on the conference floor of Union conferences and then must be tabled for Labour's Annual Conference.

When the time comes for the C.L.P. to adopt a conference resolution, its members must not proceed in an individual way, imagining that they, and they alone, have the solution to all problems. They must study carefully the progressive decisions of union conferences and then frame resolutions which embody these.

This will enable the C.L.P. delegates to contact the unions concerned at the Annual Party Conference. Thus begins the first great step in utilising the block vote for socialism—united action, all along the line, between the unions and C.L.P.s in matters of policy and organisation.

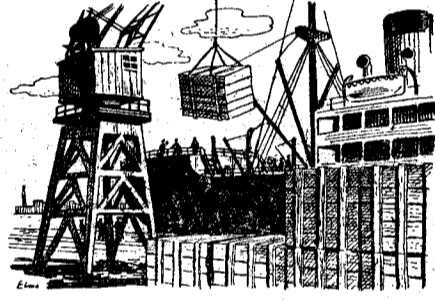
**If right wing union leaders refuse such help, then it becomes a matter of waging a campaign to force them to do so.**

Just as the trade union rank-and-file can help alter the situation inside the Labour Party, so also can L.P. members help trade unionists. Changing leaders can be accomplished if Labour's left wing members get together and fight for the best men to be elected to union posts.

## THE CO-OPERATIVE MOVEMENT

There is a lot of misgiving inside Labour Parties concerning the Co-operative Movement. It is generally felt that since the Co-ops. have large sums of money at their disposal they may one day take over the local Party. We can appreciate this point, but it is not the correct approach—for the Co-operative Movement also is *moving towards the left*.

All the resources at its disposal can be used by local Parties, provided its members



## No 'Thought Control'

The Editor, *Socialist Outlook*.  
Dear Sir,

I have enclosed a copy of a letter submitted to the N.E.C. of the Labour Party re the threat to proscribe your paper.

My members expressed their very deep concern that the Labour Party should contemplate taking such action and it was expressed that, if action of this kind is not prevented, all thought—other than that of the leaders—would not be allowed. **THIS THE MEMBERS OF MY BRANCH WILL FIGHT.**

Yours fraternally,  
G. A. Andrews, Secretary,  
Romford A.U.B.T.W.

Similar letters have been received from Yeading Lane A.E.U., New Southgate A.E.U., Camberwell A.E.U., Dagenham A.E.U., Dagenham A.U.F.W., Hackney A.E.U. and St. John's Ward Labour Party (Westminster).

To all we express our very sincere appreciation for their support, the result of which can be seen in the announcement on page one.

**Does Your Branch Take The 'Outlook'?**

With the bulk of the press trying to give the impression that the apprentices were just "out for a lark", the strikers settled down to running their strike efficiently. Factory and Area Committees were set up and delegates were sent all over the country. While the press were snooping around waiting to seize upon and magnify any manifestation of youthful exuberance, the apprentices organised their meetings, deputations and other activities in an orderly and effective manner.

## LIVING STANDARDS FALLEN

There are, as in all strikes, solid reasons for the withdrawal of labour. Since 1941 apprentice engineers have received no independent wage increase—nothing except small percentages of the increases granted to the adults.

For example, last year the rising cost of living forced the A.E.U. to demand a £1 wage increase. They finally got 11/—but the apprentices, equally affected by the rising prices, received only 2/- to 6/-. The living standards of young engineers has been steadily getting worse over the last ten years. At the time of the strike, the weekly wage for apprentices varied from 28/- for the 15-year-olds up to 80/4 for those aged 20.

The working week is 44 hours—and in many cases on highly skilled jobs. The A.E.U. has shown that during this time the engineering employers have been making £3 a week profit out of every worker employed in the industry. This figure of exploitation is, of course, much higher for the

are active inside their local Co-op. Party.

When elections to the Management Committees come round, the C.L.P., in co-operation with the Co-op. Party, should propose its own slate of candidates and mobilise the full support of its affiliated bodies to fight for these.

## CONCLUSION

Unity in action between the rank-and-file of the trade unions, the Labour Parties, and the Co-op. movement must, from now on, be the main objective of the Left Wing. Already Union Conferences have on their agendas some very good resolutions. Some of them will undoubtedly be carried.

At the coming October Conference of the Party, if the Constituency Labour Parties enter the political arena with policies based on these Trade Union resolutions, the Right Wing of both the Unions and the Labour Party will be resoundingly defeated.

## The Master Renegades Association

**Moral Re-Armament is here described by a Merseyside docker. The article—written in January and reprinted here by kind permission of the "Portworkers Clarion"—was apparently occasioned by desertion of two prominent dockers to M.R.A.**

**WHEN** the alarm rings in the grey light of these raw January mornings, do you hug the blankets closer and say, "Shall I"? When you are trudging dockwards through the icy sleet, your shoulders hunched against the bitter north wind, does your mind turn longingly towards the sun-kissed Riviera or the balmy beaches of Florida? . . . It does? . . . Then it is yours for the asking.

There are a few conditions attached of course. Firstly, you must be a "militant" and get yourself elected to a "Strike Committee." Secondly, after serving long enough to achieve some "standing" with your mates you must (a) Resign and condemn the whole business as a "dirty Communist plot" (not forgetting to inform the *Daily Express*); or (b) Work from inside the Committee steadfastly opposing all forms of direct action and generally undermining the organisation, wherever possible. Thirdly, should a strike break out, despite your efforts, you must hurriedly mount your soapbox and urge those of your brothers willing to listen to you, to "scab it."

With all or part of these conditions fulfilled, you will then qualify for regular

## Billericay demands anti-Tory fight

**WE** have received the following resolution from the Billericay (Essex) Constituency Labour Party. It is, we believe, typical of the militant spirit which now exists inside the Labour Parties throughout the country. It reads:

*"That we, the members of the Billericay (Essex) Constituency Labour Party call upon the National Executive Committee of the Labour Party to organise to the full the political and industrial strength of the Movement to oust the present Tory Government."*

*"To do this forcibly we believe that the Labour Party must resist all attempts to lower living standards, must emphatically oppose all forms of war preparations. Labour must be the foremost in the fight and struggle against the Tories and must pursue a full and comprehensive Labour and Socialist policy."*

sojourns in the sun under the auspices of M.R.A. (Master Renegades Association).

Whilst sojourning in Florida, Switzerland or Canada (parochial little outfit this), you will find that you have suddenly "changed". No longer do you beat your wife, no more do you curse the Boss. You have become absolutely "unselfish" and above all you are absolutely and quite definitely "honest".

From this point you will then proceed to "change" the "world" starting first with your own workmates, you will very soon kill this selfish demand for a living wage. You will put an end to this bitterness against their "kindly" employers and provided you are not too long holidaying in Florida, Switzerland or Canada, you will, by your grand example, have the Shipowners touring the docks anxiously enquiring "if anybody is short of a few bob this week" or urging men to wear shirts (if any) this "bitter" weather.

You will find, however, when beginning your "crusade" that your ranks are somewhat depleted.

One "absolutely honest" missionary will be absent for some considerable time, for seemingly, it is unlawful to remove cigarette lighters (90 of them) from the London Docks even though you are "absolutely honest."

## Labour Youth Support Apprentice Strike

By NORMAN WINTROP  
(East Salford L.L.O.Y.)

**ON** February 7th, 1,000 Clydeside apprentices held a march and a demonstration for £1 a week wage increase. Such was the feeling that, by March 14th, 15,000 lads were on strike in Scotland and, in the course of a few days, were joined by 4,000 in Manchester, 550 in Sheffield, and smaller numbers in other parts of the country.

apprentices.

## LEAGUE OF YOUTH SUPPORT

On March 21st the local Federation of the League of Youth met and offered its help to the apprentices. At that time, 4,000 were on strike in the area—90% of Manchester apprentices affecting 49 firms. The League's resolution reads:

**On behalf of the L.L.O.Y. in the Manchester Area, we the Executive Committee of the South Lancs. and Cheshire Federation of the Leagues of Youth pledge our**

## NICE NEWS FOR CONSCRIPTS!

**THE** "Birkenhead News" (19/3/52) reporting the Apprentices Strike writes . . . "The strikers marched on the Grayson, Rollo and Clover shipyard, but were rebuffed **WHEN HOSEPIPES WERE TURNED ON THEM AND FIVE POLICE OFFICERS BROKE UP THE CROWD.**" (our emphasis).

When these lads are called up they will now know all about this democracy they will be defending, won't they?

full support to the engineering apprentices in the strike for a pound a week wage increase.

With the policies of the Tory Government leading to an unprecedented rise in the cost of living, we believe that the only way that the working class can maintain its standard of life is by militant action. The engineering apprentices have shown the way to apprentices in other industries and to the working class as a whole.

We agree to support the strikers by offering the services of League speakers, by financial assistance, and by other mutually acceptable methods.

With this display of solidarity from the Labour Party League of Youth the lie that

the strike was "a Communist plot" has been put to death. The resolution also shows that engineering youth are not isolated but have the support of all the youth represented in the League.

## LABOUR CAN GAIN

It is the policy of the Tory Government which is giving rise to strikes and militant action by the youth and therefore, the Labour League of Youth now has the opportunity of becoming a mass socialist youth organisation—if it associates itself openly with these anti-Tory struggles.

Unless the Labour Party allows and encourages the League of Youth to support young workers in all industries who are trying to defend their living standards, the creation of a mass Labour Youth organisation will remain a dream.

The Labour League of Youth must bridge the gap between itself and the mass of working-class youth of this country. Without active support to all demonstrations in defence of youth living standards this is impossible. That is why I believe that the Manchester Leagues have given a lead to Leagues throughout the country.

A Fund Raiser for The "Outlook"

## Grand Dance

in aid of the Fighting Fund

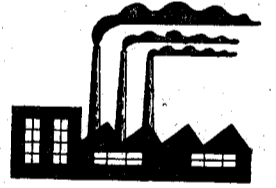
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# London Fascists Try Negro-Baiting

By TOM MERCER  
(Norwood Labour Party)

THE slogan "Keep Brixton White" is being chalked on the streets of South West London where, since the war, hundreds of negro workers have settled. This foul slogan is a challenge not only to the Negroes of Brixton but, in particular, to the Labour Parties of that area (Brixton and Norwood).

Fascists always seize upon some genuine social grievance (in this case, the acute housing shortage) and use it to stir up racial antagonisms so as to divide the Labour Movement. In Brixton they are trying to cause clashes between white workers and black—just as in other areas they try to cause disunity with filthy anti-semitic propaganda. No policy is too vile for these social thugs to exploit; no action too low that they will not stoop to it.

It is not the Negroes who are responsible for the housing shortage in Brixton. On the contrary, they are its worst victims, exposed to all sorts of shameful rack-renting by very, very white landlords.

The writer himself once occupied a room in the new negro quarter of Brixton. The rent was 10/6 a week. The address was 28 Somerleyton Road.

He was ejected from this room by a white landlady in order that the room could be let to two negroes at 25/- each—thereby increasing the rent from 10/6 to 50/- a week!

The same thing took place throughout the entire four-storied house and, I believe, has happened in almost every case where rooms have been let to negroes.

Both white and black workers are therefore the victims of grasping capitalist landlords. And it is precisely to cover up and hide this fact that the Fascists are trying to sow the seeds of racialism in Brixton.

But they will never succeed if the Labour Parties make common cause with the negro workers. There must be launched a recruiting drive among black workers so that white and black may together wage a vigorous campaign to expose the Fascist mischief-makers and drive them out of the area.

Keep Brixton free of Fascists—by uniting black and white workers against Toryism and landlordism.



★ Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

## A Cut They Missed

We have had the Budget . . . but the "civil list", the greatest subsidy of all, an economic scandal not in operation to the same extent anywhere else in the world, was not cut. So the preparations for the Coronation have already started.

Stands for more than 7,000 guests will have to be erected at Westminster, and the estimated cost of this pomp and pageantry—not to mention feudalism—is £1,000,000. The gods from the Lords and the Commons will be there—complete with medals on their chests they never won. The Fleet Street scribblers will have a field day but . . . this is 'the twilight of the gods'.

W. Maxwell

Rosendale

## Pageantry and Fakery

Your reader, J. Alexander, might have added to his note the following:

At State procession under *feudalism* we saw the pageantry of the times.

At State procession under *capitalism* we should see the Steel magnates; the Oil and Rubber plantation millionaires; the bosses of the Daimler Works, the Beaverbrooks, the Churchills. These are the ones who logically should be among the marchers representing the system under which we live.

Because fat capitalists following the late King's coffin would look absurd, we borrow from the 17th and 18th centuries a pageantry completely removed from our present life.

Mary

Leeds

## Have They Learned?

Says Aneurin Bevan in his book "In Place of Fear", "In 1930, Mr. Macdonald, the alleged enemy of capitalism, was waiting anxiously for capitalism to solve its own crisis and therefore rescue him from his embarrassments . . . I remember an argument I had with him at the time. I had put down a resolution . . . calling attention to the impending financial crisis and asking for a special National Conference of the

# Save the Spanish Workers!

TWO appeals are coming from Spain. One from Bloody Franco to his Tory friends asking for closer relations between Spain and Britain. It is getting a big response among Tory M.P.s.

The other is from the Spanish working class to the working class of Britain asking for aid in the merciless fight against the Falangist terror. We publish below the Spanish worker's appeal. To let it go unheeded will be a shameful act. The workers of Britain cannot be indifferent to the fate of the workers of Spain—or to the fate of the workers anywhere.

## "International Action Against Franco Terror"

A Falangist military tribunal has just condemned to death in Barcelona nine militants of the National Confederation of Labour (C.N.T.). A few weeks ago, in Sevilla, another tribunal of the same kind imposed the capital penalty upon Antonia Nunez and Dionisio Ruda, anarchist fighters of Andalusian anti-Franco movement.

The scandalous trials of Barcelona and Sevilla announce the launching of a new wave of crimes. Among them, a trial of 27 Barcelonians and our comrade Gerrado Baldiris, a militant of the POUM, a division commander during our civil war now threatened with the death penalty.

Franco and the Falange feel strong because the great powers, who yesterday condemned them, today help and tolerate them. Also because the international Labour Movement and liberal forces throughout the world have markedly decreased their activity against the Franco tyranny.

The Barcelona and Sevilla trials are a

challenge to the Labour and Democratic forces which have kept alive throughout the world an opposition to the regime of hunger, oppression and terror now governing Spain. This challenge must be met urgently, and without fail by the international working class and its trade union and political organisations.

We must save the worker militants condemned to death in Barcelona and Sevilla. We must halt the new trials now being prepared. We must stop short the Falangist terror. We must come to the aid of the Spanish people in their valorous and illegal resistance by all possible means.

There is no time to lose. A broad international mobilisation is required against the Falangist tyranny and in defence of all its victims.

Against the Franquist terror! Save those condemned to death at Barcelona and Sevilla!

Executive Committee of the POUM.

# . . . and Greek Workers too

SINCE the early 1930's the Greek workers have been waging civil war against the Greek reaction. Hundreds of thousands of their best sons and daughters have been killed in the struggle. First against the bloody dictatorship of Metaxas, then against the armed forces of Mussolini and Hitler. In 1945, Churchill took a hand in the fight and British troops and planes bombed the workers of Athens into temporary submission. The monarchy was restored against the will of the Greek people. From the first it rested on British and American bayonets and British and American money.

But the Greek workers never gave in. They answered the Monarchist-Fascist terror with armed struggle. Today they are still fighting—and they, like the Spanish workers, need our help.

Some of their finest fighters are today threatened with legal murder—execution ordered by reactionary courts. Both men and women are threatened. We must not let it happen. They are OUR people. The international working class cannot let its militant sons and daughters be shot in cold blood for the crime of resisting Fascism.

Protests are pouring in to the Foreign

Office and to the Greek Ambassador.

*Socialist Outlook* has already sent telegrams to both these sources protesting, on your behalf, against this savage repression.

See that YOUR organisation does the same. Pester your M.P. with protests. Join in any demonstrations that might be organised. Make them stop these murders. Show the Greek workers that British Labour is with them in this world-wide struggle against capitalist-Fascist terror.

Save the condemned!

## ADVERTISE IN YOUR FORTNIGHTLY

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Party to be called."

Mr. Bevan continues, "Before that resolution was discussed, Macdonald sent for me. At this interview he asked me to withdraw the resolution because it was an embarrassment to the Party . . . . It never seemed to occur to him that it was our business to grapple with the crisis ourselves and that if Socialism had no remedy for a crisis in capitalism then we have no political territory to stand on."

Writes Mr. Bevan, ". . . . It (the resolution) was overwhelmingly defeated amidst the rejoicings of colleagues who, a few months later, received at the hands of their constituents the lesson they had refused to learn at Westminster. I wish I could believe the lesson has yet been learned."

And, in regard to that last sentence, I and all real socialists, would comment, So say all of us!

S. R. Pearson

Grimsby

## Not Tories

I would like to point out that the heading to my article on the Tory cuts in the Health Services may be misleading. The forecast that a £2 a week charge might be made for hospital beds, is made in the official organ of my organisation, the *Health Service Journal*. I am sure my fellow members would scarcely approve of being classified as "Tories", an implication which might quite easily be inferred from the headlines.

C. van Gelderen

Secretary, Richmond Branch, Confederation of Health Service Employees

We offer our sincere apologies for the misleading headline and assure our correspondent that we had no intention of implying that members of his Union were "Tories". —(EDITOR).

## Mistaken Identity

Is the John Lawrence who edits *Socialist Outlook* any connection with the man who once served in the British Embassy in Russia, is now anti-Russian, and occasionally writes silly letters to the *Tribune*? Mrs. Alexander. Peckham.

The Editor replies: NO! I have never been to Russia and I have never written to the "Tribune". I am not related in any way—either personally or politically—to the anti-Russian character you are referring to.