

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

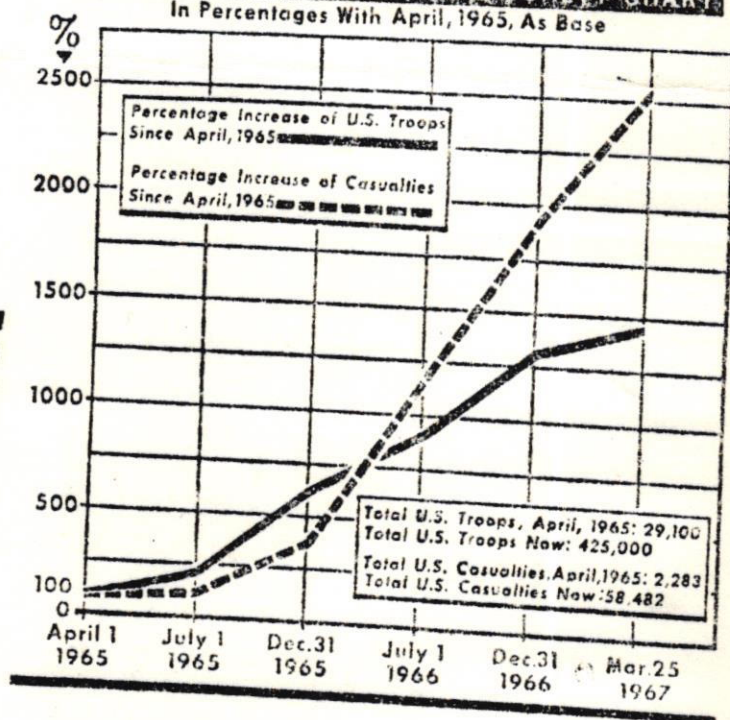
Vol. 7 No. 14 6th April, 1967

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WORKERS' CONTROL CAMPAIGN

THE RISING PRESSURE FOR A TRUCE

VIETNAM ESCALATION AND CASUALTY CHART
In Percentages With April, 1965, As Base



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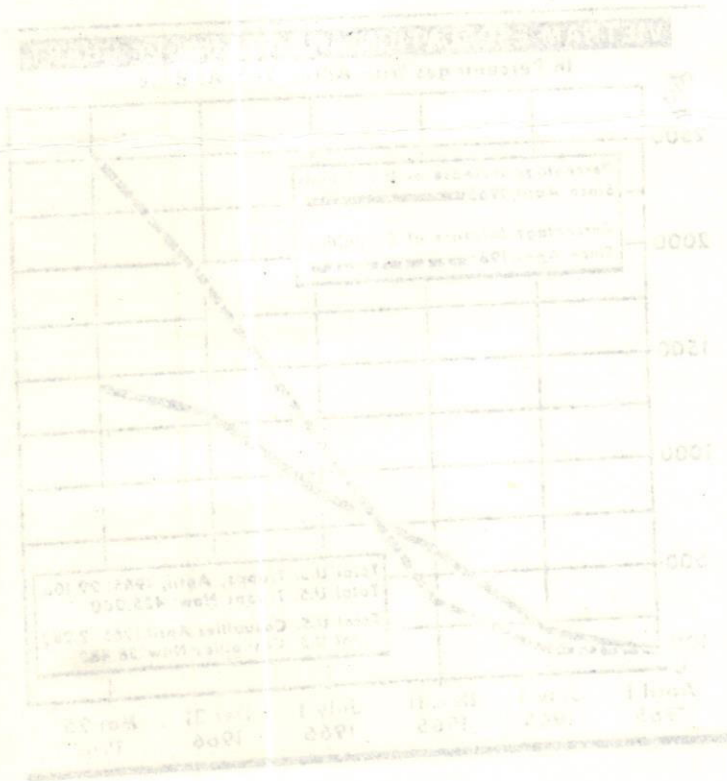
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DELIVERYMEN: THE CRUNCH?

The decision by the Government to impose wage cuts on the Birmingham car deliverymen is one it may live to regret. In its desire to make a principle of stopping all increases during the freeze it is treading dangerous ground. If it backs down no one will take future threats very seriously; if it presses ahead it have to face the risk of being in the position of threatening Frank Cousins and the leadership of the TGWU with imprisonment. Some of the employers show some embarrassment with the situation: the car delivery firms would prefer to pay the increase for a quiet life. However, once the Government made its stand, some of the employers changed their line and started to talk of legal action against local TGWU officials.

If this is to be the crunch the movement must prepare: just now the DATA is facing the Shipbuilding employers almost alone - that is no way to beat the employers. We must campaign for support for the deliverymen and the TGWU's championing of their cause. No Government since Baldwin has dared to cut wages. We must show Wilson that he cannot get away with it.

WHY THE AMERICANS SUPPORT U THANT

The rate of increase in American casualties in Vietnam is now far outstripping the rate of increase in the number of troops deployed. American bombing of the North is now estimated to have cost them one billion dollars, New York Tribune, April 6, refers. It is doubtful whether American production of aircraft or airpilots is keeping pace with their dreadful losses. In south Vietnam the National Liberation Front can carry out military operations right in the heart of Saigon. A truce which maintained U.S. troops in the south and stopped assistance to the national liberation forces would be extremely helpful to President Johnson.

ADEN: THE LEFT'S RESPONSIBILITY

Harold Wilson has his own little Vietnam in Southern Arabia. Just now we are being treated to the usual propaganda offensive which seeks to build up a picture of British troops maintaining "law and order" in face of terrorism. Unlike Christopher Mayhew, who shows his real right wing character in this affair, the left should argue that recent events emphasise the need for British withdrawal. The people of Aden must be allowed self-determination and be allowed to create their own form of Government. Many on the left are confused by the various nationalist formations. We believe that only the principle of self-determination can be allowed to guide us. We, of course, have no desire to see President Nasser strangle the Adenese movement as he has the Yemeni revolution but the solution is not keep British troops in Aden. Once British troops are out, socialists can then support that section of the nationalist movement which is most likely to carry out a social transormation. But until then we should demand that British troops leave.

At last, on March 2nd, the T.U.C. took the decision to break with the Labour Government's coercive laws against trade union freedom. Though its own plan for "voluntary wage-vetting" is clearly an awkward and unlikely alternative, and though its intention (in George Woodcock's view) is to continue with wage restraint, a certain step forward has been taken.

At least now, the unions are forced to face the question of developing their own alternative policies, unhindered by blind loyalty to a government which has offended even the most servile of its T.U.C. allies.

If the T.U.C. interprets its role as being simply a buffer between the unions and the law, and calls on trade unionists to accept its stringency as a more acceptable thing than government bullying, then the crisis of loyalty is merely shifted from Government to T.U.C. And the T.U.C. knows, from its own history, that its authority will be challenged if it sets itself against the will of trade unionists.

In 1950, after trade union executives had endorsed the continuance of wage restraint under Stafford Cripps, many of them were severely rebuked by their own individual union annual conferences, and the T.U.C.'s General Council was defeated at Congress later in the year. The Woodcock freeze is doomed: it just will not do for the T.U.C. to impose the same policies as the government, under another set of auspices. The need for an alternative policy, based on completely different assumptions and goals from those of the Government, is now clearly urgent.

The Unions: long-term aims. The first requirement, however, before the unions will embark with confidence on the alternative, is that they (and all their members who have been misled by government propaganda) must be convinced that the arguments used to justify wage restraint are not only morally repugnant, but economically false.

The argument which says that wage restraint equals the national interest. The contention that a trade union which seeks to fulfil its function of raising its members' wages is committing some sort of sin. The guilt feelings about strikes and industrial conflict, nurtured by the press, TV reporting, and the government. These ideas must be destroyed.

We think that trade unionists should examine carefully the important book by V.L. Allen, "Militant Trade Unionism" (Merlin Press, 12/6.) which does effectively destroy them. Allen shows that the economic theory behind wage restraint is false, and that the causes of inflation are deep rooted in a modern capitalist economy.

He demonstrates that monopoly, armaments, wasteful advertising and administration in big business, are the causes of inflation, and that trade unions are at best onlookers in the process. He argues clearly for the view that industrial conflict cannot be wished away with pious words about harmony and "consensus," and that unless unions are to abandon their proper function, and their long-term aims of redistributing income and wealth, they must pursue policies which do conflict with private ownership and property incomes.

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* This article originally appeared in the April issue of Humberside Voice.

Workers' control v wage freeze. cont/d.

Campaign. The opportunity for a determined drive for a socialist strategy, based on the unions and looking forward beyond opposition, and not backwards to Enoch Powell and the 1950s, is present now. It poses a great challenge to all of us, this year, to carry the workers' control movement a decisive stage further.

For this reason, we hope that all "Voice" readers will join the campaign for workers' control, both by advocating its aims in their own workshops, union branches, and shop-stewards' committees, as well as in Labour Parties, and also by seeing that their branch or shop is represented at this summer's national workers' control conference in Coventry. (for details see next "Voice")

This year, we aim to clarify and sharpen our programme, by a critical, constructive examination of Labour Party, union, and T.U.C. statements. We intend also that this conference will work out practical plans for an on-going movement which will give us the permanent links between all local and industrial activities in this field.

THOUGHTS ON THE MARCH - a reply by Alan Rooney

I would like to reply briefly to K. Rintoul's remarks about my article "Thoughts on the March".

Comrade Eintoul suggests that I am only attacking the Vietnam policies of the British CP, CND and Parliamentary Left for personal reasons; I can best make clear my criticisms by extracting the main parts of my argument from "The Week" (March 23rd). "As yet, the policies of the British Communist Party, CND and the Parliamentary Labour 'Left' have mainly been confined to acting as public relations agents for U Thant's pontifications on Vietnam. How presumptuous such people are! Comfortable, complacent outsiders telling the heroic Vietnamese resistance what to do". My point was that we should not let U Thant's diplomacy serve as a substitute for a policy based on solidarity with the Vietnamese. This was the final point I tried to make in my article - "Socialists must respond by intensifying their own efforts in solidarity with the Vietnamese resistance".

I would not have criticised Kosygin's visits to the City of London, the Carlton Club and Buckingham Palace if he had made clear to the occupants of those institutions that their days were numbered. As for suggesting that Kosygin made some good socialist propaganda on his trip to Britain, I am still reeling from his uninspiring TV performance. With 10 million viewers looking in, Kosygin made abundantly clear his lack of solidarity with the Vietnamese resistance. These things need saying.

Ho Chi Minh has rightly rejected U Thant's proposals; President Johnson has accepted them. How can any socialists continue to carry banners saying "Support U Thant"? Tribune fell into the trap and has been supporting U Thant for months. That paper's contradictory policy on Vietnam was further confounded by the diplomatic piece it carried on page one last week under the excruciating title - "Should We Apologise to President Johnson?"

This conflict, he concludes, will only be resolved by the elimination of private ownership and private profit. The unions' long-term aims can only be realised in a political programme.

Industrial and Political aims. If this is correct (and the British Labour movement has been historically based always on the political activity of the trade unions) then the trade unions need a political strategy.

The industrial conflict over incomes, money, wages, must evolve towards, and include, a political conflict over power and authority. It is this need which provides the essential link between opposition to wage control, and the demand for workers' control of industry.

Workers' control is the key. Workers' control is slap bang on the centre of the movement's stage today, and it was socialist agitation, and its links with trade unionists, which put it there.

In 1964, the first "Voice" conference on workers' control met in Nottingham. Within a year, and after further conferences in London and Manchester pamphlets and plans produced by the "Voice" papers, "The Week", and C.S.E., had put forward important demands for workers' control in the docks industry, the steel industry, and on the question of shop-steward powers to inspect secret accounts of business.

Within months of their appearing, the Labour Party had issued its own plan for the docks, which embodied vital elements of workers' participation, the craftsmen's co-ordinating committee for the steel industry (the official union negotiating body) had adopted the "Voice" programme completely, the T. & G.W.U. had called for the opening of the books, and the Labour Party election manifesto for 1966 had called for more "industrial democracy."

The seamen's strike pamphlet, "Not Wanted on Voyage," spearheaded the demands for the opening of the books, in one of the most significant events of last year.

This year, the Labour movement organisations are dallying still more closely with ideas of workers' participation, and industrial democracy. The steelworkers' campaign achieved a limited victory in the concessions which they have wrung from Richard Marsh on the steel Bill. Having set his face originally against all "experiments" with workers' control in the nationalised steel industry, he has now introduced provisions for greater access by workers to the managerial processes and secrets. The T.U.C. devoted a great deal of attention to industrial democracy in its evidence to the Royal Commission of Trade Unions.

The Labour Party Executive Committee produced a document, "Industrial Democracy," which was debated by the L.P. Young Socialists at Easter. The Executive has appointed a study group to prepare a policy statement for submission to the Party Conference this autumn. Differences of opinion on that group have led to the announcement that the E.C. will convene an Hotel conference to discuss the whole matter, in the near future.

Readers of The Week will know of the shocking case where the Government has chosen to insist that car delivery men's wages in the Birmingham area are cut, allegedly because the decision to increase them transgressed the wage freeze policy. This provocative action evoked a quick response from Frank Cousins, who is general secretary of the union to which the men belong.

Speaking to the annual conference of the Association of Cinematograph, television and Allied Technicians (one of the five white-collar unions which have fought the wage freeze) he said:

"I am not going to have members of my organisation confidence-tricked into doing something and then not getting paid. We have said to the employers that we accept the Government's right to do what they have done under an existing law and now we are back at the negotiating stage. We are saying to the employers: 'all right, don't pay, we accept it. But we are not doing the work for which you were going to pay us.'"

Although Frank Cousins' line is a direct challenge to the Government he was careful to avoid saying anything which could be interpreted as a direct challenge to the Prices and Incomes Act. Under the Act, it is an offence punishable by fines up to £500 to attempt to "compel, induce or influence" an employer to violate a wage freeze Order and pay a forbidden increase. The leader of the employers' group concerned, Ron Charrington, chairman of the Longbridge Group of Delivery Agents, said on Saturday, 1 April, that he would ask the Government to take action if sanctions were taken against any company in the group.

The TGWU is arguing that far from forcing the employers to pay the disputed increase, the union has given up the deal because the employers are unable to keep up their side of the bargain. This being the case, the men are reverting to methods of working which applied before the wage increase was negotiated. In practice this amounts to the men refusing to make return journeys carrying cars to Birmingham from the docks and from factories in London, the North West and Glasgow areas. The employers claim that this makes the whole operation uneconomic.

If the men work this way for any length of time most of the big motor car firms will be affected. Before Christmas the British Motor Car Corporation was forced to a standstill when faced with this situation.

Cousins and the TGWU are obviously pursuing a tactical campaign in their fight against the Government's wage freeze policy. It is to be hoped that they fight this through to the bitter end and do not rely upon legalistic formulas as opposed to mobilising mass support. If they rely upon manipulation they will find that Wilson will be able to defeat them easily under circumstances when they are isolated from both left and right. No one in their right mind would ask Cousins and his executive to face prosecution for the sake of it. However, a very ^{firm} stand on this question, carried out in such a way that millions of workers would understand the issues involved, could be the beginning of the end for Wilson's wage freeze policy. If under these circumstances Wilson was so foolish to goad trade union leaders far from isolating themselves these trade union leaders would become overnight mass leaders against the wage freeze. The present impasse in the labour movement will only be overcome by someone presenting themselves as a real alternative to Wilson. Let us hope that this will not wait too long.

The following statement has been issued by L.S.E. students:

We invite you to help create the Open University. The Open University has begun as a continuation of our student protest over the dictatorial and unjust suspensions of David Adelstein and Marshall Bloom. It continues as such, and has also become a forum and focus for the wider issues - the frustration and disappointment so many of us have felt with the educational process and atmosphere at L.S.E. A university is not a factory. Nor is it a place where students should be seen and treated as unruly schoolchildren (such treatment is more a reflection on the maturity of administrators than that of students). We think that formal education can be an enlivening and exciting experience. We think that it should be. At L.S.E. now it only rarely is. The Open University is our attempt to diagnose in depth what has gone wrong; and to explore as fully and meaningfully as we can what some of the real alternatives are.

We are trying to create an atmosphere conducive to critical discussion - to recreate the atmosphere of the sit-in where perhaps for the first time we realised that our thoughts and our actions did matter; where for the first time we felt the beginnings of a genuine community at the L.S.E. A university can thrive only in a spirit of free enquiry; it must start with the assumption that no ideas or institutions are too sacrosanct for critical examination. The Open University starts with just this assumption. In its implementation, the Open University will emphasize the dialogue rather than the monologue (i.e. away from situations where an expert teacher SPEAKS THE TRUTH to a group of passive note-taking students). It will be a place which stresses involvement, where we all try to learn with and from each other.

Our hope is that our efforts will lead directly to the sorely needed improvement in the quality of education at the L.S.E. The format of the Open University will grow and change to adapt to the needs and wishes of those who are participating. But we are beginning with discussions in three general areas:

The first will be explicitly to do with the educational process itself. We will attempt systematic critiques of disciplines as they are taught at the L.S.E.; and on a more general level discuss underlying philosophies and sociologies of education, and the role of the university and the student in the society at large, both on domestic and international levels.

In the second area we will explore in practise some alternatives to the existing modes and contents of education at L.S.E. We will discuss a wide range of topics, from moral codes to trade unions to the politics of South-East Asia. We hope to run a series on 'The Experience of Tyranny', with first-hand accounts by people who have been victims of political fascism, and of the psychological dominance of the mental hospital and parts of the psychiatric establishment. We hope to uncover the tyranny of some of our own contemporary myths (the nation-state, drug-scares, anti-communism, etc.) We will be inviting outside speakers, and recently disenfranchised editors and priests. Some of our own, and faculty members from other universities will be participating with us here. And a number of students will be heading discussions on topics of interest to them.

Our third area will be more directly to do with the arts. We will discuss and demonstrate the relevance of the arts and their relationship to society. The Agit-Prop group will be rehearsing at the L.S.E. A number of poets, writers, and musicians are being invited. A large number of films will be shown. We are thinking of writing and staging our own drama to express the spirit and

substance of recent events - a satire about the L.S.E.

Our thinking and planning thus far has focussed on the above three mentioned areas. But we would emphasize our commitment that this be an OPEN university. We will discuss and exchange views on any subject that anyone is interested in learning about or speaking about. Our invitation extends to anyone and everyone, of any age and background, who is interested in learning and participating with us in our educational endeavor. Your ideas, suggestions, and criticisms are very welcome and necessary.

The Open University will be held at the London School of Economics 24 hours a day throughout the Easter holidays - until April 26. During the vacation the Rules Committee and the Staff-Student Committee called for in the Union resolution of Tuesday March 21 (to look at 'the structure of the school and related matters') will be meeting. Reports of these and of all developments in our continuing protest over the two suspensions will be brought to the Open University for discussion and criticism.

SOME OF THE SPEAKERS AND TOPICS BEING PRESENTED AT THE OPEN UNIVERSITY

- Prof. Wiles - Has there been a Decline in Moral Standards?
- Aubrey Raymond - Historical Background of the Cultural Revolution
- David Mercer - Politics of Madness
- Tom Wengraf - Conflict and Consciousness Sociology of the L.S.E.
- Michael Duanne - Education and Democracy
- Stanislav Andreski - The Intellect v The Bureaucracy
- Barbara Garson - Author of MacBird - Berkeley

DEMONSTRATE FOR A CHANGE IN LABOUR'S FOREIGN POLICY from Raymond Challinor

Pickets will be out in Bolton on Saturday, 8th April. This will be on the occasion of the visit of George Brown, Foreign Secretary. The pickets will be at the Albert Hall, Bolton, from 2.00 p.m. This demonstration will be followed by a meeting in the:

ASHBURNER CAR PARK (near Bolton Town Hall)
at. 3.00 p.m.

PROTEST AGAINST GOVERNMENT POLICY: VIETNAM: INCOMES POLICY: POLARIS.

Further details from me: Ray Challinor, 34, Whiteside Ave., Hindley, Lancs.

Workers' control and the TGWU continued/

& productivity, discipline and dismissals, safety, welfare, selection of supervisors, control of overtime, and ensuring adequate levels of training for workpeople and shop stewards.

These questions should be deliberately and painstakingly discussed at the forthcoming Coventry conference on workers' control, and specific proposals must be developed from them. It is becoming apparent that the concern with and support for workers' control is today moving out from the fringe into the political mainstream of the movement. For this reason, the Coventry meeting requires overwhelming support from socialist activists and trade union militants alike.

The current issue of the Transport & General Workers' Record contains an extended report of a speech on productivity bargaining and industrial democracy, delivered by Jack Jones to some 200 personnel officers who had been brought together by the Manchester Institute of Personnel Management.

This is an unlikely platform for socialist utterances, but nonetheless socialists would be well advised to study carefully the main points made by Jack Jones in this conference. The publication of the Labour Party NEC's statement on Industrial Democracy, which was presented to the Easter Conference of the Young Socialists, has raised numerous rather tricky problems for the workers' control movement, in that it mixes up some very important control demands with a whole battery of "participation" devices, the total effect of which would be to increase the pressure of corporatist forms of association, menacing trade union independence in a very serious way. It is in this context that Jack Jones' remarks are very important: although he does make use of the misleading formula of "workers' participation" in management, he clearly interprets this formula in a sense which is much closer to the school of supporters of workers' control than to the Labour Party's corporatist fringe. Here are some examples:

"In the first place", says Jack Jones, "we must see an end to so much negotiation in the dark. The provision of information is essential to proper functioning of an effective body. In the private section we recommend that the Companies Act should require disclosure to representation of recognized trade unions information on the financial position of the firm and other essential details."

Of course, it is important to define very carefully the extent of this disclosure, and to ensure that union representatives remain completely accountable to their members, and able to report on any information they may receive. Only in this way will the experience of the workpeople be able to check the claims of their employer against their own practical experience. But it is precisely in this field, of the responsibility of workers' representatives to their constituents, that Jack Jones' arguments are very much more advanced and clear than those of the Labour Party Study Group on Industrial Democracy as a whole.

"At workplace level", he says "the managers would sit with an agreed number of elected shop stewards, who would primarily represent those on whose behalf they were appointed. Their main role would not be to accept joint responsibility but to ensure that the workers' voice was heard." (my emphasis)

That is to say, the conflict basis of such "participation" would be unimpaired. There could be no question of the workers representatives being implicated in "the responsibility for the unpopular decisions which have to be taken", as the Director recently delicately described the corporatist design. This, clearly, is a vital principle, and it is very important to explain it very precisely to the thousands of workers who have begun to take interest in the campaign for workers' control.

Jack Jones also stakes out some of the claims which workers would expect to make in this field: they include the use of manpower and equipment, pay

continued on previous page/

NEW ENGINEERING UNION TAKES MILITANT STAND ON LOCK OUT
by an industrial correspondent

A new union, 75,000 strong, has been formed by the amalgamation of the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers and Copper-smiths (50,000 members) and the Heating and Domestic Engineers' Union (25,000 members). It has members in the engineering, shipbuilding, chemicals, heating and ventilation industries. Its name is the National Union of Sheet Metal Workers, Copper-smiths and Heating and Domestic Engineers.

After two years of negotiations both unions held ballots in which 19,758 members of the NUSMW & C voted for the amalgamation and 5,152 against, while 9,546 members of the H & DEU voted in favour and 3,012 against.

At its first meeting on April 3, the new 29-man executive decided to ask the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions to recall the meeting of affiliated unions held on March 17. Mr. Kellett, the union's general president, said that they wanted to see the shipbuilding unions take more "positive, militant action" in support of DATA, whose members are suffering a lock out. He said that he would press for this at the recalled meeting.

GOVERNMENT TO ISSUE FREEZE AGAINST ROTHESAY
from a Scottish correspondent

According to the Financial Times of April 3, the Government intends to go ahead with a wage freeze order to prevent Rothesay (Buteshire) town council from giving wage increases to 20 administrative, professional, technical and clerical workers. The small numbers involved make it quite clear that the Government is pursuing this as a question of "principle." It has taken this attitude despite the very widespread discontent among Scottish local Government officers and the threat of strike by NALGO members.

The Financial Times explained the background to the dispute: "A pay rise agreement for these grades employed by local authorities in England and Wales was concluded before July 20, 1966, with an operative date of August 1, 1966. After a six-month deferment it was paid because it was an "existing commitment." In Scotland, no agreement was reached before July 20. Under the pay standstill an agreement could not then be made to take effect before July 1, 1967. However, Rothesay council decided to pay increased rates from March 16."

As Tony Southall pointed out in an article in The Week a few issues ago, this action by the Wilson Government is both mean and short-sighted. The labour movement should support Rothesay NALGO in this struggle and send it messages of support. It is particularly important for Labour Parties to press their own councils to follow Rothesay's example.

VIETNAMESE DENOUNCE U THANT'S LATEST by Dave Windsor

Confirmation of the criticism which The Week has been making of the slogan "Support U Thant" has come from Vietnam. In an article in the official newspaper Nhan Dan, U Thant's recent Vietnam truce proposals were described as "supporting and encouraging U.S. imperialism."

The paper went on to say that U Thant's suggestion for a general stand-still truce, followed by preliminary talks and the reconvening of the Geneva conference, put the "victim of aggression on the same footing as the aggressor. The truce proposal would, it said, "amount in fact to demanding that the Vietnamese people lay down their arms and give up the fight against U.S. aggressors while nearly 500,000 U.S. troops still tread on Vietnamese soil.

"Such an approach constitutes in itself an encouragement to the U.S. aggressors in Vietnam," the paper concluded.

Le Monde of April 3rd had this to say about Thant's latest proposals:

"The publication by Mr. Thant of his new 'peace plan' for Vietnam undoubtedly constitutes a success for the United States. The United Nations secretary-general unquestionably strengthened the American position that any cessation of the bombings should coincide with a reciprocity move from Hanoi...." The paper continued: "Mr. Thant's attempt, whose failure was foreseeable, is all the more to be regretted since it is already interpreted in Peking as further evidence of the secretary-general's alignment with 'American imperialism.'...." (my emphasis, D.W.)

Thus those who carried the slogan: "Support U Thant" find themselves supporting what Le Monde describes as a success for the United States. Whilst I have to agree with The Week's recent leaflet which said that the good faith of the overwhelming majority of those who carried this slogan could not be doubted, I find it hard to see why some politically experienced people should stick to the slogan.

The movement in Britain has been continually hindered and confused by the lack of a clear political line. Confronted by a wily politician like Wilson, the movement must stop making these mistakes. Real opposition to the war in Vietnam can only be built by explaining its real character: that of a war of aggression by a rich capitalist state against a poor peasant country.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESS - CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Amazing as it may seem we are still getting articles, monies and exchange journals sent to our old address in Nottingham. This causes us considerable inconvenience and may result in things going astray. Please, please send all materials, etc., to

The Week,
71, Onslow Gardens,
London N. 10.

W.E.A. TEACH-IN ON INCOMES POLICY from a Hull reader

The following report appeared under banner headlines in the Hull Daily Mail, on Monday, April 3rd:

"COLLISION AHEAD ON INCOMES POLICY. UNION LEADER'S HULL WARNING."

The government was steering a collision course with its incomes policy and sooner or later "the balloon will go up" warned a Hull trade union leader yesterday. "Strikes will come, and when they do they will undermine this government for a very long time", declared Mr. David Shenton, regional secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union. He was speaking at a teach-in at the Royal Station Hotel, organised by the Workers' Educational Association. About 50 people attended the afternoon and evening conference, which dealt with the country's economic crisis and the price and incomes policy.

Other members of the panel were Mr. James Johnson, M.P., Labour member for West Hull; Mr. Norman Turner, prospective Liberal candidate for East Hull, and Mr. Tony Topham, a lecturer at Hull University.

Mr. Shenton said that despite the freeze, employers would pay wage increases if it suited their wishes, and despite Government powers. "There is no point in making a law which cannot be observed, and the Government is wasting its time trying legal powers," said Mr. Shenton.

It was the lower paid worker who was being hit by the freeze which would permanently affect his wages. But in the case of shareholders the freeze was only a hold-up period and the shareholder would get his money back.

"While this sort of thing is going on, you will never get the working man to support the Government," said Mr. Shenton. "Many of the unions who initially supported the Government are now having second thoughts. I think the Government are extremely lucky in getting so far."

There were clear warning signs and he was certain that if things continued as they were, the T.U.C. conference would vote against the Government's policy. "My advice to the government is to call this whole thing off before it is too late. The rank-and-file are sick and tired of the pressures. The trade union movement will not be a whipping boy for any Government."

Note: The T. & G.W.U. in Hull, and in eight major fishing ports, will be officially in dispute with the trawler owners from June 3rd., the date on which their notice to terminate the old compulsory arbitration clause in their agreement, expires. The owners, having turned down a claim for a 48 hour week and Sunday overtime last month, last week rejected a claim (based on the present merchant seamen's standards) for 48 days annual leave. Both claims were rejected as incompatible with the Government's prices and incomes policy. Mr. Jack Ashwell, fishing officer for the union in Hull, said to the press that as from June 2nd. "We shall feel free to take any action considered necessary. It could well mean a stoppage. If there is going to be a stoppage after June 2nd it will be an official one and will involve the eight major fishing ports. There is deadlock over this issue for we shall not approach the employers again."

A WORLD SHIPPING SURPLUS?

from an economics correspondent

The latest annual report given by the Lloyd's register of shipping warns that "an unprecedented expansion" in seaborne trade will be needed to match the rapidly accelerating growth in the carrying capacity of the world merchant fleet. In the report, which was issued on April 4, Lloyd's Register - one of the leading ship and engineering classification societies - points out: "the record additions to the world's fleet in 1966 were accompanied by a decline in freight rates, compared with 1965 levels."

This suggested that the equilibrium referred to in the previous year's report had not been maintained and that the overall supply of ships throughout the world exceeds demand. "The carrying capacity of the world fleet will also effectively increase with the trend towards larger and faster ships, quicker turn-round in port and the ratification in due course of the 1966 Loadline Convention. "It is the more remarkable, therefore, that the world order book should also be at a record level both in tonnage under construction and orders not yet commenced. The world order book totals some 33.7 million tons gross, of which 15 million tons are scheduled for completion in 1967, 11 million tons in 1968 and 7 million tons in 1969."

The report admits that forecasts of an excess in ship output in the past year have been confounded by an expansion in world trade. But to match the current growth rate in carrying capacity an unprecedented expansion would be required.

This situation does not augur well for the British shipping and shipbuilding industries. It is pretty certain that such actions as the lock-out of draughtsmen in the shipyards are part of a plan to put the burden of sharpening competition in the industry. Workers in the industry should press for nationalisation, under workers' control, as an answer; the Fairfields experiment is completely discredited.

YOUNG LIBERALS CALL FOR WORKERS' CONTROL OF TRANSPORT

The most radical resolution passed by the Young Liberals national conference held over Easter was undoubtedly that on workers' control of transport. Its main points were:

"1. The long-term policy should be controlled by a Board, on which the majority would be directly elected by all employees; half the remainder of the members being elected by the general public and half nominated by the municipality, heads of departments and the general manager.

2. Workers' councils should be separately constituted to negotiate with the management, through committees to which both management and workers' council should appoint representatives.

3. The committees should submit proposals to the Board through the workers' council. As a corollary, it was suggested that full-time union officials should be entitled to sit on boards, etc. and that "industrial democracy should be fostered through industrial unions and a militant and representative shop stewards movement." With all its wooliness, this is far to the left of any other youth group's line. Sooner or later a conflict in the Y.L. will come.