

Join the
**LABOUR
PARTY**
TODAY

Socialist Outlook

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3d.

**Hands Off
the Colonial
peoples!**

OUR DAY!

NOVEMBER 5th was to be our day; the day when we workers at the Cosmos Works, Enfield, demonstrated in favour of the engineers 15 per cent claim.

For years we had been forced to sit back letting others do our fighting for us. Now our strength was such we had decided to fight even before we got the lead from our A.E.U. District Committee.

Our factory works three shifts. The workers in each shift voted for a two-hour token stoppage, the first one to be in the morning shift at twelve-o'clock.

Then came our test. When the stoppage took place the management locked the gates and posted notices to the effect that the factory was closed down until six a.m. the following morning. It was a lock-out, not only for men employed at the factory, but also for the women who were not taking part in the demonstration.

This effort to split our ranks was a flop. The men on the morning shift stood outside the factory in the cold and rain for two hours, until the arrival of the afternoon shift. Then a resolution was carried by a joint meeting to form up behind the works banner and march to the local trades union club.

Between seven and eight hundred men were on the march. It was a sight that

Enfield had not seen for a long time. At the hall, shop stewards and District Committee representatives addressed the men.

Then came the news from Tathill Street, where our unions were meeting the employers. No rise! A resolution was moved and carried unanimously calling for a stoppage of work on a national basis.

When men of the night shift arrived at the works' gate, stewards were there to tell them what had happened. The management tried to split our ranks again. They offered to open the gates to the night shift provided they called off their token strike. Unless the men agreed to this their wages, normally paid at ten-o'clock, would be withheld until 5.30 the next morning.

A mass meeting of the four hundred night workers decided to continue the token strike. Again, every hand was raised in support of the resolution for a national stoppage. After a vote of confidence in the shop stewards, the men returned home.

The gates were open next morning. But the workers met and decided to make it a complete 24 hour stoppage, angry at the way the management had withheld their wages from the night shift and victimised our women members.

When the stoppage ended we marched back with banners flying as solid as when we came out.

Labour United Can Bring Down Tories

Wages and Prices are Biggest Issues

EVERYONE knows from their daily experience that food prices have risen. Rationing by the purse is replacing rationing by the book. The law of the jungle returns.

Everyone knows that in working class families this has already meant a paring down of the weekly shopping list. Less bacon, fewer eggs, margarine instead of butter, make the

kids cocoa with water instead of milk.

And still the Tories are not satisfied. The last remnants of rationing and control are to be wiped out and the Tory Food Minister Major Lloyd George, admits he cannot forecast "precisely" what will be the result on prices.

The working class housewife, however, does not need his "precise" forecast. She knows that

prices will go up still further—and to buy the same amount of food for her family she will need more money.

Dear food is to be followed by higher rents. The Tories propose to allow their landlord friends to take more millions from the people by raising rents. So that, although the working class housewife will need more money for food, she will in fact have less.

To this she and her husband have only one immediate answer. They must get more wages. On this elementary proposition there is, apparently, no difference of opinion in the Labour and Trade Union circles. Even the "Daily Herald" feels obliged to protest. (10/11/53).

"Let the Government make no mistake" it says, "there is more real resentment behind the wage claims which are being considered this week than at any time since the war. That resentment has its roots in the results of deliberate Tory policy which are now self-evident to everyone. The effect of Tory rule has been to reduce the living standards of millions of wage earners and pensioners... In these conditions the trade

unions have no alternative but to demand redress for their people." But what shall be done about it? Demands for redress are not quite the same thing as getting this "redress", i.e. increased wages. Jack Tanner, President of the T.U.C. and also of the Engineers says "We need some very strong negotiations to get an increase from our employers". Strength in any negotiations can only rest on the willingness, if talk fails, of resorting to action. And in terms of wage negotiations this means to strike.

So if Jack Tanner takes his own words seriously, if he really wants to put some strength into his negotiations, he should seriously prepare both his own members—and through the T.U.C. General Council the whole organised trade union movement—for just this eventuality.

No-one can say the Engineers have not tried to defend their living standards by peaceful means. Recognising, as the "Herald" does, that the policy of the Tory Government is to blame, they have urged a united campaign of the Trade Union, Labour and Co-operative movement to bring down the Tories and replace them with a Labour Government.

But, elected on a minority vote, Churchill has made it clear that he will hang on to office with his trick majority to the bitter end. "No election for at least two years", he says.

But he leaves out of his calculations the working men and women. The resentment of which the "Herald" warns him, is mounting. If the Engineers seriously take the road of action to press their wage claim, they can head a mighty movement of organised Labour which can sweep away Churchill and his band of privateers.

And what of the people? The American press suggests hopefully that the Party has already lost its influence. They cite an example. Only two-hundred waved good-bye to Leaders Burnham and Jagan as they departed to present our case to England while thousands came to bid farewell to the Royal Welsh Fusilliers. They forget to mention that police with batons came to chase away the thousands who wanted to say farewell to their beloved leaders?

Why did they not mention that along the twenty mile span carrying the leaders to the airport,

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By
Fred Emmett

Why They Have Jailed Our Leaders

Georgetown

★ By Janet Jagan ★

General Secretary, People's Progressive Party and former Deputy Speaker, House of Assembly

IN British Guiana, one of Britain's richest possessions, exploitation has for over a hundred years continued without any notable challenge. Up until recent years, the British have encountered only sporadic opposition to the prosperous rape of the wealth of the country. Sugar, rum, gold, diamonds and in recent years the discovery of columbite and tantalite have made them even more greedy. With the growth of the trade union movement, workers began to learn that they had rights and increasing demands were made for better wages and working conditions.

When the People's Progressive Party was organised four years ago, it immediately proceeded to unite all sections of the oppressed people and succeeded in overcoming the racial divisions which had previously prevented any form of united action. The majority of trade unions gave untiring support to the new popular movement. When the Party, this year, was successful in winning a majority at the polls, a real challenge to perpetual exploitation was finally at hand.

Not only England saw that the people had awakened and were demanding a better life, but England's senior partner, the U.S.A. began to sit up and take notice. America, seeing the popular rising of the people on the road to self government, feared that its economic and political control of the Latin American bloc was about to be challenged. The American press began a smear and fear campaign to discredit the P.P.P. Majority. "Time Magazine", columnist Drew Pearson, Lee Mortimer and others started hysteria over an alleged "red menace in the Caribbean".

What went on behind the scenes can only be surmised. But there is little doubt that pressure was brought upon Britain to take firm action against the rising tide of a people insisting upon their rights. Britain, almost wholly dependent upon the good will of the American State Department, and tied hand and fist economically to the U.S. could do little else than respond to the demands of its senior partner.

Seeing that the P.P.P. majority had little intention of becoming conventional stooges to the Colonial Office and realizing that the elected majority would not assist in being a buffer to the new demands of the people, the Tory Government became frantic, took panic and immediately dispatched its quota of gunboats and soldiers to stand by while the people's rights were violently raped.

That the Tory Government had a hard time finding a legitimate excuse for its unusual action in suspending the constitution and dismissing Ministers who held office for only four months is quite apparent to all. The universally recognised weaknesses of the White Paper which laid the accusations has brought much abuse on the Churchill Government.

The ridiculous allegations of a "plot" were completely unsubstantiated by Britain. To date there has not been one act of violence, and yet the Governor of British Guiana had the audacity to cable Churchill that witnesses were afraid to give evidence. Is it that a military occupied country can not offer protection to a handful of witnesses? Clearly there was no plot and there could be no witnesses.

Since the whole world has taken a keen interest in the Guiana situation, the Colonial Office still feels in duty bound to inform the world that its action was necessary. So the next step was to lock up a few leaders to prove that things were happening in Guiana. Any evidence that the five leaders now detained caused trouble? None whatsoever!

But to be on the safe side the Governor appointed a Three Man Committee to hear objections to



JANET JAGAN

the indefinite detention of three members of the House of Assembly (one the former Minister of Communications and works), a poet and the Second Vice Chairman of the Party. That should prove to all that justice always prevails. To the outside, perhaps, but to those inside Guiana, the personnel of the Committee was perhaps one of the sharpest indications that justice had disappeared. The Committee members have open bias against the Party and its conclusions are known before it sits.

But, how to provoke the people to commit an act of violence, so

that another slaughter house like Kenya can be opened in Guiana? That is the problem facing the one-man government today. Will they find the key to causing the people's anger to overflow? That is the chief motivation of the armed state which now rules our country.

And what of the people? The American press suggests hopefully that the Party has already lost its influence. They cite an example. Only two-hundred waved good-bye to Leaders Burnham and Jagan as they departed to present our case to England while thousands came to bid farewell to the Royal Welsh Fusilliers. They forget to mention that police with batons came to chase away the thousands who wanted to say farewell to their beloved leaders?

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THE CO-OP PARTY AND GUIANA

THE suspension of the Constitution in British Guiana was not only a crime against the people of the colonies but against the British Electorate, who had been promised that our colonies would be progressively encouraged along the road to self government", declared Mr. R. Parker, editor of "London Forward" speaking at a London Co-operative Party meeting at Bromley Public Hall, E.1. on the 5th November.

Mr. Parker stated that the Government's White Paper clearly showed the weakness of their case. Referring to the claim that the establishment of the Pioneer Youth League undermined the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Or-

ganisations in British Guiana he said that this was a typical Tory attempt to confuse the issue.

"It would be equally as stupid to argue that the British Labour Party's League of Youth, the British Federation of Young Co-operators or the Young Conservatives Association were guilty of the same thing in this country".

Pointing out that no action has been taken upon the criminal charges alleged against prominent leaders of the P.P.P. he claimed that the arrests had been made under the Governor's Emergency Powers to prevent the Trade Union Leaders in Guiana consolidating the strike of the Sugar workers.

L.S.C. London Political Committee and "London Forward" invite the Co-operative, Labour and T.U. Movement to hear

● Dr. CHEDDIE JAGAN ●

(Deposed Leader of Guiana House of Assembly)

● L. F. S. BURNHAM ●

(Guiana's Deposed Minister of Education)

supported by Co-op and Labour M.P.'s (Parliamentary duties allowing)

Denison House, Monday, November 16 — 7.30 p.m.

Vauxhall Bridge Road - (near Victoria Station)

ADMISSION FREE

This is the 'Last Refuge of Ignorant Reaction'

THE House of Lords is the most undemocratic institution in the world. It is a fortress manned by the worshippers of wealth to defend from the rest of the community their inherited property, wealth and social status. Estates, fortunes, intimacy with the Court, expensive clothes and well-bred horses have for centuries been the passport to political power—the passport that has denied thousands of ordinary folk the pleasure of a happy, secure and comfortable home.

The House of Lords merely ensures that the Conservative Party shall always govern. Generous to private industry, landlords and manufacturers, it has been repeatedly hostile to public enterprise, trade unions and education. From its birth to the present day it has consistently fought for the rich against the poor.

This anti-democratic Chamber has a membership of 835 which includes 16 Scottish and 8 Irish representative peers, 26 Lords spiritual and 10 Law Lords. The remaining 775 sit by hereditary right. Half of the 835 have never spoken, only about 100 speak more than once a year, the numbers at the divisions—which themselves only average about 30 a year—are between 80 and 100.

The vast majority of the hereditary members sit and exercise their power solely because they are the eldest sons of their father and mother! Tom Paine once remarked of this group: "the idea of hereditary legislators is as inconsistent as that of hereditary judges or hereditary juries and as absurd as an hereditary mathematician or an hereditary wise man, and as ridiculous as an hereditary poet-laureate".

The rest of the hereditary peers are—in the first generation—those raised to the peerage for "political and social services" which means that they have contributed generously to party funds and results in party patronage.

AN ODIUS MACHINE

Over 600 peers belong to the Tory party. This is not surprising for the peers are mainly the owners of big business. One in three lords is a company director, holding on an average 8 directorships. One third of them own very large estates; many of them are related by birth, marriage or business to Tory members of the House of Commons.

Thier lordships are interested only in themselves and their own future. The House that passed the infamous Trade Union Amendment Act in 1927 without a mur-

Why the House of Lords should be abolished by Alan Stephen

mur, and killed, four years later, the Education Bill which would have raised the age of free education, is nothing but an odious piece of political machinery.

As Bevan remarks in his book "In Place of Fear": "Political discussions in the House of Lords are concentrated expressions of group prejudice. The landlords and the industrial magnates who form the vast majority of the House of Lords are no more capable of objective judgement than a crowd of licensed victuallers trying a confirmed teetotaler".

The 1911 Parliament Act curbed the power of the House of Lords, and the 1949 Act reduced that power still further. But the peers can still "revise" and delay important legislation for a year.

LABOUR'S VIEW

The passing of the 1949 Act was almost a farcical procedure. Professor Berriedale Keith has remarked: "the measure was less remarkable for what it did than for what it failed to do". It kept the House in existence; it recognised it; it gave it the blessing of the British Labour Party. Whatever else the Act meant, it meant that the Labour Party acknowledged the right of the House of Lords to exist.

A party which had for years taught that the House of Lords should be abolished, proceeded to pass an Act which ensured that it be kept in being.

J. R. Clynes, at the Labour Party Conference in 1934, moved a resolution that the Labour Party seek to abolish the House of Lords. He said: "in our view the House of Lords is an institution which cannot be reformed: it cannot be amended, it must be ended".

The resolution was adopted and



ANEURIN BEVAN
Once likened the impartiality of the House of Lords to that of 'a crowd of licensed victuallers trying a confirmed teetotaler'

the Labour Party vowed that "it will, in any event take steps during its term of office to pass legislation abolishing the House of Lords as a legislative chamber." It is the duty of the next Labour administration to implement this resolution.

Once again the cry must go out—"end not mend", Mr. Bevan has called the House of Lords the "last refuge of ignorant reaction". But perhaps their lordships are not completely ignorant—they know what they want. They desire power, privilege and wealth at the expense of social justice. The Tories are seeking, under the guise of "reform", to hand back to the House of Lords powers which have been taken from them. The clock is slowly but surely being put back. We must act before it is too late. The Labour Party must abolish the House of Lords before the House of Lords abolishes the Labour Party!

The Fight Against Rent Increases

Labour Must Challenge the Landlords

RIGHTLY or wrongly, wrongly I think, the Margate Conference of the Labour Party decided to go to the country not on a programme of Socialist advance but on a programme having as its basis the preservation of the Welfare State, and full employment. This can have, if properly put over, a great appeal to the electorate in working class constituencies. Whether it will have the same effect in those constituencies where people have never suffered the worst effects of Capitalism is, in my opinion, extremely doubtful.

The result will be stalemate once again, maybe even a small Labour majority, but this will be of little use, particularly in view of the National Executive Committee's resolution on Foreign and Commonwealth Policy that was accepted at the Conference. The cost of armaments resulting from this programme will make any improvement in the living standards of the workers impossible and we shall have a continuation of wages chasing prices, wages losing in the race all the time.

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH

Another difficulty about Challenge to Britain is its naive assumption that home affairs are going to remain static while preparations for the electoral fight are going on. The Tory Party have wasted no time in exploding this assumption. The Queen's speech makes it clear that the Tory Party is going to take the bit between its teeth and see that their friends the landlords have a substantial increase in rents.

Of course it is not put in this

way. The increased rent is for the repair of the landlord's houses. This sort of camouflage will deceive nobody, least of all the landlords. They have never kept their houses in proper condition in the past and the grant of an increase in rent will not change their attitude now. The rent will either go into their pockets or they will sell their property at a price related to its increased rent earning capacity. The new owners, in view of the price they have paid, will be able to show that they have no surplus to pay for repairs

By Tom Braddock

and will start a further demand for increased rents, and so on; as it has been in the past so will it be in the future for ever and ever, amen, in this landlord's paradise. Even if the landlord holds on to his property, and in most cases he will only do this if he is unable to sell it, there is no sort of guarantee that there will be any improvement in the condition of the houses, flats, tenements or slums.

LANDLORDISM

The landlord will do one of three things: he can stick up the rent and do as he has done in the past—nothing. He knows that the law will look after him and he also knows that most tenants are so afraid of being put out into the streets that they will pay; or he can put up the rent and do just enough patching up to bring him within the law—the houses will generally still be in a rotten condition after the lick and promise he will give them under this method; or finally he will not put up the rent he will do no repairs—why should he, he is doing quite well out of the worn-out property he has purchased as an investment,

HUNGER and REVOLT

THE N.E.C.'s action in advising local Labour Parties to ban Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham from their platforms, and the similar action taken by the T.U.C. General Council in Birmingham, is among the most disgraceful episodes in Labour's history.

This is the right way to set about it if the N.E.C. wants to drive the colonial people straight into the hands of the Kremlin. It shows that our leaders have not the slightest idea of what is happening in the colonial world, despite all the bright back-room boys employed by Transport House.

The Fabian Colonial Bureau has also joined the N.E.C. and the General Council in denouncing Dr. Jagan and the P.P.P. Without producing a shred of evidence, the editorial in the November "Venture" applies the label "Communists or fellow-travellers" to the leaders of the P.P.P. and charges them with using "British institutions as stepping stones to the totalitarian state".

In evident accord with the Tory decision to send troops to Guiana, "Venture" states: "Everyone (!) recognised that there are times when there are worse things in life than the Colonial Office, and this was one of them".

The spirit of imperialistic jingoism still seems to be very much alive in the leading and intellectual circles of our Party. No wonder the colonial people do not look to British Labour for leadership and inspiration!

The revolutionary movement which is convulsing the colonial world from Korea to the Caribbean, is a spontaneous movement of peoples. It is the revolt of two-thirds of the world's population against centuries of oppression by native and foreign tyrannies; it is the demand of tens of millions of peasants for enough land to live on in conditions worthy of human beings; it is the outcry of people against vicious and unjust taxation which is grinding them down in poverty; it is the protest of poor tenants

against rapacious landlords and usurious money-lenders; it is the empty bellies of starving people crying for food and the homeless for a roof over their heads; it is the disease of poverty like jaws and rickets and beri-beri seeking cures; it is people fighting against foreign rule and for the right to decide their own national destiny; it is the most exploited of the earth engaged in battle against the exploiters.

In all human history the downtrodden of the earth have always risen in revolt against their oppressors. But the development of capitalism as a world force has given a universality to the present-day revolutionary movements unknown in any previous period. The colonial slaves rising against slavery immediately find themselves confronted with the powerful well-organised forces of world

imperialism, armed with the most modern weapons of warfare.

Faced with such a powerful enemy, the colonial revolution seeks allies. What more natural than that they should look for these allies among those who are fighting the self-same enemy! The same interests which are refusing the engineers their 15 per cent wage increase and which are now preparing to put more money in the landlords' pockets by increased rents, are reaping vast profits out of the labour of the sugar-cane workers of Guiana, the rubber plantation workers of Malaya, and the millions of colonial workers and peasants in Africa and the West Indies. So, in the first instance, the colonial peoples turn to Labour Movement of the Western world for help, for guidance and, often, for leadership.

They want from their allies, not fine words and well-phrased resolutions; they want neither charity nor patronage but a genuine recognition of the right of the colonial people to take their place among the civilised nations of the world. They want action in support of their just claims.

If they do not find such allies within the Labour Movement of the imperialist countries, they will seek them elsewhere.

The colonial peoples are not

insulated from the rest of the world. They know there are other roads to freedom than the parliamentary road and if they cannot achieve their aims by "democratic" means they must, of necessity, seek to achieve them by other methods.

In the Russian Revolution of November, 1917, they saw the destruction of colonialism overnight and the extension of complete equality to the backward peoples of the former Czarist Empire. That lesson has never been forgotten even though, since the rise to power of Stalin, many of the gains won in 1917 have been wiped out. When the Labour Movement of the West lets them down, the leaders of the colonial revolution instinctively turn to Moscow, seeking a way out along the path so triumphantly vindicated by the Russian Revolution.

That is why we have the continual visits by these leaders to the countries behind the "iron curtain". Here they are shown, not the evils of Stalinism, but the immense possibilities opened up by the Revolution. They catch a glimpse of what life could be like in a land without capitalists. Above all, they are treated as equals and not as inferior beings because of the colour of their skin.

Are they to be blamed for this? This seems to be the attitude of the General Council, the N.E.C. and the Fabian Colonial Bureau. Such a policy will have fatal results for our Labour Movement which in the days ahead will itself need allies in its fight to rid Britain of capitalism.

British Labour can win the allegiance of the colonial people away from the Kremlin only if it is able to demonstrate in action that it is prepared to give unconditional support to the struggle for freedom.

This means that we cannot insist that the colonial people slavishly accept constitutions imposed upon them by the imperial power but recognise their right to work out their own way of life in accordance with their own historic conditions and traditions.

HAVE YOU READ Michael Pablo's "The Coming World Showdown"? A Marxist analysis of today's complex world situation. Price 2s. New Park Publications, 266 Lavender Hill, S.W.11.

Slaves in Uniform

"I have a challenge to make to the Secretary of State", said Emrys Hughes, M.P. in the House of Commons on October 23rd, during the debate on British Guiana. "Will he give these soldiers the option of coming home after they have spent a fortnight looking round this piece of smelly Empire? Of course he will not. When the soldiers see the people working in the plantations, they will say, 'We are British soldiers'. The people working in the plantations will reply, 'Oh, yes, you are slaves in uniform. Shake hands'".

"Peace News" have now published this speech in pamphlet form*. Emrys Hughes declares in forthright manner that what the troops are going to defend in British Guiana is a classic example of British Imperialism.

He concludes: "We have been told that the argument for conscripting soldiers, the argument for a great British army, is that it is needed to protect us. I say they are not being used to protect us; they are being used to protect the interests of British Imperialism and British capitalism and that if they had a chance to come home they would do so".

* "Iron hand and wooden head. A "Peace News" pamphlet. Price 3d.

Lord Silkin and others, but it means that they have no intention of going to the country in the near future. Their Bill and its results are going to be very unpopular with great numbers of the electorate, so that even after the Bill is through they will want time to allow people to forget before they go to the polls.

HOW TO OPPOSE

Will Mr. Attlee tell us once again that as the increase has become law all further opposition is to be discouraged? Remember he has done this with regard to African Federation and his view has been accepted in the Commonwealth policy agreed to at Margate.

What should Labour do? Only a new consideration of the whole problem of house accommodation and rents will meet the problem we are faced with. Socialist Outlook has carried articles in the past on this subject and its views are well known. As with Korea, the Socialist point of view turns out to be the correct one in the end.

What is the Socialist method of dealing with the problem? Let me quote from "Socialist Outlook":

"The provision of housing accommodation must become a social service and housing space must be used, not to signify social and economic position and power, but for the provision of living conditions to allow all to share as equally as may be possible such accommodation as now exists".*

It is a thousand pities this ad-

* The article containing this quotation is reprinted in Tom Braddock's pamphlet "Houses, Rents and the Building Trade". Price 3d. from Socialist Outlook, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1.



vice was not taken by the authors of "Challenge to Britain" and this objective included in Labour's election programme. It is equally unfortunate that the Margate Conference, on the advice of Aneurin Bevan, rejected the resolution to turn the building industry into a public service.

It is obvious that one of the results of giving the landlords more rent is to be increased building costs, for the builders will want to share the spoil. All this will once more allow the landlord to dodge his responsibilities on the plea that he "can't afford it".

At least the Parliamentary Labour Party must make it clear to the country that they will not accept the Tory decision on this matter and that as soon as they gain power they will pass legislation to deprive the landlords of the ill-gotten gains presented to them by the Tory Party.

Have a look at
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Burnham Trounces the Tory Liars

ON Sunday, 8th November, Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, former Minister of Education in British Guiana and President of the P.P.P. addressed a meeting of about 200 people at the Cardigan Road Labour Rooms, Leeds.

The chairman, Councillor E. Kavanagh said he had come to the meeting with an open mind, but he considered that the Labour Party would be in a deplorable state if it refused to give a hearing to anybody.

John Lawrence, editor of the "Socialist Outlook", said that the Guianese were an oppressed people. Their country was occupied by the people who owned Britain, and exploited the wealth and labour of British Guiana for private profit. The interests of the workers of this country were the same as those of British Guiana. The T.U.C. should be giving its full support to the sugar workers strike.

Mr. Burnham said the issue in Guiana was quite simple. Were the people to be allowed to elect their own government at the polls? He then dealt point by point with the accusations that had been levelled against the P.P.P.

The P.P.P. had a "communist" land policy

Mr. Burnham's reply to that was that Booker Bros., McConnell and Co., own 90,000 acres of the best arable land and rent another 95,000 from the British Government at 2½d. per acre! Even allowing for crop rotation, 90,000 acres of this is never used. A little is silted at £2 per acre, but

The N.E.C. and Guiana

ON the heels of the T.U.C. General Council attack on the Peoples Progressive Party of British Guiana, comes a statement of the N.E.C. of the Labour Party.

"Instead of pursuing a policy of social reform and seeking to justify the faith placed in them by the electorate" says the N.E.C. "leaders of the P.P.P. pursued a Communist policy and created a situation which necessitated the movement of troops to ensure the maintenance of law and order".

Does the N.E.C. read the "Daily Herald"? Eighteen hours after his arrival in Georgetown, British Guiana, the "Daily Herald" correspondent cabled "I am still looking for the crisis." "The Times" correspondent in British Guiana could not find signs of any disorders necessitating additional troops. But our N.E.C. thousands of miles from British Guiana have observed such a situation.

Against all traditions of the movement the N.E.C. asks local parties to refuse to hear Dr. Jagan or Mr. Burnham, or allow labour supporters to hear him.

The statement declares it "inadvisable for local parties to provide a platform for Peoples Progressive Party speakers, or to cooperate with other bodies—which may well be Communist inspired—in supporting them".

The P.P.P. has been attacked in Parliament, it has been attacked in a White Paper, in countless newspapers, on the radio.

Charges are made against the P.P.P. based on the information of police agents, vague accusations of 'overthrowing the constitution' and pinned on to them with no more evidence than quotations from speeches taken out of their context.

Against this barrage of lies and misrepresentation the two elected leaders of the Guianese people—Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham—have a right to expect Labour to provide them with a platform from which to answer. That the N.E.C. should deny them even this is a mean, spiteful and shameful attack on an oppressed people who are fighting our own enemies—the British Tories.

Socialist Outlook
177 Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1.
Telephone: HOP 4554
Editor: John Lawrence

most is kept idle—thus keeping up prices and maintaining a pool of unemployed.

The P.P.P. promised to set up a Land Authority and to put a heavy tax on unused land or to take it over.

The P.P.P. were undermining the "recognised" union and trying to foist their own on to the workers.

The secretary of the Manpower Citizen Association—the union recognised by the employers—contested a seat in a sugar workers constituency against a vice president of the Guiana Industrial Workers Union and...lost his deposit!

The P.P.P. sought to ensure that if there were a contest be-

Reported by G. Gale

tween two unions for recognition there should be a government enquiry, followed by a poll of the workers. The "challenging" union needed 65 per cent of the votes to secure recognition.

The solidarity with which the sugar workers were striking for the release of P.P.P. leaders showed nothing was being foisted on them.

The P.P.P. wanted to take education out of church control.

This had been done elsewhere, for example in France and New Zealand.

Though schools were built and maintained out of public funds they were controlled by the church. British Guiana was 40

per cent non-Christian but employment, or promotion, in the teaching profession was on Christian denominational lines.

It was a fitting comment on British rule and "moral responsibility" that British Guiana was still 21 per cent illiterate.

P.P.P. leaders had planned to burn down Georgetown.

No evidence had been forthcoming to support this completely false charge. P.P.P. leaders were in jail but no charges had been made against them.

The P.P.P. itself did not accept the Constitution.

The constitution includes an upper house of nine people—six nominated by the governor. The governor can veto bills, and the nominated upper house can delay bills for a year. Three British officials hold the posts of Attorney General, Financial Secretary and General Secretary—dealing with foreign affairs, law and order and civil service appointments.

This is a mockery of democratic government. Who can blame the P.P.P. for wanting a constituent assembly to allow the people to draft their own constitution. The Governor is responsible to no-one except Mr. Lyttelton 4,000 miles away.

In reply to questions Mr. Burnham said there was an old age pension scheme in his country. It began at 60 years of age, but the average expectation of life was 55.

He said the colonial peoples wanted justice and liberty. If the Labour Movement here paid only lip service to Socialist phrases then we can expect only bitterness and hate from these people.

They Teach Class in Cupboard!

PEGGY JAY'S book *Better Schools Now!* (Turnstile Press, 3/6 paper, 7/6 cloth) falls into two well-defined parts each equally excellent.

Part I describes the State school system as it exists to-day. The chapters on Infants', Junior and Secondary Modern schools will do much to clear up the many misconceptions that exist in parents' minds. It is understandable that there are these misconceptions, because there has been a dearth of matter (except some largely unhelpful pamphlets from the Ministry of Education) to correct them; hence Mrs. Jay's book is particularly valuable.

Education is the most important

of the social services, being formative while the others are merely ameliorative, yet it is the Cinderella of the social services. The proportion of the national income spent on education in 1951-2 was only 3.3 per cent; an increase since 1910-1 of twofold; but in the same period, expenditure on health increased fifteenfold.

Again (though Mrs. Jay doesn't mention this), Britain spent £100 million to explode an atom bomb off the Australian coast in 1952, while a year before, the Minister of Education, Florence Horsbrugh, asked local education authorities to economise on education to the extent of some £14 million! The money spent on that bomb would have built 2,000 schools for 600,000 children!

Mrs. Jay's carefully documented

Back To Merrie England, Sir!

YOUR readers may wonder why no truthful account has appeared from me in your socialist rag recently. Why not tell them you suppressed my last few statements because they hit out too hard? I challenge you, sir, to publish this defence of our grand nobility and working captains of industry!

The reds are always breaking the tenth commandment which forbids the coveting of your neighbour's goods. You are always ranting about the huge dividends shareholders earn from their hard-won investments. Yet you make no allowance for the fact that rising living costs hit the rich too.

Do your beer-swilling workers realise that in the golden days of the gay nineties Veuve Chicquot (champagne to you) was only 42/- per dozen. Now it costs that for ONE bottle. Whisky was delivered free by the gallon, for 12/-. When Merrie England ruled the waves, brandy was a guinea a gallon.

So hard hit are our aristocracy (god bless 'em) that they have to hire their coronets and robes on state occasions. The terrible toll of taxation leads to the odour of mothballs in the Abbey. Younger sons appear at Glorious Ascot in hired togs. They cannot put their shirt on a horse because it comes from the hirers.

Business directors are so horribly taxed that their limousines have to be supplied by the firm. The other day a leading Leicester jeweller was displaying a SECOND HAND gold cigarette case for £150. The rich cannot afford new ones obviously; and

Henry Dubb's (Jnr.) Advice Service

evidently some impoverished peer or director had to hock it to pay his way.

Holidays abroad are only possible if business is mixed with pleasure and one goes as a representative of the firm, otherwise it means third rate hotels and only a few weeks away. We all remember the sad case of Sir Bernard Docker who tried to maintain England's prestige abroad and got into a scrape doing so.

Sir, England's priceless heritage of the past is threatened by ruinous death duties. The late Duke of Bedford's estates are being broken up to pay duty on his £4 million will to save the ancestral seat for his heir. Not every heir, unfortunately, is as gifted as Sir J. J. Elliman's. When his father died it took the taxation sharks 5 years to value the fortune at £15 million. Death duties took some £7 million. It took the son those same 5 years to restore the family fortune to its original figure. How admirable is such hard work and ability.

No longer can our landed aristocracy claim that an Englishman's home is his castle. Either gawking hordes of common work-people clump through the baronial

Would You Rather Be a Judge

THE same day that the engineers' wage claim was turned down the Government published the Judges' Salaries Bill. Unlike the engineers the judges are to have an increase. Nothing like 15 per cent of course.

The lowest is a 20 per cent increase, most get 60 per cent and 4 are to be given an 85 per cent rise. All senior judges are to have a gross annual increase in salary of £3,000 a year except for the Lord Chancellor and Lord Chief Justice, who are to get a gross increase of £2,000.

Shed no tears for the last two. They will have £12,000 and £10,000 respectively as a gross annual salary. Their net income after taxation will be £4,024 and £3,770.

Other judges will have anything from £3,077 to £3,594 nett a year to assist them to keep the wolf away from the door. Nett increases in salary range from £254 to £915 a year.

Who is more important—the man at the bench or the man on the Bench?

Peter Ibbotson.

Janet Jagan (from p. 1)

people came out of their houses on the roadside to hold up their three fingers in the P.P.P. salute. Nor did they mention the new recruits which the Party has enrolled—persons who previously did not understand that British imperialism means oppression of political and economic rights?

Again the British rulers have misjudged the people. They cannot feel the pulse of popular opinion in Guiana because they do not know the people. The mistake they made in the last elections have been made again. When the big business interests used local coloured stooges to represent them in the last elections, they turned the tide in favour of the Party. When they came out with their misdirected propaganda, they won us more votes.

Equally so today, when they think that they have broken the Party by suspending the Constitution and locking up our leaders, they have again made supreme asses of themselves. The Party today is stronger than it was last month. The people are determined to support the Party if they must wait five years until the next elections.

What do the so-called "ignorant masses" of Guiana say?

They say that we are now going through the struggle India went through in its fight for freedom. Through imprisonments and shootings, the people persisted. The same will happen here. In the end the people will triumph.

AT the meeting with the unions held on November 5th in the employees headquarters in Tothill St., Westminster, Sir Percy Mills, President of the Engineering Employers Federation, referred to the "sporadic stoppages which are taking place up and down the country in respect of this claim". He said that he hoped the union leaders would use their influence "in the cause of peace and full employment".

The employers, who could have made their contribution to peace by granting the 15 per cent increase, turned it down flat.

Meanwhile, outside in Tothill St., 3,000 engineers who were demonstrating to back their claim, were being ridden into by mounted police helped by 175 foot police.

Some of these demonstrators were from factories in the motor industry which have had spells of short time working during the last year. Sir Percy Mill's espousal of the cause of full employment would no doubt have sounded a little hollow to these workers had they been able to hear it while being pushed out of Tothill St.

Among the banners carried by

the engineers was one which declared—"15 per cent—or else". Now that the 15 per cent increase has been refused, what that "or else" is to be is now being discussed by engineers throughout the country. The monster demonstrations have shown the employers that there is a strong feeling for this claim among the rank and file.

Last year the employers granted a 7/4d. increase to engineers. They gave it only after the industry had come to the brink of a national piece-work ban. Their attitude now has hardened. Already last year these were criticisms within the employers ranks that they were being too soft. This year they are less than ever concerned with the shortage of labour but more concerned with the effect of the level of wages on their profits, in face of increased competition.

In this situation bluff will pay no dividends. That is realised by the vast majority of active trade union engineers. They realise that if engineers are serious about the 15 per cent they must be serious about the "or else". Even if the employers feel the time is not ripe for a big battle they will call every bluff before granting an increase.

What is at stake now for the engineers is not only an increase to maintain real income in face of rising prices. The strategy of the employers is to brake and stop

any trend towards increased wages, and then, having strengthened their own ranks and weakened those of the workers proceed to cut wages. A failure to gain an increase now will bring that offensive all the quicker.

The Executive Committee of the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions meets on November 19th. On it will fall the responsibility for deciding what future action should be.

It is certain that spontaneous action will already have been taken by sections of engineering workers before the E.C. meets.

Suggestions for token stoppages are being made. But it is clear that a great number of engineers will demand that their leadership organise a concerted national stoppage. The E.C. of the Confederation will have to consider the many resolutions passed at demonstrations all over the country calling on them to organise a national strike in the event of a refusal of the 15 per cent.

Many engineers will take the view that token stoppages, guerilla strikes and sectional stoppages will fritter away energy and that, if the engineers are to be serious about the 15 per cent, they must impose the maximum pressure on the employers and that means concerted action, nationally organised and planned.

halls at a bob a nob, or the noble family make do with a tiny 10 room service flat at 50 guineas per week.

And the broadmindedness and lack of prudery of our landed gentry and society folk! When a working class organisation took over a country mansion in the Midlands they found that the host and hostess had been used to having lots of innocent fun looking through the hidden peepholes in the guests' bathrooms.

And how you moan about this alleged housing shortage! Dr. J. E. Haine of Guildford when dealing with the housing shortage, said that many people had lost the initiative and enterprise to provide for themselves. "People are getting rather spoon fed. Large numbers of them have developed the habit of expecting someone to look after them".

He thought that despite high rents many working people could save to buy a house if they make the effort. He knew more than a few who had. We all remember, sir, how Clarence House was not only bought but redecorated throughout. That when Princess Elizabeth moved, as queen, into Buckingham Palace, her mother did not mind swopping and taking over Clarence House and going to the trouble of spending some £20,000 to fit it up for her own needs.

I know most workers cannot afford to have a yacht as well, like the Gothic, but I see in "The Observer" some nice properties at knock-down prices—delightful country residence at Farnham; on the small side, only 6 bed, 3 bath, 3 rec. and garage for 3 cars; 6 acres in all, but only £6,950 needed. Why a worker could buy it in 28 years at £5 per week—less interest. If your wage packet doesn't run to that and also the servant problem being what it is (these damned reds, sir, are everywhere) then there's an "absolutely perfect little modern (1939) architect designed detached COTTAGE, just off bus routes" in Dr. Haines own town. So he does know what he's talking about. This cottage has "4 bed, 2 rec. (20 ft. lounge). Cloakroom. Cream tiled Kitchen and Bathroom. Inbuilt garage, etc., etc. Very delightful little home for only...". Now don't get impatient there are plenty of others, at a similar price of £5,850.

Of course if you are one of these workers who simply throws his money about then you can get some sort of a home for £250 down and £1 19s. per week for 25 years with 10/- p.w. for rates and repairs. But why not cut down on fags and elbow lifting and give the little woman that dream cottage? Why don't you? Henry Dubb (jnr.).

The Industrial Front

Strike Call By London Railwaymen

A well attended mass meeting of railway men took place on Friday, 6th November, at the Holborn Hall. It was the final meeting of three held in London by the London District Councils of the N.U.R. and the A.S.L.E. & F.

The floor of the meeting voiced strong disapproval of the time lag in the wage dispute. As a result, a resolution was carried unanimously that, failing a 15 per cent award by the Executive, a nationwide stoppage should be called by the N.E.C.s of the Unions concerned.

A London Railwayman.

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Next Steps For The Mines

Ian Mikardo (Tribune, 2nd October, 1953) reports Sir Will Lawther as having said at the Labour Party Conference that if nationalised industries were subjected to parliamentary control there would be people who knew less and less about the industry having jurisdiction over it.

Mikardo says: "This argument strikes at the very roots of parliamentary government" and he goes on to say that this argument could be used to justify a state of anarcho-syndicalism, in which the miners ran the mines, the engineers ran the factories, and the devil took the rest.

It is quite understandable that he will not favour any system that will not give some measure of control to non-industrial types like himself, and it is just as easy to understand the fear of men brought up in industry, like Will Lawther, that the workers in nationalised industries will eventually only have an ineffectual voice in the administration of their industries, which will be run by people with no real understanding of the particular industry that they are in.

I have a certain sympathy with both these viewpoints, but I don't think either of them are quite correct. Perhaps out of the two of them we may produce something that will be much nearer what I think is our goal—Socialised industries working for the benefit of the whole community.

I am a colliery worker, and as such I am, of course, particularly interested in the administrative structure of my own industry.

Before a nationalised industry can hope to be successful it has got to enlist the enthusiastic backing of the rank and file workers, mere high up administrative changes cannot alone produce the great changes needed. The N.C.B., in my opinion, has lamentably failed to do that one thing.

One of the greatest problems of modern industry is to keep the repetitive workers interested. The N.C.B. to do this, should have and could have, spent a lot more time and money in explaining their policy—national, area and colliery—to the ordinary worker and asking for suggestions for improvements from the workers at each pit. This policy would have paid out huge dividends in output for the benefit of the nation.

At the risk of being accused by Mr. Mikardo of advocating syndicalism, I am going to suggest that the next logical step in the mining industry, (and I cannot see why it should not also apply to other nationalised industries) is for each pit to manage itself. What I mean is that the actual workers in the industry—all workers—would administer it pit for pit. Each pit would have a Pit Committee to which all sections of colliery workers could belong, including management.

From this would be elected representatives to an Area Commit-

tee and so on to national level. At this level would be machinery for taking in the consumer and national interests. A Board would be formed of Coal and Ministerial representatives together with, in an advisory capacity, representatives from consumer industries.

The Minister would explain the national plan with regard to coal and what was expected of the industry. After discussion about the possibility of this plan, the coal industry would be left to carry out the job. The mining delegates would go back to the industry and explain the plan at all levels. The rank and file worker would then be able to voice his opinions about the plan with regard to his own pit—and who better than the man actually on the job is better qualified to know the job.

Something on these lines is not only possible, but urgently needed if the coal industry is to be made more efficient and capable of providing enough coal to satisfy the nations ever-growing demand.

Price Jones

Manchester

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by

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- Janet Jagan
- L. F. S. Burnham
- H. W. Benn

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WHITTLE BY WHITTLE

WHITTLE by whittle the Tories cut into the standards of life of those of us who are least able to bear it. "Operation Rescue" that is the euphemistic title given to a piece of blatant Tory propaganda turned out by the Government as a pamphlet.

As Herbert Morrison said in the Debate on the Address: "This pamphlet could easily have been produced by the Conservative Central Office I beg the Prime Minister to take this seriously". But what hopes have we of Sir Winston taking any of these things seriously? Rightly, Herbert Morrison pointed out the need for the truth to be told about our Schools. "We could have particulars of the black list which has I understand, existed for many years, and we could be told what progress is being made and by what estimated time the accumulation of schools in bad conditions will be repaired and put right".

But no, we are now to deal with the landlords. Our first job when the Tories came into power was to see that a Bill suiting the brewers would get through the House. Now for the landlords. Again what about "Operation Rescue"?

We Don't Support Lyttleton in Aldershot

I am a member of the Farnborough and Cove Labour Party. This is in the Aldershot Constituency represented by Oliver Lyttleton in Parliament.

I believe that Mr. Lyttleton's actions in regard to British Guiana can well be the means of his defeat at the next General Election.

Clement Atlee and James Griffiths ask Dr. Jagan such an irrelevant question as: are their Communists in the Peoples Progressive Party? Surely it is not a matter of what Government is in office, providing it represents the people, was put there by the people and can be criticised and removed by the people.

There was no justification for sending troops and the British Navy out to British Guiana at the expense of the British people

It is high time that Labour people of Aldershot woke up. Oliver Lyttleton must not be permitted to get away with his interference in the internal affairs of British Guiana. The fight of the people there is very much the same fight as ours.

That is why this old story of Communist trouble makers is cutting no ice. We have seen it used too often.

The fight of the working people the world over for their betterment should not be denounced as communist by us, we should be ready to reach out the hand of friendship to them.

Jack Harrop

Farnborough.

Engineers Leeds Meeting

Despite torrential rain, 500 engineers assembled in the Civic Theatre Leeds on Sunday 7th November to listen to speeches giving the reasons why the engineer's should get a 15 per cent increase. Bro. Hutchinson (A.E.U. & Confed. E.C.man) was the main speaker, and he gave a very convincing, reasoned argument why the 15 per cent should be given, based upon the increase in the cost of living, the increase in profits and the tremendous increase in production. Bro. King of the Confed. District Committee, ably followed Bro. Hutchinson and elaborated on some of the points made.

Two points made by Bro. Hutchinson were of real interest, and I commend everyone to remember these.

1. Wage freeze—this will solve nothing. He said for the last 50 years I have been trying to tell everyone this factor, and that as trade Unionists we have to fight for Wage INCREASES.

2. In the final analysis, the only real way to raise the wages and living conditions of the working class, is not by presenting wage claims to capitalist employers, but by ending the capitalist system and instituting an International Socialist planned economic system.

After some questions and discussion two resolutions were passed—these were:—

That the E.C. of the Confed. of S. and E. Unions should call a national strike in order to show our determination in winning the 15 per cent and that this meeting

pledges its full support for such action.

That the District Confed. Committee should call a local strike at the earliest possible time—followed by a demonstration and a mass meeting outside Leeds Town Hall.

One speaker made the point that the engineers are now in the forefront of a battle that stretches throughout all British industry. If we allowed the 15 per cent claim to be refused—then would come the attack from the employers, and it would not be the first time wage reductions have been imposed.

Make sure Brothers, that we are not beaten or the Labour movement may be dealt a blow far worse than any in the 20's or 30's. If we act in unity we are unbeatable—this is the lesson we have to draw.

Norman Atkinson

Leeds

An African writes...

The article on "Witch-Hunting" which appeared in your paper of 18th October is very timely and needs the immediate attention of the Labour Movement before it is too late.

As an African, I seldom care to enter into British Politics because I feel it is entirely the fault of the British people if conditions are what they are in Britain. But if British politics interfere with African or Asian affairs, then some step must be taken to warn of the dangers that might affect the British people as a whole.

I can assure you that there is in Britain today, a considerable

number of Africans who have found themselves victims of political discriminations simply because they express unpopular views on colonialism or read "left" books or papers in factories, offices and even at educational institutions. The subtle manner in which these discriminations are applied make it almost impossible to detect.

You see, the trouble lies in the fact that prominent leaders in the Labour Movement have taken part in diatribes against "communism" and therefore find it difficult to fight effectively and genuinely against those who apply witch-hunt. The result is oppression and suppression in Kenya, Malaya, South Africa and now British Guiana. You either fight "communism" with all the weapons including oppression and suppression at your command or you don't. You either leave the Colonial Secretary to fight "communism" which prominent Labour Movement leaders agree to fight or you fight against policy. The Labour Movement must make up its mind about its colonial policy.

W. D. Colley

London, S.E.3.

THE GREEK TRAGEDY

THE story of Vassilis Gratsias, who is today in the Averof Prison in Athens is typical of the cat and mouse game being played with the lives and health of men in the prisons and prison camps of Greece.

So far, Gratsias has appeared for trial on no less than eight occasions. Already he has been sentenced to death (later commuted to life imprisonment), as well as to other penalties. He has appeared before Special Courts Martial, Regular Courts Martial and Civil Courts. He is disabled and his health is ruined.

Vassilis Gratsias was suddenly arrested in 1949. He learned that a certain A. Chalkiadakis had made a last minute attempt to save his own life when he was facing the firing squad. He had denounced the "anti-national" activity of Gratsias. For eight months Gratsias was detained in the dungeons of a police station where every effort was made to find someone who would bear witness against him, for the unfortunate Chalkiadakis was now dead. No one was found.

Nevertheless, Gratsias was brought before the Military Tribunal where the President of the Court read out the "confession" of the dead Chalkiadakis.

On the main charges Gratsias was found innocent, but there was no question of him being released. He was sentenced to five years' imprisonment, "for having worked for the detachment of a part of Greek national territory."

More trials followed. He was charged with failing to present himself for military service. The first time he was found to be innocent. The Court accepted the fact that, since he had been disabled and was in receipt of a disablement pension, he could not serve in the army.

But later he was again dragged before the Court Martial to answer the same charge. This time he was sentenced to death. Now, on November 16th., 1949, Gratsias is to face his ninth trial.

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The Week at Westminster



by Harold Davies, M.P.

What is it going to do? No matter how you may argue, the fact is that Rents will go up. As Nye Bevan said, "There was more humbug in that speech (Macmillan's) than I have read in most speeches for a very long time".

MILLIONS WILL NEVER BUY

We have been told that millions now living will never die. Of one thing I am certain despite the Tory drive for a so-called property owning democracy, millions will never buy nor ever be able to buy under this Government, the tumble down shacks for which they will now have to pay more rent.

In the far away twenties landlords were given a 40 per cent increase on their rents some of which was to be used for repairs. But they often took advantage of the tenants' lack of knowledge of the law and just left the work undone.

To illustrate this point, Nye, in the Debate, gave the facts about the 1949 Act which provided inducements for repairs. It enabled a person to spend £800 on modernisation of housing. He had to find only £400 of it. In addition he had an increase of 6 per cent of the cost of the work that he had to undertake. The number that took advantage of this Act was 3,000. Here is the dilemma. "If we make the proposal sufficiently profitable for the landlord, it is unendurable to the tenant. Property of this sort, therefore, must, in the end, be looked upon as a Social Service". When those who cry about subsidies on housing have finished, add up the subsidies to Agriculture, steel, coal and shipping over the years and see the huge disparity in the figures!

Housing is a vital social service. Housing cannot be looked upon as an avenue of profitability.

HAIL BLOOMING YOUTH

Parliament and Press seem to be indulging in a general lament about Britain and its morals. As usual youth must take its beating. I can see Tittivulus, the little demon in Michael Ayrton's delightful story running all around



forefathers. In 1726 the Society for the Reformation of Manners howled against the young and the debauchery of London. In an England with less than a 10 million population then, 94,322 were charged with all types of crimes.

THE CHALLENGE OF YOUTH TODAY

Young men and women are asking uncomfortable questions. The analytical mind of youth is growing. Last year for the few that were sunk in debauchery and crime over 2½ millions of our young men and women were in establishments for further education not including our Universities.

Most of these toiled after their day's work was done. To them their teachers devoted 16 million hours of work last year. They, the youthful ones, devoted 197 million hours of study in technology, the arts and the humanities in their effort to contribute to a more productive Britain in the future. Is all this to be forgotten when one young scamp sticks a knife in the back of another?

Perhaps after all it is the Elders in Society who are gorged with knowledge and starved of wisdom. So here's to the Youth of Britain. I salute you, perhaps you will make a better job of the world than your Elders who at least seem to have failed.

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