

# THE Week

**A news analysis for socialists 9d.**

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ANTI-NATIONALISATION ARGUMENTS PUNCTURED

Three events this week have made nonsense of the flood-gates of anti-nationalisation propaganda being put out by the supporters of the Tory Party. The findings of the Restrictive Practices Court show conclusively that there is not a vestige of competition or 'private' enterprise in the steel industry. The arguments of Dr. Beeching on rail versus road transport give added weight to what Labour and trade union spokesmen have been saying for a long time: namely that the reasons for the poor showing of British Railways are because the dice is loaded, deliberately, against it, and in favour of privately owned road transport. The findings of the House of Commons Committee on Nationalised Industries, which looked into the affairs of BOAC, showed that the Government has consistently favoured privately owned aircraft manufacturers against the state line. We shall go into these reports in detail in subsequent issues but a lesson can be drawn: given the necessary determination, a bold and vigorous campaign in defence of the principle of social ownership would pay electoral dividends, and the arguments that we must keep quiet about nationalisation just don't hold water.

What is wrong with nationalisation at present is not that <sup>it</sup> suppresses initiative, leads to bureaucracy, etc., (any of our readers in large privately owned enterprises will confirm similar tendencies exist) but that the worker in those industries do not consider the industry to be 'their' concern. This is because the workers 'feel' (and know) that it is still a question of 'them' and 'us'. Quite apart from the form of nationalisation, the content of nationalisation is clearly wrong. This in itself is all a reflection of the fact that even in Labour's programme nationalised industries are subordinate to keeping the private sector going - the question of relative efficiency is not a real issue - and this implies certain forms and policies. A policy of nationalisation, under workers' control, of the decisive sections of British industry would be a vote-winner.

HANDS OFF ZANZIBAR

For several weeks a number of newspapers (in particular, the Sunday Telegraph) have been carrying stories about anarchy in Zanzibar, and weeping crocodile tears about the fate of the whites and Arabs in that country. These actions have led to a growing suspicion that the ground is being prepared for direct intervention by Britain against the left-wing Government of Zanzibar. The Financial Times, which does not write for the masses, is franker; in an article entitled "Will Nyerere ask for Help in Zanzibar?" it poses the question directly. It says: "...The drift towards utter anarchy" (the big business view of workers taking over factories and running them as co-ops, no doubt) "or a consolidated Communist rule can be halted...only by firm action from outside". Dismissing the idea that other African states would be able to help, it continues: "It is more probable that Nyerere is increasingly yempered to turn to the West...as he did earlier this year.." After saying that the U.S. and West Germany would almost certainly respond, it concludes: "In April Britain was ready to land forces in Zanzibar if both Nyerere and Karume made a written request. ....the attractions of British assistance cannot be lost on President Nyerere." Let us not wait until the Tories launch another colonial adventure before we do anything.

## Trade union platform



### LESSON OF THE PRINT TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

by George Jerrom\*

Your news item in the June 11th edition re the rejection by the British Federation of Master Printers of the unions' claim for a third weeks holiday shows two cardinal points.

First, it shows the idiocy of tying workers to long-term agreements, even with the provision of raising certain questions during the life-time of that agreement (i.e. the 3rd week). This holiday claim was justified in 1959 when it was first made -- we are still waiting.

Secondly, it provides a pointer on how the newspaper workers, now in the process of negotiating a new agreement, should treat the offer made to them, tying them down for THREE AND HALF YEARS. As yet the claim for the nine-night fortnight has not even been raised. Will that also be the subject of a proposal to raise it during the period of the agreement? Printworkers you have had the warning light flashed. Reject this offer.

\* George Jerrom is an Executive member of the Association of Correctors of the Press.

### SCIENTIFIC WORKERS MAKE GOOD PROGRESS IN T.U. ORGANISATION

The report of the Executive Committee of the Association of Scientific Workers gives the following details of the growth of the union in the past year:

"1963 proved to be a record post-war year so far as recruitment and membership was concerned with 4,980 new members recruited during the year. October 1963 was an all-time record with 666 new members registered in that month."

The report also give details of how membership has changed over the last three years. Total membership was 12,593 in 1960, 15,045 in 1961, 17,244 in 1962 and 19,098 at the end of 1963. Engineering, Chemicals and the Universities have provided most of the recruits.

FRED LEE DENIES ARMS' EMBARGO WILL CAUSE UNEMPLOYMENT from a Hull reader

Fred Lee, spokesman for the Labour Party on aircraft affairs, addressed a public meeting recently on the question of Hawker Siddeley's production of the Blackburn Buccaneer for sale to South Africa, in the town of Brough (near Hull) where the aircraft factory is situated. He gave a timely re-assurance that the cancelling of the order for these aircraft by the next Labour Government would not be allowed to cause redundancies at the works, thus killing an insidious campaign which the local Tory Mail has been running for months in an attempt to scare Brough workers into opposing Labour's policy. There were encouraging signs at the meeting, and from a statement made by a DATA representative at Hull Trades Council later, that progressive elements amongst the workers at Brough feel very strongly the shameful nature of the traffic in which the company is engaged. With this factory in its midst, and with the impressive degree of support for Anti-Apartheid displayed last week, the Hull Labour movement is particularly well-placed to press forward with the demand for a Labour policy of sanctions against South Africa.

HULL'S PROTEST OVER SOUTH AFRICAN POLITICAL PRISONERS

Between 150 and 200 people marched through the main shopping centre of Hull on Saturday last in protest against the sentences in the Rivonia trials. The march was organised by the Hull Anti-Apartheid Committee, and prominent amongst its banners were those of the Hull Trades Council, the District Committee of the AEU, North Hull Divisional Labour Party, the University Socialist Society, the Society of Friends, etc. Representatives of the UNA, the Fabian Society, and several of the religious denominations were present, as were 6 Labour members of the Council. Messages of support were received from the Mayor (Labour Alderman Hammond), and from Peter Allison and Jim Johnson (Prospective Labour candidates for the Haltemprice and West Hull divisions). Letters of protest were sent from the marchers to the South African and British Governments.

Earlier in the week a telegram was sent from the staff of the University, containing 120 signatures, and a separate one went from members of the leading churches in the town. Patrick Wall, Conservative MP for Haltemprice and a well-known supporter of minority government in Southern Rhodesia, received a deputation from anti-apartheid constituents. The AEU District Committee inserted an advertisement in the local Hull Daily Mail expressing its solidarity with the sentenced South Africans, and the Hull Trades Council sent a telegram to the Government.

LEICESTER CALL FOR ECONOMIC SANCTIONS AGAINST SOUTH AFRICA from Alec Acheson

Knighton ward Labour Party has passed a resolution strongly protesting against the Rivonia sentences and calling upon the Government to carry out economic sanctions against South Africa, and to support UN policy on South Africa. It also asks (1) For the NEC and Parliamentary L.P. to open a public campaign to this end; (2) TUC to urge unions to place an embargo on trade with South Africa; (3) a local and national co-op boycott; (4) with City Party support, a workers Joint Committee to publicise lists of South African goods and brand names; and (5) for the C.L.P. to affiliate to the Anti-Apartheid movement. The resolution goes to the South East Leicester C.L.P. for action.

BRITAIN TURNS BLIND EYE TO SLAVERY REPORTS based on Sunday Times report

A blind eye is being turned by the British Government on reports of slavery in Arab shiekhdoms enjoying British military protection or aid, according to Dr. Mohamed Awad, the recently appointed U.N. Special Rapporteur on Slavery who started his delicate fact-gathering mission in London last week. But his charges were indignantly denied in official circles. The ebullient Anglophile doctor, former Egyptian Minister for Education, does not expect much help from British official sources. "With such important oil interests involved, they do not want to hurt feelings," said Dr. Awad, but he is reluctant to identify countries where he expects to find most evidence of slavery.

He has been having sessions with informants at the Victoria H.Q. of the 125-year-old Anti-Slavery Society... Col. Patrick Montgomery, the Society's secretary... speaks of a 'conspiracy of silence' among British circles who could help in the investigation. "Diplomats and Army officers are afraid of losing their jobs and business men their markets if they talk," he asserted. One of the more lurid reports of slavery which Dr. Awad is likely to probe... concerns the Sultan of Muscat, Britain's "client" in Oman. Mr. Faris Glubb, son of Glubb Pasha, former leader of Jordan's Arab Legion, and secretary of the Rights of Oman, has alleged that the Sultan maintains a palace of Arabian Nights splendour and that his slave retinue rose between 1961 and 1963... from 400 to 700, including 200 girls and women for his harem, the rest being retainers or manual labourers..

A Foreign Office spokesman on June 20th... described the allegations as "quite ridiculous". He added: "This is an independent state and if we are condoning anything, so are a number of other countries who have dealings with it." There is a certain amount of traditional Arab-type slavery but the Sultan himself is entirely opposed to a slave trade. He is believed himself to have a small number of slaves as a personal bodyguard. He has one wife - not even two like many Muslims." (Ed. note: this is hardly surprising if the report about 200 women in his harem is correct). A Colonial Office spokesman said there was "no substance" in charges that Slavery was practised in the South Arabian Federation or in Aden.

It is in Saudi Arabia that Dr. Awad may find evidence of the most widespread slavery. Although Prince Feisal decreed slavery illegal when he became Prime Minister in 1962, estimates at the time suggested a total of nearly 250,000 slaves in the country, many of them well cared for and content.

MORE STOP-PRESS ANTI-APARTHEID NEWSABERDEEN SAYS: RELEASE MANDELA! LOCK UP VERWOERD by Robert Q. Gray

Aberdeen, scene of bitter argument about the boycott, made its protest against the infamous sentences upon Mandela and his comrades on June 20th. A demonstration was held on a prominent street corner; demonstrators - mostly students - gave out leaflets, and held placards. Reactions varied - from the woman who told me "Treason's an awful thing", who expressed agreement with our slogan "Release Mandela! Lock up Verwoerd!" and took an Anti-Apartheid list of South African goods. It is to be hoped that further efforts will be made in Aberdeen to maintain public awareness; a boycott is, after all, only a beginning - and not the be-all and end-all of opposition to apartheid.

DURHAM LABOUR STUDENTS PRODUCE POLICY REPORTS from Ian Taylor

A Durham University Labour Club Study Group has produced a report on Children's Playgrounds with particular reference to Durham City. This has been printed by the City Labour Party as a first step towards, it is hoped, the report being adopted as local policy. On an national level the report concerns itself with a critical assessment of the regulations existing in this country to enforce the provisions of playgrounds, compared with those abroad. Secondly, the report discusses the nature and concept of a playground. This idea is developed in arguing the inter-relation between playgrounds, the community, social education and child development. Finally, the report analyses a survey conducted on three housing estates in Durham in which 1,000 parents and children were interviewed by David Robertson, the leader of the group. This is used to argue the necessity for drastic action immediately, and the need for long-term social planning.

The support from the local party is enthusiastic and this may lead to the report's adoption as a policy statement for the Labour Group on the Council. The Durham City Council is Tory-controlled, under the pseudonym "Independent". Their representation is, however, being whittled down each year with a more active local party and help from the University Labour Club, in canvassing and at regular meetings. Ex-Labour Club president, Trevor Page, is political education officer for the City Party and is helping to waken the party to live issues. The support for the report is one example of this renewed vital interest from local Party members. Another Labour Club study group has produced a report on Regional Government. This was an attempt to show the vital connexion between the regional concept and the socialist approach to the ideas of democracy.

The Adventure Playgrounds Report is available from D.S. Robertson, Hatfield College, Durham. The Regional Government Report from Rex Taylor, Flat C, 1, Victoria Terrace, Durham.

POST OFFICE ENGINEERS AFFILIATE TO LABOUR PARTY from a special correspondent

At its annual conference, which is being held in Eastbourne, the Post Office Engineering Union decided to affiliate to Labour. The decision was taken after an appeal by the general secretary, Mr. Charles Smith, to conference not to postpone the decision as some delegates suggested. The conference took a card vote on the issue with the result of 37,298 for, and 28,701 against. The president's address to the conference showed how the union has had to face political issues and this probably helped to sway the vote. The two main issues were (1) the price ring existing in the supply of telephone equipment - the president pointed to the Swedish P.O. which manufactures equipment as a price check against private manufacturers; (2) the "disastrous and unfair pay pause policy" of the Government.

ARSENAL CO-OP PROTESTS from a special correspondent

Opposition to the policies of the right-wing controlled Royal Arsenal Co-op was again expressed at the society's quarterly meetings held last week. A reference to a decision by the directors not to boycott South African goods brought protests and at some meetings members voted against the report. Another cause of debate was a resolution to increase the society's grant for political purposes. The left, while in favour of the increase, wanted it deferred until the P.C. produce a program of activity. In both cases the right had a clear majority.

SOUTH AFRICAN AMBASSADOR CHASED OUT OF OXFORD from Ken Tarbuck (Ruskin)

As reported last week, the South African Ambassador postponed his visit to Oxford because of the demonstration that was held. As readers will now know he did come to Oxford on the 17th of June to speak to the Oxford University Conservative Club. Despite pouring rain, between 300 and 400 students staged a further demonstration against his visit and the Rivonia trial sentences. The protest was organised by the Ruskin Students Against Apartheid - it should be noted that the University proctors banned any University student body from taking part. Despite this ban large numbers turned up to protest. It should also be noted that the Proctor's watchdogs were present in force and co-operated with the police.

The demonstrators stayed outside the meeting hall for nearly three hours, keeping up a barrage of songs and chants of "Free Mandela" and "De Wet is a b.....". The whole demonstration was orderly until De Wet left the meeting hall. The police formed up around him and forced their way through the crowd. It was then that the scuffling took place. There were large numbers of uniformed and plain clothed police present and they roughly handled students who tried to sit down. One student was picked up and thrown bodily against a wall. It was this violence that sparked off the reaction from the crowd. (£4 was collected by them to pay for breakages)

Only one of the four people arrested was actually taken in charge at this time. It was only after the demonstration had dispersed that the other three were arrested, and they were merely shouting slogans at De Wet when his car stopped near the outskirts of the town to change a tyre. One thing is certain, De Wet will think twice before coming to Oxford again. Let us hope that the Anti-Apartheid movement will take note of this demonstration and mount similar ones wherever De Wet shows his snout.

NORTH EAST STUDENTS PROTEST RIVONIA SENTENCES from a Durham reader

Various student bodies in the North East reacted quickly to the announcement of the Rivonia sentences. The Durham University Labour Club sent telegrams to the South African Ambassador and the Prime Minister. The Durham Students' Representative Council telegraphed Mandela, The South African Ambassador, Vorster and the Prime Minister. The N.U.S. policy meeting in Leeds also telegraphed the South African Ambassador and the Prime Minister.

NOTTINGHAM CITY LABOUR PARTY WANTS RECEPTION CANCELLING

At its June meeting the Nottingham City Labour Party passed two resolutions on the Rivonia trial. The first, moved by an USDAW delegate deplored the verdicts, and declared support for the South African Freedom fighters, pledged support "by opposing the South African regime and by boycotting South African goods." The second, moved by a Co-op Party delegate, in addition to opposing the verdicts, called upon the Labour Lord Mayor of Nottingham to cancel his reception for the South African bowls team. Both resolutions went through without opposition. Thus the fight to get the disgraceful reception cancelled goes on. The meeting was also noteworthy for a discussion which took place on the attitude of the Labour Group to a municipal boycott. The Labour leader's explanation on this question was not accepted and delegates indicated that they would formally move that the Labour Group make a municipal boycott official policy.



ARAB MAGAZINE APPEALS TO BRITISH PROGRESSIVES from a Liverpool reader

The following appeal has been issued by the editorial board of Arab Revolution, a magazine published in Arabic by marxist students:

The most brutal and inhuman war going on in Aden for the past few weeks, which has included, deporting, starving, bombing villages and killing innocent women and children, etc., has been carried out by the British Army against the people of Radfan to enforce the reactionary, imperialist policy of the Conservative Party. It is a pity that the leaders of the Labour Party support these barbaric and savage military operations. For so many years the people of the occupied Southern Yemen (Aden and protectorate Sultanates) struggled for their independence under the leadership of the Aden Trade Union Congress, and lately the People's Socialist Party, suffering imprisonment, torture, deportation and political assassination. At the same time the British Government supported the most corrupt elements, the feudalists and the Sultans, forming the superficial Southern Arabian Federation against the will of the people, to keep and strengthen its rule and the rule of its allies.

The British Government organised the so-called Southern Arabian Conference on the 9th June in London, in the hope that it would reduce tension in Aden, but the conference represents one side only - the British Government, its agents, puppets and followers of the corrupt Sultans and feudalists. This superficial "puppets conference" does not represent the people of occupied Southern Yemen because the forces of the peoples with the biggest mass following in the Southern Yemen, the Aden T.U.C. and the People's Socialist Party and the rest of the national groupings did not take part in the conference. Who are the real representatives in this conference? The British Government only and its supporters.

We appeal to all our friends, freedom and peace-loving people, to the rank and file of the Labour Party, trade unions and all progressive elements to give their support and solidarity to the heroic struggle of the people of occupied Southern Yemen under the leadership of the P.S.P. and the Aden T.U.C. and to protest to the British Government and demand:

- 1) an immediate stop to the brutal war in Aden;
- 2) the withdrawal of all military forces;
- 3) immediate negotiations with the representatives of the people of Aden, at its head the P.S.P., for the right of self-determination and independence for Southern Arabia.

The people of occupied Southern Yemen demand their rights and in order for us to succeed give us your help.

STOP PRESS ITEM ON NIGERIAN GENERAL STRIKE

Nigeria's nation-wide strike entered its 19-day on June 19th as the talks between trade union leaders and the Nigerian Government broke down. The failure of the talks was announced on the 19th by a spokesman for the trade unions' joint action committee which organised the strike. At a big mass rally of the strikers held near Lagos, the same day, a trade union leader said, "The General strike continues."

Ed. note: The above gives added weight to the need to campaign for the release of Vic Allen (see page 9). Readers have written to us asking us to take action. Leeds students have elected him a vice-president of their union as a gesture of support.

RELEASE VIC ALLEN!

The Nigerian ruling circles have suffered a defeat at the hands of the workers (see below) but instead of accepting this they are seeking to have their revenge on one Vic Allen. This comrade - a lecturer in industrial relations at Leeds University - has been charged with "Managing an unlawful society for the purpose of overthrowing the Nigerian Government by military means." The charge was made at a specially convened court and the real purpose of the operation was made clear when the public prosecutor claimed he had "received reliable information that certain Nigerian labour leaders were involved in the plot." Dr. Allen is well known in New Left circles - he was one of those invited to contribute to the Union Voice sponsored workers' control discussion - and has been on leave from Leeds University for the past two years to make a special study of the African working class and trade unions, with the idea of writing a book on the subject. We in this country must protest at this hackneyed attempt to lay the blame of Nigeria's labour troubles on a 'plot' and demand the immediate release of Vic Allen and all other political prisoners in Nigeria. Resolutions, letters of protest, etc. should go to: The Nigerian High Commissioner, 9, Northumberland Ave., London W.C. 2.

FACTS BEHIND THE NIGERIAN GENERAL STRIKE by Bill Vester

The success of the 13-day Nigerian national strike is an encouraging sign from what has up to now been considered one of the most politically backward of the "independent" African states. The strike opened with an ultimatum from the Government - return or face dismissal - and ended with almost complete victory for the strikers. Threats of strikes last October and September resulted in the Government setting up a commission to make provision for an upward revision of incomes of junior workers in Government and private employment, the abolition of the daily wage system, and the introduction of a national minimum wage. This report was ready by the end of April but the Government would not publish it. On May 26th the unions threatened a general strike if the report was not published. On May 30th police attacked workers at a trade union rally and a number of leaders were arrested. The strike began on May 31, and the report was published on June 3.

The report recommended a £16.16s to £11 a month minimum, adding that the present situation was that most workers were "living in conditions of penury." The Government turned this down and put forward the suggestion of a monthly minimum of £9.2s to £4.15s 4d. The present minimum rates are £7.12s - £4. The strike ended with the Government and unions negotiating around the report's recommendations as a basis. The above figures are made even more appalling when compared with the perks enjoyed by the Nigerian political elite. The 27 ministers of the Government earn £3,000 p.a., while the Prime Minister earns £5,000. Each minister is given a £32,000 house. They are excused electricity, telephone and water charges, receive a basic car allowance of £80 per month, with an additional 1s3d per mile for official trips. The Federal Parliament meets for only a few weeks a year, but the M.P.'s are provided with flats in Lagos, and they recently voted themselves a rise of £200 p.a. Strike leaders have alleged that some Nigerian public figures demand a 10% commission from prospective overseas investors. The strike also resulted in the emergence of a really left wing party, launched at public meeting attended by 6,000 workers.



# THE THIRD WORLD REVOLUTION

## POLITICAL STRIKE IN URUGUAY

Textile, wool, tannery, metallurgical, chemical and other workers, and students went on a 24-hour strike in Uruguay on June 17. The strike, in protest against an attempted right-wing coup, in defence of civil liberties and demanding wage increases and re-distribution of land, paralysed manufacturing, mining transport, ports, newspapers, banks and entertainment. More than 400,000 workers were involved.

## LEADING MEMBER OF RULING PARTY EXPELLED IN PERU

The ruling Popular Action Party of Peru (APRA) has expelled Mario Villaran, its former general secretary and a Member of Parliament. Villaran favours nationalisation of the Breu Y Parinas oilfield annexed by the US and has condemned the government's agrarian reform policy and the suppression of the peasants. He is stated to have wide support among the rank and file of the party. Thus the regime in Peru has suffered a furthering narrowing of its social base.

## VENEZUELAN GUERILLAS ATTACK GOVERNMENT HELD TOWN

A unit of the Venezuelan anti-Government guerillas in the Portuguesa state occupied the town of Cordoba, in the Sucre district, on June 17th. The guerillas entered the town at ten o'clock in the morning after overcoming Government forces. They captured many weapons and inflicted several casualties. After the victory the guerillas evacuated the town and returned to the El Rharal region where they have been active for 3 years.

## ARGENTINE WORKERS TAKE-OVER 2,500 FACTORIES

More than 300,000 workers demanding higher wages and opposing repressive laws took over 2,500 factories on June 17th in Buenos Aires and 11 other Argentine cities. This was the sixth action taken in accordance with the CGT combat plan. Dockers of Buenos Aires, dock Sud and La Plata, staged a 34-hour strike in support of the combat plan. Police forced their way into factories trying to drive the workers out and many arrests were made.

## YEARS OF STRAIN FORECAST FOR MALAYSIA

A period of economic strain was forecast for Malaysia by its Finance Minister in a speech made in Kuala Lumpur on June 13. Tan Siew Sin said that because of increasing military expenditure and a drop in the rubber price, the general finance budget had shifted from surplus to deficit and it was necessary to float loans.

(Ed.Note; all based on Hsinhua reports)

U.S. STUDENTS DEFY CUBA TRAVEL BAN

In defiance of the State Department ban on travel to Cuba, 75 U.S. students arrived in Havana on June 12th. The trip is sponsored by the Student Committee for Travel to Cuba and has the aim of opposing the travel ban and giving Americans first hand reporting on Cuba. 57 students took the same journey last year, and four of them are now under indictment on charges which could lead to 15-year jail sentences and 15,000 dollar fines. All the 57 have had their passports revoked.

As an expression of their friendship with the Cuban people, the 75 have donated blood to the Havana blood bank. Edward Lamenski, head of the delegation and a leader of the Progressive Labor Movement said: "Our Government should be responsible for the bloodshed of the Cuban people. I should like to transfuse several drops of my blood to compensate the Cuban people for the blood they have lost. The piratic attacks (on Cuba) made by the counter-revolutionaries serving the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency have aroused widespread indignation among the American people," he added.

based on Militant and Hsinhua reports

SUGAR: A NEW ERA BEGINS

from a special correspondent

The above headline appears over an article on the U.S. and world sugar market situation in this month's edition of "American Economic Report" from the US Information Service. The following extracts indicate just one more significant consequence of American policy towards Cuba.

"Farmers in the United States are raising more sugar beet and sugar cane than ever before, in response to a reversal in the world sugar situation that began about 1960. The extreme turnabout from a situation of excess world sugar and low prices is traced to a sharp decline in sugar production in Cuba - for years the world's largest producer - and to poor sugar beet crops in Western Europe....."

"The (US) Sugar Act apportions the US sugar market between domestic and foreign suppliers - currently 60% to domestic and 40% to foreign.... The foreign share is allocated partly by specific quotas assigned to about 25 countries and partly by a "global" quota. The global quota is an amount reserved for Cuba when, and if, normal diplomatic and economic relations with that country are resumed. Until such time, the global quota is made available to other foreign countries on a first-come, first-served basis, with a preference for Western Hemisphere countries and countries that purchase US agricultural commodities."

1,000 CIVIL RIGHTS WORKERS TO DESCEND ON MISSISSIPPI from SNCC

On Jul 1, up to 1,000 white and Negro college students, doctors, nurses, lawyers and teachers will settle at different points throughout the state to begin work on the "Mississippi Freedom Summer". Under the sponsorship of the Council of Federated Organizations (COFO), composed of SCLC, NAACP, CORE and SNCC, the summer workers will teach in "Freedom Schools", man Community Centres, and work on registering the state's 380,000 unregistered, but eligible, Negroes. SNCC workers expect severe police harrassment of the campaign - already arreststake place daily of rights' workers on such charges as traffic offences, drunkenness, incitement, etc., usually followed by release after an overnight stop in gaol.

"PROBLEMS OF COMMUNISM"

Published by the United States Information Service, Grosvenor Square, London W.1., is not the flag-wagging, wog-flogging screech-sheet that one might expect from this stable. It does not deal with the 'problem of communism', but gives attention to the developments in the world communist movement from an academic - albeit capitalist - point of view. The reason for this is obvious. The USA needs to be able to supply interested parties with accurate details of developments in much the same way as the Times services the needs of its readers. Published bi-monthly, the latest issue contains articles on "Destalinisation in Czechoslovakia", and "The Revolutionary: Myths & Mystiques", among others. The previous <sup>issue</sup> was devoted to the international repercussions of the Sino/Soviet dispute and contained quite useful information. However, the best recommendation is that it is FREE on application to U.S.I.S.

"PROGRESSIVE LABOR"

Is published monthly at 25 cents (1/8d) from GPO Box 808, Brooklyn 1, New York, U.S.A.. This is on the other side of the fence so far as pedigree is concerned, and strangely enough we find ourselves in agreement with what Problems of Communism had to say about it: "....monthly, vigorous and readable, appeals not to communists" (Ed. note: it was founded by two ex-leaders of the U.S. Communist Party who were expelled for being 'pro-Albanian') "but to the discontented and the disinherited, campaigning in the name of justice for Negroes, Puerto Ricans, slum dwellers, organised labour and the right to visit Cuba. This base-building strategy is reflected by the relatively high number of students in Progressive Labor Movement members." But the emphasis on studentdom is perhaps excessive. We would add that Progressive Labor represents a healthy and dynamic trend for the American left.

"VOICE OF THE UNIONS"- JUNE, 1963 ISSUE

This has articles Algeria, Cuba (a report by Frank Allaun on his visit there), USDAW conference, Consumers' report, Building Components, Workers' Control (2 articles), etc. The youth page features articles on the Trueline Strike, Aden, and Housing. The centre spread this month is devoted to "The Nation's Wealth - Who gets what?". The issue is noteworthy for the way it challenges Wilson on Aden. In addition to the article on the youth page, an editorial and "Unitas" deal with this question. Voice of the Unions can be obtained from: 57, Crystal Palace Rd., London S.E. 26, 9/- per year sub.

RECEIVED THIS WEEK

Left, the journal of Hull University Socialist Society. This publication is a special issue consisting of the papers which were recently presented to the Nottingham Conference on Workers Control. Available from Tony Topham, 1, Plantation Dr., Anlaby Park, Hull.

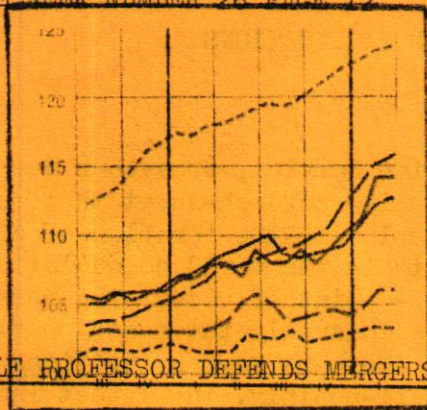
G.W.U. INFORMATION SERVICE, a bulletin put out by the General Workers' Union of Malta. This gives news and views of this union which plays a leading part in the life of Malta. From G.W.U., Old Bakery Street, Valletta, Malta.

YOUNG GUARD, JUNE, 1964, has a front-page spread opposing the war in Southern Arabia and calling for the bringing home of British troops, there are also articles on Mods & Rockers, Vietnam, Scotland, the Vatican, etc. Young Guard can be obtained from Martin Wright, 329, Malden Rd., New Malden, Surrey, 6d p.p.

# ECONOMIC OUTLOOK — THE WEEK

from Julian Atkinson

## YALE PROFESSOR DEFENDS MERGERS



The United States, home of laissez-faire, has over the years built up a complicated system of anti-monopoly legislation as it is felt that undue concentration of an industry is non-democratic and is bad for competition. At the present time the Supreme Court and the Department of Justice's anti-trust division under Asst. General, William Orrick, are paying particular interest to the oil industry. The Clayton Act opposes company growth by merger and favours growth by internal means as being more socially desirable. In accordance with this act the Humble Oil Co. has been forced to drop its acquisition of the Tidewater Oil company's refining operations.

Robert Bork, a professor at Yale Law school, specialising in anti-trust, recently wrote in the Oil & Gas Journal: "Obsessive concern with the small company is one of the most dangerous features of anti-trust today, and threatens to corrupt the entire body of anti-trust law. If anti-trust is to be concerned with smallness, it can't be concerned at the same time with allowing competition to create efficiency. This philosophy is violently at war not only with consumer interest, but also with the older body of anti-trust doctrine, such as results against price fixing and market division. These rules allow market-forces to work themselves out, and it is no defence to a price-fixing charge that higher prices help smaller competitors to survive.

"The Department of Justice is increasingly preserving the free market by keeping it from working. It moves from the objective of preserving the free market to the preservation of many small firms as being essential to competition. This lends to a policy of eliminating the free market from working when it threatens to eliminate some small firms. Unfortunately, it is a fact of life that many economies and efficiencies can only be realised by firms of large size. Good sense dictates that we get those economies and efficiencies in the least expensive way, and that may be by merger in a large number of cases.

"We ought not to be so worried over the possibility of private collusion that we introduce governmental control of market behaviour. Private collusion is constantly broken down by the forces of competition. Government control, which all too often has the same adverse effect upon consumers as private collusion, is permanent and more effective. It is for this reason that ultimately the free market is in more danger from the Government than from private groups."

The intellectual gymnastics of capitalism's apologists at least tend to reinforce the view that the market economy and "free" enterprise are both obsolescent. And if Professor Bork gets worried by the anti-democratic nature of faceless bureaucrats, lets nationalise under workers' control.

STOCK EXCHANGE PUBLISHES LIST OF 100 BIGGEST FIRMS: The Financial Times, on June 23rd, published the London Stock Exchange list of the 100 largest U.K. firms based on market value of equity capital. These had a market value of £13,364m. compared with a market value of £12,400m. for 1963's top 100. The next issue of the Week will list these firms together with a commentary.