

THE

Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

**VOL. I. No. 25. 9d.
18th JUNE, 1964**

Editors: Ken Coates & Robin Blackburn

Editorial " : 19, Greenfield St.
Dunkirk,
Nottingham.

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EDITORS' LETTER

VERY IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT: Please note that as one of the editors will be on holiday next week all articles, correspondence, etc. should go to 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham.

AN APOLOGY: Owing to a misunderstanding the summary of Walfer Kendall's draft plan for building USDAW was attributed to Sam Bornstein, whereas in fact the summary was an editorial effort.

Published by The Week, 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham. Edited and produced in the main by voluntary labour. Subscription rates on request.

AFTER THE RIVONIA TRIAL

The wave of indignation which swept through the country after the judgements in the Rivonia trial was extremely encouraging. It shows that despite all the talk about apathy, affluence, etc., it is still possible to ^{get} large numbers of people into action on issues which do not directly affect them. What is needed, however, is to give this fund of feeling and social consciousness some direction. To merely keep on protesting to the Government, the South African Embassy, etc., will only frustrate the young people who want to do something on this issue. The protests must continue and their volume grow but in addition the Anti-Apartheid movement must set itself realisable tasks which will actually influence the course of events.

In the international campaign against Apartheid Britain is the key. The economic relationship between Britain and South Africa is sufficient proof of that assertion, but even more than that the moral effect of decisive action in Britain would have world-wide repercussions not least of all in South Africa itself. Our comrades there must be given the kind of help which will counter the efforts of the Nationalist Government to intimidate them. Real economic pressure will cause conflicts and differentiation in the ruling circles in South Africa. The experience of all revolutionary movements shows that it is a necessary pre-requisite for the overturning of any regime, that this regime should lose confidence in itself. Thus the efforts of the Anti-Apartheid movement in this country go far beyond merely appealing to the 'better side' of Verwoerd and co.

The realisable aim which Anti-Apartheid can set itself is that of being instrumental in getting the Labour Party committed to economic sanctions - including a trade boycott - against South Africa. This is no easy fight, but is one which can be pursued at all levels. We have reported the struggles in various parts of the country to obtain a municipal boycott. Frankly we are disappointed that we haven't had more reports of this question being posed elsewhere. Surely every reader of The Week is a member of some organisation which would go on record for a municipal boycott? Even in Tory-controlled areas (and right-wing, for that matter) the fight can be made, even if without the prospect of success, just now. These days, immediately following the Rivonia trial are obviously the best for starting this campaign. On the other hand, the holiday season is nearly upon us and failure to raise the question in the next week or so will mean that nothing can be done until autumn and maybe ^{not} until after the General Election.

DON'T LET ADEN BECOME BRITAIN'S ALGERIA

We make no apology for devoting so much of this issue to the question of Aden. It is not merely a matter of being on the right side in a struggle between imperialism and liberation forces. The whole of Labour's policy of reforms (as modest and inadequate as they are) will be jeopardised if a Labour Government becomes bogged down in a series of colonial wars. Moreover, sooner or later, this would find political expression in this country too. The failure of the left in France to oppose the Algerian war led to the rise of de Gaulle - if Labour acts as a policeman for big business interests (and charging the account to us) the result will be election disaster. Under these circumstances the most likely outcome would be an authoritarian Tory Government. Thus a fight today for solidarity with our colonial comrades is a fight against rightward swing in Britain tomorrow.



LABOUR

SOUTH NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS WANT WORKERS' CONTROL OF PROFITS

The South Nottm. Y.S. passed the following resolution on June 15th and it was sent to Mr. Wilson and the South Nottm. CLP:

Whilst supporting the view that it is impossible for the trade union movement to participate in an incomes policy at national level unless firm and effective measures are taken to control profits and other forms of rentier income, as well as wages, this branch declares that no effective control of profits is possible unless steps are taken to discover, accurately, their real extent and amount. Accordingly this branch, concerned at the numerous ways in which employers are able to mask their returns, in dubious allowances for depreciation, etc., requires as a condition of participation in an incomes policy that the employers account books be opened, as a matter of right, to their employees and their representatives, in order that an accurate picture of actual profit levels may be obtained.

SENIOR PILOT WANTS STAFF PARTICIPATION ON STATE AIRLINE BOARDS

Tom Nicholls reports: Captain Fry, who was for many years BOAC's senior pilot, writing in Flight International of 4th June, is critical of the old BOAC set up for its lack of adequate consultation with the staff. In discussing the structure of the Board, he writes: "But I do believe that one of the weaknesses of the BOAC of the immediate past was the fact that the Board contained civil servants, trade union officials, a building executive and some noble lords, but not one single person with a genuine up to date experience as an air-line pilot." On day to day organisation he says: "It has also been unfortunate that, on the commercial side, there has been precious little consultation with those in day to day touch with the 'customers.'"

Summing up on staff morale, he says: "Then he (Sir Giles Guthrie) must try to project himself and his team to all ranks of the staff. In particular he would be wise to accept the advice of Eric Lubbock, M.P., that the pilots should be allowed to elect one of their number to the Board. He might also consider that same idea for the engineering staff, who are at the moment not too pleased with the management. In any case technical personnel must not continue to be excluded from top management."

TWO DAYS EXTRA HOLIDAY AFTER TEN YEARS from a special correspondent

The following press notice was issued by the Agricultural Wages Board: "At their meeting on Wednesday, 3rd June, 1964, the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales resumed consideration of a claim by the workers' representatives for a 3rd week's annual holiday with pay. After discussion it was agreed unanimously that additional holidays should be granted to long service workers at the rate of 2 days after 10 years' continuous service with one employer; 3 days after 15 years, and one week after 20 years..." (our emphasis - 3 T.U. representatives sit on the Board.)

Ed. note: it should be forgotten that a very high proportion of agricultural workers are casual and therefore could not possibly benefit from the above.

Trade union platform



TELEGRAPHISTS REJOIN U.P.W.

from a special correspondent

In 1962 a number of overseas telegraphists, based mainly in London, broke away from the Union of Post Office Workers and formed the National Association of Overseas Telegraph Officers. The reason they gave for this move was that they considered that they had no voice in the union. Now, after intervention by the TUC, a year's negotiation has led to the decision by the NAOTO to dissolve itself and advise all its members to rejoin the UPW. Announcing this, Mr. Oswald Williams, chairman of the rebel association, said that the UPW had gone a long way in altering its machinery to give overseas telegraphists representation. The decision took effect last week.

TWO UNION YOUTH GROUPS FORMED

from Dave Windsor

Last month saw the launching of the London Guild of Young Printers. This was formed by the London Region of the National Graphical Association at a meeting attended by 400 of the 1,300 youth members of the union. A gift of £400 has been made by the union to the guild and it is also to receive two-thirds of its members' unions subs. At the meeting an E.C. of eight members was elected.

Up in Scotland, USDAW formed a youth group the first week in June. This was done at a social held in the hall of the Greenock Co-op Society. The secretary of the new group is an employee of the Greenock Society, Mr. Dan Maloney.

TWO YOUNG WORKERS' CHARTER ACTION GROUPS ESTABLISHED

based on Voice report

At the AEU Youth Conference a 7-point Charter for Young Workers in Engineering was adopted (see Week No. 13 for report of Conference). Now two Action Groups have been formed in the North West to campaign for the Charter - in Stockport and Manchester. The latter is holding an open meeting on Thursday, 18th June at 8.00 p.m. in the Crown and Anchor Hotel, Hilton St. (near Stevenson Square). All young workers are invited to attend.

N.A.L.S.O. CHALLENGES WILSON OVER ADEN

NALSO recently issued a statement which, as well as criticising the Tories over their policy in Aden, expressed concern at Wilson's attitude. This provoked a letter from Wilson, but at its June meeting NALSO considered the reply and stuck to its guns. It wrote to Wilson:

"At our meeting on June 6th we considered your letter of the 20th May explaining your attitude to British military operations in Aden. In our opinion it is unsatisfactory; and we wish to make the following comments on the points you raise:

a) Naturally we could not have a full copy of your statement before us. We acted on the basis of press reports which I think you will agree were quite full and in any case unlikely to give you the benefit of the doubt with respect to any anti-imperialism you might have shown. In our opinion your statement was bound to be interpreted in the way that the Daily Mail, for example, did when it ran it under the headline "Wilson Backs Sir Alec." Similarly the Sunday Telegraph was entitled to remark that you had adopted the 'Palmerstonian' tactic of claiming you would prosecute imperialist wars more efficiently than the imperialists themselves. Certainly the bits you quote in your defence are inadequate to counterbalance the impression that this was what you were doing.

b) We reject the suggestion that to publicly disassociate ourselves from your attitude shows "scant sense of responsibility or loyalty to the Party." On the contrary we suggest that your own behaviour has shown a profound lack of responsibility and of loyalty to the party in that such a sharp turn to the right has damaged the precarious unity of the party at a very important time. It has had a delatorious effect on morale in many places. For instance, the Oxford University Labour Club was unanimous in its protest to you. Faced with the choice between allowing NALSO to be dragged along by implication in the wake of this new line or of publicly disassociating ourselves we felt we had no alternative but to make it clear we stood by our principles in this matter.

c) You say that the Labour Party condemned the Harib Fort attack in the House. We welcome this and have never thought otherwise. The bombings we were concerned about were those carried out in the Aden Federation itself, in the Radfan Mountains, initiated on the authority of Sir Alec Douglas-Home and supported by you in your statement. We confused the issue, however, by introducing the question of the U.N. and conflating their condemnation of the Harib Fort Affair with these later bombings. Nevertheless we think you will agree that your attitude is directly opposed to the April resolution passed in the UN committee on colonialism which stated that the British base at Aden was "prejudicial to peace and security in the area." This has been confirmed with a vengeance since then! Furthermore, we would remind you of the resolution introduced in the same Committee on May 8th which was sponsored by India along with many others. This referred to the "dangerous situation prevailing in the area as a result of recent British military actions," and called upon Britain "to cease forthwith all military measures" against the people of the Aden Protectorate. The Times reports that, though no vote was taken, a number of delegates spoke forcefully in its favour. Your support of Home's militarism in Aden must have come as a shock to colonial and ex-colonial peoples of the world.

d) According to you the Parliamentary L.P. is not prepared to raise the issues involved because "British soldiers are under fire." This argument we utterly reject. This is the same sort of opportunist attitude as was adopted by the French left during the Algerian war and which led to their complete demoralisation and the takeover by De Gaulle. On the contrary we demand that you pin the responsibility for the loss of British and Arab lives on the Prime Minister, that you point out the useless reactionary nature of this war, and that you

THORNEYCROFT ADMITS THAT AIM IS TO STARVE TRIBESMEN from Frank Allaun

May I congratulate The Week on the excellent and remarkable job it is doing. In response to the financial appeal I enclose a small donation of £1. You might like to see the enclosed extracts from Hansard. You would think that when our Minister of Defence admits instructions to starve civilians it would be news. I regret to say I couldn't see any press report, with one exception.....

The extract reads:

"26. Mr. Frank Allaun asked the Secretary of State for Defence what actions are being taken by the military forces in Southern Arabia affecting the civilian population's food supplies.

39. Mr. Warbey asked the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons he authorised the burning of food stocks in Radfan villages and the expulsion of the tribesmen and their families from their lands just prior to the sowing season.

Mr. Thorneycroft: We are dealing with rebels, armed, equipped and incited from the Yemen. We can and do use military action in certain areas, but in others it is better to deny the area to them. It is inevitable that crops should suffer and food stocks be destroyed in the process of excluding the rebels from their settled areas.....

NALSO letter to Wilson continued/

initiate a campaign to "BRING THE LADS HOME!" This might be ^{more} popular than you suppose since it has been borne in on many during similar episodes that continued sacrifice of British youth in this way is unnecessary. In the fight against feudalism sheiks and imperialist domination our sympathies are firmly on the side of the rebels.

e) According to you where our troops are "accepted under treaty it is the duty of the Government to give them all the necessary backing and the Opposition support them in this." This is ^{an} utterly sophistical argument. The point is what are the troops doing there in the first place? Naturally once you embark on a policy of repression this argument can be used to justify 1,000 lb bombs and swarms of helicopters. The question is where can one get out of this vicious circle short of the ultimate barbarism it led to in Algeria and in Angola? In our opinion the best time to stop is now. We demand the calling of an immediate truce and withdrawal of British troops. As for the question of a 'treaty' as the P.L.P. spokesmen have said, the Aden states are protectorates run ^{by} utterly unrepresentative stooge governments and such enforced 'treaties' are worthless. We demand that you point this out and campaign for the introduction of truly representative government in the area.

f) In your statement of May 12th you said "...we think it right to state...that Aden must be held as an important base, both for communications and as a centre for peacekeeping operations. What other measures are necessary to this end must be taken." We are dismayed that a Labour leader should adopt such a backward attitude. We assert that there is no reason whatsoever for a socialist to support the Tory policy on this issue. As you must know well "peace-keeping" is a hypocritical Tory euphemism. The true purpose of the base, as more honest commentators like the Financial Times have said, is to protect British oil interests. The troops are there not to help the Arabs but to help British big business.....

'THE DIRECTOR' ON WILSON'S DIFFICULTIES

from Stan Mills

The June issue of The Director, journal of the Institute of Directors, had a fairly lengthy article entitled "The Tories on the Attack". One could hardly expect this to be an impartial examination (the Institute has on its Council 4 Lords, 3 Earls, 1 Viscount, 1 Marquis, no less than 16 "Sirs", 2 Major-Generals, with a Colonel thrown in, presumably to make it democratic) but the part most interesting to members of the Labour Party is as follows:

"....Labour's lack of real cohesion over essential aims has led to some of the chief difficulties confronting Mr. Wilson since he took over, particularly in defence policies. And it has led the Labour leader into some pretty vulnerable positions. It was, of course, the quarrel between the unilateralists and the rest that produced the Labour Party's present defence policy which admits that membership of the Western nuclear alliance is essential but rejects the claim that we can have our own, independent nuclear weapon. As it happens, the development of the American nuclear programme has given some semblance of rationality to this Labour policy.Even so, there are still big difficulties about Labour's policy. What exactly would they do with our independent deterrent - particularly Polaris? How meaningful is all the discussion about assigning it to NATO?.....

"Mr. Wilson's vulnerability on these points has led him into a position where he has to emphasise that, notwithstanding its views over the deterrent, Labour is a 'patriotic' Party which would defend Britain's independent role as a power in the Western Alliance. Hence, of course, his words in Washington....about Britain's role, with strengthened conventional forces in helping the U.N. to put out brush fires in trouble spots. Now this is certainly not a role for Britain that is offensive to the Americans. There is nothing that the US would like more than for Britain to take on this sort of duty to a greater extent (our efforts in East Africa were much appreciated in Washington) thus freeing the US of an often painful obligation. But, again, for Britain this could be a policy of more kicks than ha'pence and one must ask whether Mr. Wilson really believes that Labour is offering a more attractive policy than the Tories in proposing that British troops should be more heavily committed than they are already in trouble-spots.....

"Then, of course, there is the gulf between Left and Right over economic policy; and it has become increasingly clear that the Left is not happy about the extent to which Mr. Wilson is prepared to go along with capitalism. So Mr. Wilson has produced his policy of using tax as a means of differentiating between essential and inessential industries and/or firms - which again, is not necessarily a policy which will prove wildly attractive to workers in all industries.

THE COST OF BUYING VOTES

from Jim Wilcox

A recent issue of the Sunday Times had an article entitled "Is Labour going broke?", the most interesting part of which was a table of expenditure by the Tory Party and other anti-Labour organisations. The figures for financial year ending April were: Tory Party, £462,000; Economic League, £256,000; Aims of Industry, £113,000; Iron & Steel Federation, £238,000; and Stewart & Lloyds, £57,000. The article prophesied that these orgs. would spend even more between now and the election. In addition such groups as Colin Hurry, N.A.B.M., were not active yet, but had spent more than £550,000 prior to the last general election.

OXFORD STUDENTS PROTEST 'RIVONIA' SENTENCES from D. Dickson & C. Arthur

As the results became known there was at 2.00 p.m. a demonstration of some 150 who had a 2-minutes' silence and sung two verses of "We shall overcome". Then in the evening of the same day (Friday), by coincidence, Dr. Carel de Wet, the South African Ambassador was to have spoken at the Oxford University Conservative Club. The Ruskin Students Against Apartheid organised a counter-demonstration led by Judith Hart, M.P., and Dr. Dadoo. On the advice of Police and his Secret Service, de Wet cancelled his visit and the South African Embassy issued a statement which said this was done because "of a build up of hostile elements unconnected with the university." However, we still held our demonstration as a protest against the sentences, with a march across town to a meeting addressed by Judith Hart. It was attended by Ruskin students, students from other colleges, trade unionists (pressed steel workers were prominent), Labour Party members and citizens from Oxford. In all about 500 people took part. Both demonstrations were organised by Ruskin students since the University proctors had banned those under their jurisdiction from doing so.

We were disappointed that de Wet chose to stay in London rather than face the anger of the people of Oxford and we regret the fact that he had not the moral courage to attempt to justify the policies of Apartheid. As the demonstrators marched through the streets they sang "All men shall be free some day" This was the theme of the meeting and we shall continue to work for that end, even though de Wet attempts to smear us as a hostile element. We will always be hostile to the policies of Apartheid.

RIVONIA TRIAL PROTEST IN BRIGHTON from C. Ballantine

The active Anti-Racialist Society at the University of Sussex took the initiative in organising protests....By Friday lunchtime, the day on which the sentences were announced, at least 600 of the 900 students at the University had signed ^{the} protest..and had recorded their opposition to Apartheid. Even the University's Conservative Society, whilst explaining that it could not fully support the aims of Anti-Apartheid, joined in the protests and urged its members to sign the petition. One of the largest-ever Students' Union meeting was held to explain what could be done in order to register protests and was addressed by the Union President, officers of the A-R.S. and by South African students, both black and white. A number of faculty members supported and spoke.

Early in the evening some 400 people gathered at Brighton's Peace Statue and, led by Thabo Mbeki, an economics student at the University and son of Goven Mbeki, one of those sentenced to life imprisonment, marched in silence through the centre of town. 200 were University students (who were joined by about 15 members of the staff), and they were joined by students from Brighton Training College, who were holding an Anti-Apartheid week; local L.P. members; C.N.Ders; Y.C.N.Ders, and the Sussex Committee of 100. The banner of the Brighton & Hove Trades Council was carried by local T.Uists, and a small group had even come 40 miles from Tunbridge Wells to join the protest.

After the demonstration, a group of about 100 left to march through the night to hand in the petitions at 10, Downing St., and join the vigils at the South African Embassy. They were again led by Thabo Mbeki...Soon after dusk a very severe thunder-storm broke out and the march carried on through torrential rain....Despite the fact that the national press almost entirely ignored the demonstration, the local evening paper, which only a few weeks before had been complaining about the irresponsibility of the younger generation, gave $\frac{1}{2}$ a page to the preparations for the demonstration, together with a profile of Thabo Mbeki and an informative and sympathetic account of the work of the African National Congress and the current situation in South Africa.

LABOUR PEACE FELLOWSHIP MEETS

from Len Nicholas

The Annual General Meeting of the Labour Peace Fellowship on June 9th passed a resolution calling upon the Labour Party N.E.C. to hold a 1964 Conference, following the General Election. Chairman Frank Allaun pointed out that no conference would mean no foreign affairs debate, and no opportunity for rank and file opinion on foreign policy, for the third successive year. Labour Party members who will be working hard between now and the General Election have a right to be able to express their views at an annual conference. C.L.P.s and affiliated trade unions must press for a 1964 conference. Frank Allaun said that he was very satisfied with the progress of the Fellowship during the last year, and hoped that it would very soon be as powerful a force for peace in the Labour movement as the MCF is against the exploitation of colonial peoples.

NORTH WEST CND TO HOLD CONFERENCE ON 'ECONOMICS OF STAYING ALIVE'

Alan Rooney reports: the North West is one of the main centres of arms manufacture in the country, including the Polaris projects at Birkenhead and Barrow. Those in favour of nuclear policies are increasingly turning to the argument that arms production creates prosperity. A Barrow newspaper recently carried, in its editorial, these formulae:

Barrow + Polaris = Prosperity Barrow - Polaris = Depression.

To secure the abolition of nuclear weapons it will be necessary to combat such arguments. N.W. Region C.N.D. have decided to convene a discussion conference to explore this question, and this will take place at:

The Nag's Head, Jackson's Row, off Deangate, Manchester 2, on the weekend of 18th/19th July.

The Region is inviting all interested to attend. There will be a conference fee of 2/6 and accommodation will be provided overnight on Saturday in the homes of C.N.D. supporters. Economists, trade unionists, M.P.s, etc. have been invited to submit papers to stimulate the discussion, and these will be circulated. Anyone interested should contact: North West Region CND, 14, Tib Lane, Manchester 2.

LEFT WING ACTIVITIES IN BRISTOL

A small group of CND members picketed the opening performance of the "Finest Hours" at the Bristol Odeon on Monday 8th June, they carried a banner saying "The finest hours resulted in Hiroshima and Nagasaki," and handed out the controversial ILP army leaflet. Local military "brass" were out in force and there was a small parade of army cadets. The Lord Mayor who was said to have been invited was not seen.

A group of about two dozen people gathered on College Green outside the Council House 7.00 p.m. on Friday to start a 5 hour vigil in protest at the sentences announced in the treason trial; there was also a short meeting in the centre of Bath. Perhaps as significant was the fact that one Conservative Parliamentary candidate, Cllr. Bob Wall, also spoke out against the result of trial. "To deny a man elementary political rights in the second half of the 20th century was to ensure that sooner or later those men would take up arms to acquire such rights," he said.

The next meeting of the Bristol Left Club will discuss "Incomes Policy under a Labour Government. The speaker will be Mr. J.L. Thomas, of Bristol University. The meeting will be held at the Full Moon Hotel, Stokes Croft, on June 23rd, commencing at 7.45 p.m.

YOUTH UNEMPLOYMENT PROBLEM IN POLAND? based on Financial Times report

The 4th Congress of Poland's ruling United Workers' Party (that is, the Communist) opened in Warsaw on Sunday, 14th June. Its agenda is heavily angled to the discussion of economic questions. The Congress will be asked to approve a draft plan for the new Five-year Plan period 1966-70. By far the largest issue in this period will be the finding of employment for the huge post-war "bulge" generation. The Government will have to find 1.6m. new jobs. It is reckoned that agriculture, in which some 37% of the working population is occupied, cannot absorb any more workers. Therefore the increase in the number of jobs will have to be made either in State industry, construction and services, where total employment last year was 7.4m., or in the development of privately-run services.

Since it is thought impossible to provide the capital for new workplaces for the entire 1.6m. in industry, considerable emphasis is being put on services and handwork such as tailoring, shoe repair, electrical appliance maintenance and handicrafts. The private sector in these fields is being encouraged to expand with, for example, tax concessions to private tradesmen who take on apprentices. The plan sees a 45-47% increase in industrial production. Much of the industrial investment will be in projects already commenced in the extraction industries - hard coal, lignite, copper and sulphur, with some oil exploration.

For new investment there will be a great emphasis on agriculture. The share of agriculture in the total investment is expected to be 18%. But agriculture and industries working for agriculture (fertilisers, machinery, etc.) will take no less than 40% of the total productive investment. Agricultural production is planned to rise by some 3% a year - a fairly cautious estimate. The aim is to eliminate the need for imports of western grain which, at some 2m.-3m. a year in recent years, has been a serious drain on hard currency earnings.

CHINESE ACCUSE CZECH C.P. OF FORGING LETTERS

In a statement put out by the Chinese People's Association for Cultural Relations with Foreign Countries the charge that this organisation had put out a letter of greetings which called upon Czech cadres to overthrow their leadership was vigorously denied. The charge had been made in the May 24th issue of the Czech C.P. paper, Rudeh Ravo, and repeated by leaders of the Czech C.P.. The denial pointed out defects in the forgeries, such as incorrect telegraph and postal addresses.

INDONESIAN AND NEW ZEALAND C.P.s SEE 'EYE-TO-EYE'

From the 2nd to the 7th of June, the general secretary of the New Zealand C.P., V. Wilcox, paid a visit to Indonesia. During this time he had talks with Indonesian C.P. leaders, and gave several lectures on the policy of his party. At the end of his stay a joint statement was issued in the name of the two C.P.s. This followed, fairly rigidly, the Chinese position on all questions, including the key question of the Moscow Test Ban Treaty. The statement called for the resumption of bilateral talks between the Soviet C.P. and the Chinese C.P. after "adequate preparations". It also expressed the opinion that bilateral talks "on an equal basis" should be held between the Albanian and Soviet parties.

NEGRO AMERICAN LABOUR COUNCIL CALLS FOR LABOUR PARTY

The above organisation, which is composed of Negro members of trade unions affiliated, in the main, to the AFL/CIO, passed the following resolution at its 4th Annual Convention, held in Cleveland, May 29-31.

Whereas, there is no basic difference in philosophy between the Democratic and Republican Parties, with both opposing and supporting civil rights and labour's rights, with no clear consistent and insistent voice being raised on behalf of the workers and the poor, except as an individual liberal Democrat or Republican, but without any organised force back of him;

Whereas, practically every country in the world has a political pact of the workers and farmers, small shopkeepers, liberals, professionals and intelligentsia except the United States; therefore, be it

Resolved, that this Convention of the Negro American Labour Council assembled in Cleveland, Ohio, May, 1964, go on record to call for the beginning of a serious discussion on a nationwide basis of the formation of an American Farmer-Labour Party, with the labour movement, liberal, church, professional and students' groups as its base, but without orientation toward totalitarian Communism, but with commitment to democratic principles, freedom and economic justice.

PROFIT SHARING SCHEME COLLAPSINGbased on Financial Times report

Less than 2 months before the United Auto Workers Union resumes labour contract negotiations with American car manufacturers, one of the bolder projects to have emerged from an earlier bargaining round is in danger of floundering. During contract talks in 1961, American Motors Corporation declined to follow its bigger rivals - General Motors, Ford Motor and Chrysler - in offering a conventional "package" of higher wages and "fringe benefits" but drew up a novel profit-sharing plan for its employees. The plan was praised from the outset by the UAW President, Mr. Walter Reuther, who had been expected to use the 1964 negotiations to try to persuade the "big 3" car makers to hand out part of their profits to employees.

Eight months ago AMC employees were shocked when an increase in the company's profits was accompanied paradoxically by a reduction in payments to the profit-sharing fund, and enthusiasm about profits participation has since been on the wane. With 1964 contract talks now almost at hand, top UAW officials are reluctant to talk about the AMC plan, though at lower echelons of the union fears are heard expressed that unless major improvements are secured some union men may lose their jobs. Under the AMC scheme 15% of the company's pre-tax profits less an amount broadly equivalent to 10% of the stockholders' investment is paid each year into a profit-sharing fund. Two-thirds of the total is then used to cover pensions and other "fringe benefits" while the balance is earmarked for the purchase of AMC stock on behalf of the participants in the fund.

Employees, however, are not ordinarily allowed to turn their shares into cash immediately and this regulation has recently been a cause for grouching. It has been noted, for instance, that since the first profit shares were paid out in Autumn, 1962, the price of AMC stock has dropped about 25%. At the same time there is inevitably concern at AMC that while the company's profits have seemed likely to fall this year the contribution to the profit-sharing fund could dwindle to little more than a third of the 9.25m. dollars distributed in 1963.



THE THIRD WORLD REVOLUTION

CASTRO MAKES FIGHTING SPEECH AT QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY RECEPTION from Hsinhua

Premier Castro said in Havana on June 13th that the Cuban Revolution would continue to advance and one had to kill the last Cuban before it could be stamped out. The example of the Cuban Revolution would remain indestructible even if Cuba was reduced to ashes, he said. The Premier was talking to foreign and Cuban pressmen at the Queen's birthday reception given by the British Embassy on June 13th. The influence of the Cuban Revolution on peoples now fighting for liberation would be inerascable, he added. Castro said that the liberation of Cuba could be considered as the beginning of a movement which would surely culminate in the independence of Latin America for the second time. He stressed: "The sole and real enemy is the U.S. Government and the CIA. It is a powerful enemy whom we will not underestimate." Referring to Cuba's relations with the U.S. Castro reaffirmed that Cuba had never been opposed to discussing them on the basis of equality and mutual respect. But it would never agree to enter into negotiations under threats.

He affirmed that the U.S. would remain the same towards Cuba no matter whether it was Republican or Democrat who won the coming election. He said that revolution was every nation's own affair and could not be exported. But the Cuban people gave support to the peoples now engaged in struggle. The "Alliance for Progress", he added, was a reactionary measure intended to forestall social revolution in Latin America but it had proved to be a complete failure. In desperation, the U.S. had now openly allied itself with the gorillas, the reactionary military in Latin America.

THE BULLY BEEF MONARCHY

by Alec Bagley

"An officer from the Ministry of Agriculture went out to South America and investigated the position, and informed the Government in the middle of March that one establishment was producing corned beef and not using chlorinated water. The supplies from that source were stopped on the high seas. Very large quantities from this factory circulated throughout the country for 8 or 9 months before, but these were not withdrawn."

Mr. Michael Noble, Secretary for Scotland, 8/6/64.

The appointment of a former Permanent Secretary of State at the Scottish Office - Sir D. Milne - to chair the typhoid enquiry at Aberdeen is blatant confirmation of the Government's unwillingness to hold a really independent investigation. The terms of reference of the committee exclude enquiry into the decision not to withdraw the corned beef. Some South American states are often referred to as "banana republics" because of their subservience to the United Fruit Co. Perhaps subservience to Liebig's and Armour will earn Britain the title of the Bully Beef Monarchy. The whole Labour movement must demand the immediate resignation of the Minister of Agriculture over the typhoid epidemic.

IS COUSINS FULLY INTEGRATED INTO THE STRUCTURE OF CAPITALISM?

You ask, (in your reviewer's contribution to the controversy with Bob Potter of Solidarity, Week No. 24) for a more subtle analysis of the ambivalence of union leaders. Would you agree that the following quotation from a recent speech at Bristol by Frank Cousins, (quoted in The Record, May issue) is an interesting confirmation of ambivalent attitudes?

"We have said that in the new age of automation, in this new era of technological progress, if they'll give us security, re-training, high rates of pay, and fewer hours of work, we'll show them how to get all the output they need to pay for the benefits we are entitled to demand. If we do not get these things, if they think that automation is merely another bonanza for the stock exchange speculators, then we shall fight them every inch of the way."

The first sentence suggests a degree of 'class collaboration' ("we'll show them how..." etc.) and also the inhibiting notion of 'fair' shares between work and property ("the benefits we are entitled to demand"). But the second embodies genuine militancy in the context of the class struggle! Standing with many other pronouncements by Cousins, - in particular the TUC speech your reviewer cited - it can hardly lead to the conclusion that he is "fully integrated into the structure of capitalism," as Bob Potter evidently believes.

Tony Topham

LABOUR HISTORY BULLETIN

The 8th Bulletin of the Society for the Study of Labour History has just appeared, in a considerably improved format. Outstanding articles included are: a feature, with bibliography, on Trade Union Historiography, by Eric Hobsbawm, which discusses the ground already covered and the gaps which remain in a most profound and scholarly manner; some letters of Eleanor Marx with an introduction by C. Tsuzuki; a review of E.P. Thompson's masterly work "The Making of the English Working Class" by Sidney Pellard; and an abstract of papers on Rosa Luxemburg (by J.P. Nettle) and the Comintern (by Jane Degras) given at the Society's meeting. The Bulletin is available only to members of the Society. Membership costs 10/- per annum, and is available from the Treasurer, Mr. J.M. Simpson, Dept. of Scottish History, the University of Edinburgh.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Bulletin of the People's Socialist Party (Aden-Southern Yemen): issue No. 3 deals mainly with the London conference and shows what a farce this. All who want to have a factual statement on the Southern Arabian crisis will have to get this Bulletin. The London office of the PSP also publish background papers, their address is: 68, Alie St., London, E.1.

Revolutionary Venezuela, No. 4: brings news of the guerilla struggle in that country and is available from: London V.F.L.N., 6, Tregunter Rd, S.W.19

Bristol Socialist Bulletin: is published by Tom Nichols, secretary of the Bristol New Left and regular contributor to the Week. It comments on several international questions as well as giving news of left wing activity.

Lives for Oil

Can Socialists defend Oil Profits with bombs?

'It is safe to assume that when the Labour and Conservative Parties agree on an issue, both are wrong. Their new-found unanimity, in insisting that Aden must be held as a British base, if need be by force of arms, is a case in point. The sound of Mr. Wilson's flute echoing Sir Alec Douglas-Home's big drum is an ominous noise'

The 'Observer' May 17th, 1964

Krushchev builds dams in Egypt

meanwhile Home bombs tribesmen in Aden

The 'Observer' continued to argue the case for ending the Aden base and for Britain to become the Peacemaker of the Middle East. On June 7th, the 'Observer' compared the situation to earlier French policies in Algeria, also Britain at the time of Suez.

Remember Suez? This Tory crime was committed in defence of Oil Profits. The Labour Party helped to stop them in their tracks.

WHAT MUST LABOUR DO NOW?

The Government has called a conference of feudal chiefs.

WE SAY that it is the people who should be consulted and their representatives released from jail.

WE SAY that the ruthless and barbaric bombing of the Arab people must stop **NOW**.

£2000 million !

£ £

Two thousand million pounds is this year's Arms bill. Much of this continual increase is to pay for 5 Polaris submarines for Britain.

WHAT WILL YOU GET FOR YOUR MONEY?

Polaris won't be ready until 1969 anyway, YET IT IS ALREADY OUT-OF-DATE!

Polaris is not invulnerable, for it could be tracked down and destroyed by killer subs. Polaris will make us no more independent than V-bombers do at present.

The Tories have landed us with a useless and very expensive fish. One that can never be used if we want a future.

WHAT MUST LABOUR DO?

We who support CND say Labour must scrap this programme before wasting a further £400 million on completing it. Housing, pensions, health, education, roads, industrial machinery, are our commitments at home. Aid for the hungry abroad.

Skilled manpower employed on Polaris and similar projects should be usefully employed to expand these services.

WILL YOU SUPPORT US?

Please send you name and address and donation if possible to The Secretary, Nottingham CND, 27 Brookland Drive, Chilwell.