

THE

Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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AN URGENT APPEAL TO OUR READERS

For nearly six months we have bringing out The Week. Despite the doubts some people expressed about ability to this on a voluntary basis and without financial backing we have had quite a degree of success. We have subscribers in all the important towns, the journal is on sale in all major universities, and we have built up a network of ^{journalists} correspondents the like of which many more substantial would be jealous of. We have intervened in several real struggles and materially helped strikers and Anti-Apartheid workers. We are proud of our journal and think it can play a big role in the future, especially after the election of a Labour Government.

However, we are now reaching a critical stage. The Summer season, with its low level of political activity, absence of meetings, etc., is almost upon us. During this period we cannot count on anything like the income we have received in our first months. This will place us in a very difficult position unless we can receive aid over and above just normal subscriptions.

There are many ways readers can help. First and most elementary any monies owing to us should be paid immediately. Many subscriptions will be running out at issue No. 26. and if readers could re-subscribe paying the full year's subscription, a lump sum would be built up which would help to tide us over the difficult period. Direct donations, especially in the form of bankers' orders, are of course best of all. Again we must reiterate that the names of possible subscribers (especially with the 2/6 to cover 6 issues) should be sent. Without doubt this method has helped us in the past most of all. Some readers might prefer to take out a subscription for someone else. We get many appeals for complimentary copies - sometimes from very deserving organisations, e.g., in the colonial field, but just haven't the resources to comply. This would provide readers with not only a chance to help this journal but help another organisation too.

We will during the next few weeks or so be making a number of more definite appeals. We ask you to take this very seriously - our last intention is to stop publication but we have to pay our bills! its all up to you!

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THE FOUR-MINUTE REVOLUTION

Last week's editorial discussed the contribution of the new Socialist Register to the practice of the labour movement. Readers who have referred to that important book will have been most interested in Ralph Miliband's essay on "Socialism and the Myth of the Golden Past." Rightly, Miliband argues that the times are perhaps more propitious now than ever before for the socialist transformation of society.

But it is not only the lone witnesses of the left who have seen this writing on the wall. On 26th of May, 1964, The Times first leader was given over to a commentary on a paper by two sociologists, John Goldthorpe and David Lockwood. This most stimulating and valuable paper was scarcely hot news. It had been published in the Sociological Review 6 months previously. But having laid hands on it, the men of power were given seriously to think. The fundamental uneasiness of the British capitalist class is very well summed up in the resultant article. We quote some chunks of it as a taste:

"...In the course of the heart-searching and wound-licking that went on in the Labour Party after its third successive defeat in the general election of 1959, an hypothesis emerged that material affluence experienced over a prolonged period had altered the political allegiance of an influential, and perhaps critical, number of working class electors; that the "traditional working class attitudes" had been - perhaps permanently - modified by physical wellbeing; and that the social and political distinctions between less well paid white collar workers and the prosperous manual worker were disappearing. If it is proved true, the political, social, and - ultimately constitutional significance of that hypothesis could be immense. The result of the next general election will throw more light on the hypothesis, though it will say little about the complexity of social currents which will affect that result.

"....the implications of the hypothesis...extend far beyond any particular quinquennium or the meaning that it may have for a political party in relation to the framing of its future policies. What is being discussed here is nothing less than the kind of society that may be emerging for the Britain of the next 20 or 30 years, and as such it is worthy..of systematic study...It is widely assumed that the individual's prosperity has a great bearing upon the ease with which he may increase the felicity and usefulness of his life, that more money will make him socially mobile. Is that always, or even generally, true? Even though the class barriers may have become more pliable, they still exist.

"....It is not, of course, possible to divide British society into neat packages. The social fabric of the country has demonstrated in the past its capacity for change....This kind of social fluidity has always been praised as the secret of the country's immunity from revolution. The familiar mechanism has worked well, in its leisurely way. But it will be tried as it has never been tried before in the next decade. The demand may be for recognition now, not in the next generation. The increase in the prosperity of a group in society unaccompanied by any equivalent increase in social status may produce in that group more, not less, radicalism..." (our emphasis)

The truth is, our betters can feel the ground moving beneath their feet. Who has ever questioned the "country's immunity from revolution"? Very few of us, it may be thought. But The Times knows better. If only the left could see as clearheadedly as the established hierarchy, the business could be accomplished with such liveliness and speed as might make Britain the Bannister of revolution.

Trade union platform



RAILWAYMEN WANT "A PLAN FOR THE RAILWAYMEN" by Len Nicholas

Profuse press publicity has preceded the publication of "A Plan for Miners". We hope it will act as a guide for a Labour Government and not have to be fought bitterly for from a Tory administration.

Max Madden, reviewing the charter in Tribune, writes: "There is already talk of workers, thrown out of work by automation, receiving full pay while unemployed. In such conditions unions should be presenting plans for their own industries - of their production and manpower prospects - to ensure that change does not bring the hardship it has in the past. The miners' plan must be copied by other unions who represent workers in industries facing drastic changes as the result of automation and new techniques. Yet where are the plans for the railways for instance?"

Railwaymen are aware of this need for a "Plan for Railwaymen". Dundee and East Ham NUR branches have resolutions on the agenda of their annual conference to this effect. Dundee branch states: "That in view of the rapid modernisation in the railway industry, bringing as it does changing techniques and new labour methods, and in some spheres automation, we refer to our National Executive Committee the urgent need for the forming of a new charter for railwaymen taking into account wages and salaries and labour conditions to correspond with the immense changes taking place in the industry." East Ham submit: "That this AGM calls upon the NEC to draw up a charter for railwaymen on the basis of that published by the NUM."

When Beeching closed down railway workshops an agreement was negotiated by the NUR, under the threat of strike action, that was thought to win a concession of $\frac{2}{3}$ premature pension pay for redundant workers between the age of 60 and 65. Now we learn that a hidden, or at least overlooked, clause disqualifies redundant workers from this benefit. East Ham NUR branch have lodged an appeal for action to reverse this ruling. I believe that the two industrial unions representing the railwaymen and the miners will face the challenge of the new industrial revolution together, and with a Socialist Government in Westminster, confidently.

DOUGLAS JAY UPSETS THE AEU

from a London reader

The Evening Standard has reported on a row going between Douglas Jay, leading right-winger who is the party's spokesman on trade and industry, and the AEU over his ham-fisted intervention in the question of the pending closure of a Battersea factory (in his constituency.) The report says: "The saga began at the factory of Projectile and Engineering, the Battersea firm which plans to move to the north-west in 1966. The trade unions are bitterly opposed to the move, and are trying to persuade the management to set up their factory somewhere nearer....Mr. Jay, casting himself in the role of honest broker, decided to visit the factory and speak to the management. But a union official telephoned him and asked him not to intervene. "We didn't want him coming along discussing severance pay when we are opposed to closure anyway," says a union official. Nevertheless, Mr. Jay went to the factory and had lunch with the management. "The lads soon got to hear about it on the bush telegraph and when he came out of the office they all followed him round the factory shouting and hollering," the official said. "It caused an hour's stoppage." Mr. Jay was forced to make a hasty retreat in a company bus. Now the union wants to meet him and discuss the matter, but Mr. Jay is waiting for his apology first."

GLASGOW PROTEST AGAINST NEW TRADE UNION EDUCATION SCHEME from a Glasgow reader

60 trade unionists, 18 Labour Party representatives and 8 co-op delegates attended a meeting on May 31st addressed by J. Millar, General Secretary of the NCLC. The size of the gathering and the tone of the discussion revealed the extent of concern about the new TUC education scheme. Attention was focussed particularly on the elimination of local participation and on the exclusion of the Labour Party from the plan. A resolution asking the TUC to rectify these points was passed unanimously and delegates pledged themselves to raise the issue in their own unions in order to make sure it was fully discussed by General Council and by Congress.

Most interesting was that criticisms of the new scheme ran along with the same lines as those made at the WEA conference. If the two bodies could cooperate (as is occurring already in Hull), local resistance to the scheme would be greatly strengthened.

ISLINGTON ETU PROTEST AGAINST ADEN WAR from Jerry Lawless

Islington branch (formerly London and Grays Inn branches) of the ETU passed a resolution, 37 to 2, calling upon the leadership of the union to demand the ending of the war in Aden and declaring their support in the meanwhile for the national liberation fighters of the South Yemen.

ADEN - THE LABOUR MOVEMENT IS BEGINNING TO STIR by Pat Jordan

Slowly, but surely, the Labour movement is beginning to react against the colonial war being waged by the Tories against the people of Southern Arabia, and against Wilson, de facto, backing this war. On Saturday, there was the Young Socialist demonstration in London, followed on Sunday by a march, 300 strong, organised by Arabs in Britain, through the West End to Hyde Park. Among the organisations which have protested are: Hampstead C.L.P., Llanelly Trades Council, and Bristol MCF. This is, however, only a start. The left must make a decisive stand on this question and give full support to NALSO which is engaged in a polemical correspondence with Wilson over Aden.

BEHIND THE LINWOOD SACKINGS

from Tony Southall

The key points in the 'trouble' are (1) the speed-up without increased pay; and (2) the huge differences between the Scottish and English rates. These are, of course, tolerated to a large extent because of the high rate of unemployment. A recent article in Labour Worker examined in detail the background to the unofficial strikes, and a passage from the article gives some idea of the management's 'sweatshop' attitude:

"...."Floaters" for instance are practically non-existent on the tracks which means if a man drops out even for a moment there is no one to replace him. When a man on the main track goes to the toilet, he returns to find six cars to work on in the time he usually devotes to one...and that is short enough! Time and again the management have promised stewards that "immediate attention" would be given to the "floater" problem. Nothing whatever has been done about it.."

When the announcement of the sacking of the 270 men took place, John Boyd, Scottish executive member of the AEU made the statement "I have absolutely no reason at all to disagree with the Rootes decision" (quoted in the Glasgow Evening Citizen, May 29). John Miller, Renfrew district secretary of the T. and G.W.U. (whose union organises most of the sacked men) said; "I think it is shocking and naturally I will press for the men to be reinstated. I hope also to have talks with the shop stewards." It should be noted that John Miller is by no means a militant left-winger.

The go-slow started was started at the Imp plant in support of a wage claim. The assembly track men decided to limit their production to 1,750 a week against a normal 2,500. Rootes had hopes of raising the production level to nearer 3,000 a week to meet the huge export orders and heavy home demands for Imps. Directors ordered the sackings after a special meeting to which Lord Rootes had flown especially from the U.S.
Ed. Note: We shall publish next week more material on this question especially in light of the Chrysler partial take-over of Rootes.

UNEMPLOYMENT UP AT TYNE SHIPYARDS

Not all sections ^{are} benefitting from the improvement in the employment position. The Ministry of Labour have reported that shipyard unemployment on the Tyne rose last month for the first time since December. The river had 1,476 unemployed shipyard workers on May 11th, compared with 1,341 on April 13th, and increase of 135.

SALT GLAZE INDUSTRY MAY HAVE ONE-DAY STRIKE

Despite a strike ultimatum from 2,300 workers in South Derbyshire and Leicestershire threatening to affect half Britain's salt glaze ware industry, the employers refused on 8th June, to meet union officials to discuss a claim for a third week's annual holiday. They claimed that they did so as a "matter of principle." Dick Coates, district Organiser of the TGWU said that a one-day strike scheduled for June 18th would go on unless the employers climbed down. "We gave them the ultimatum some time ago but they have refused to discuss the claim," he added.

RIVONIA TRIAL JUDGEMENT TO BE GIVEN ON THURSDAY from Mrs. Whawell

Judgement in the so-called Rivonia trial is to be given on Thursday, this week (June 11th). Sentence on the accused will be announced in Court on Friday June 12th. We ask you do do all you can to save the defendants. It is most important that protest action should start from the announcement of the judgement rather than wait until the sentence is announced.

Send telegrams, postcards, letter, etc., in protest to:

Dr. Carel de Wet, South African Ambassador,
Trafalgar Square, London W.C. 2. and

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Prime Minister,
Downing St., London S.W. 1.

Send messages of support to the nine accused men: c/o, The Palace of Justice, Pretoria, South Africa. Their names are Nelson Mandela, Walter Sisulu, Lionel Bernstein, Ahmed Kathrada, Govan Mbeki, Dennis Goldberg, Raymond Mhlaba, Elias Motsaoleli and Andrew Mlangeni. The Town Hall should be made the focus of protests at the judgement and sentences. Protest to your Mayor and ask him to convey your protest to the Prime Minister and the South African Ambassador.

DURHAM STUDENTS LEVY £25 TOWARDS RIVONIA DEFENCE FUND from Ian Taylor*

Two Durham Colleges, Grey and Hatfield, have managed to have a 1/- a head levy for the Defence and Aid Fund for Rivonia Trial accused - this totalled about £25 altogether.

* Ian Taylor is editor Labour Student, the official NALSO journal.

READING STUDENTS OPPOSE APARTHEID from a special correspondent

At the May meeting the Reading University Students Union passed the following resolution:

"This Union deplors the present police state system existing in South Africa, as particularly exemplified by the present Rivonia political trials. This Union undertakes to proceed with the following action-

- a) to lobby local M.P.s with a view to pressing further action from Gt. Britain to implement the recent U.N. decision on South Africa;
- b) to approach the Mayor and Council with a view to the establishment of a trade boycott with South Africa;
- c) to contribute to such demonstrations as shall be organised by NUS and/or the Anti-Apartheid Movement.

These steps were strongly attacked by the local press, but the Students' Union backed up their stand by issuing a full list of South African brands. (Ed. Note: see Week No. 23, the list is based upon one put out by the Anti-Apartheid Movement and can be obtained from them: 15, Endsleigh St, WC1.

BIRMINGHAM MOVE FOR MUNICIPAL BOYCOTT from a Birmingham reader

At its last meeting the Birmingham Trades Council decided, unanimously, to ask the Birmingham City Council to operate a total boycott of South African goods. This is a very important move - Birmingham is the second largest municipal authority in Britain.

NORTH WEST PROVES C.N.D. IS NOT DEAD from Alan Rooney

North West CND had a big rally in the Free Trade Hall last Friday (May 29) - about 1,200 attended. The meeting was preceded by a youth march on Granada TV to protest against misrepresentation of CND. The Granada staff were given a special 'focus' leaflet (see below) earlier in the week. One of the shop stewards there has joined CND. The meeting was quite lively with Michael Foot, Donald Soper, Judith Cook and Olive Gibbs speaking - the emphasis was on moral arguments and youth. Folk music was provided by the Ian Campbell group. Olive Gibbs emphasised the need to extend the campaign against NATO. The collection raised £243.

A special note of interest was the fact that the following day about 400 young people bought over 500 CND badges at the Manchester office of CND. They also sold 100 Sanity. So much for the 'mods' and 'rockers' stuff.

Focus is issued by the North West CND at Party conferences, at the TUC and at by-elections. A special one was issued for the staff at Granada TV; it said:

"On Thursday, 26th March..on "Scene at 6.30" Mike Scott said "CND is dead, at last". On Monday, 30th March..CND held its Easter March on London. Across the full width of Whitehall 20,000 marchers streamed into Trafalgar Square in one of the most colourful demonstrations ever seen in the capital.....

"Every year, just before Easter, some of the 'intellectuals' make their annual speculation about the future of CND. Always (they say) we are about to fold. Always (they say) we are on our last legs. Always (they say) we are split and divided. 'Scene at 6.30' made the mistake of believing and following the fashionable trend. If the New Statesman and The Observer said that we were dying at the weekend, then it was a fair assumption that by Thursday we were dead.

"Or was it? A four-penny, or a four minute walk to the other side of Deansgate, to the CND Regional Office, would have secured the facts about CND. We could have told 'Scene' that we had over 700 people going to London for the Easter March, more than in previous years. That we had 90 adult, youth and student groups of the Campaign in the North West. That we sell every month 4,000 copies of the CND paper Sanity. That young people are joining our Youth Campaign, with over 400 written applications for enrolment into the Regional Office this year. But no enquiry was made.....

"We wrote to Mike Scott, no reply. We telephoned Mike Murphy and David Plowright. One stuck to it that we were dead. He even wrote to some of the corpses, in answer to their protests. The other said that "CND is dead, at last" did not mean "CND is dead, at last." We wrote to Mr. Bernstein and he referred us back to Mr. Plowright.....

The leaflet ended by offering free tickets to the big rally to any member of the Granada staff who was interested.

EAST MIDLANDS REGION CND TO LEAFLET WILSON MEETING IN DERBY

5,000 leaflets have been produced by Nottingham CND on Polaris and the Aden crisis. These are to be distributed at Players' and Raleigh factories, but sufficient will be held over to give to members of the Labour Party as they go into the East Midland Region L.P. Rally in Derby. This is being held at the Central Hall, Derby and commences at 3.00. Anyone wishing to help should turn up there from 2.30 onwards.

TYPHOID: WHOSE RESPONSIBILITY

by Alec Bagley (Aberdeen)

One was at first inclined to criticise Aberdeen's M.O.H. for slowness in alerting the public to the dangers and to the origin of the current typhoid epidemic. However, since he has committed himself to naming the corned beef as the source, Dr. MacQueen has clearly been subject to considerable pressure to qualify his statement, but he has held his ground, putting public interest before private in a wholly admirable way.

The Scottish Secretary of State, Noble, has tried to pour cold water (decidedly unchlorinated) on Dr. MacQueen's statements. Undeterred, MacQueen has gone ahead and named the two firms involved - Fray Bentos (Liebig's) and Armour - a statement which only The Times published next day.* He has also given the press a copy of a letter put out by the Scottish Home and Health Dept., in which various South American processing stations are named as the source of infection. The tins which were in use at what is universally believed to be Low's supermarket on Union Street (A Forres firm with other branches at Elgin, Inverurie and Keith) originated in one station of which the letter says: "It is now known that between Jan 1, 1963 and March 9, 1964, (it) used raw river water for cooling because the chlorinating plant broke down.

The interesting but unanswered questions are: when did the Home and Health Dept. have this information? If it was before the outbreak, why was the beef not withdrawn? And if since the outbreak, why was this fact not known before? Perhaps the official inquiry might throw light on this. But both the composition of the Committee and its terms of reference are in Government hands....

Even the local press - praised by The Observer for "sterling reporting" - is playing down the question of responsibility. On June 4th, The Press and Journal carried a leader which blatantly suggested that Dr. MacQueen should be pushed into the background. Judging from his statements, however, I don't think this will happen.


* our correspondent has since informed us that the Guardian mentioned these two firms as well.

MALNUTRITION IN ENGLAND

by Julian Atkinson

It was once thought that rickets were a thing of the past, destined never to appear again, but this is shown by recent findings to be over-optimistic. The current issue of The Practitioner contains an article by Dr. Gavin Arneil who comments on the 40 cases of rickets in the last five years from one slum area of Glasgow and suggests that after children are taken off dried milk (containing vitamin D) their diets no longer provided enough of that vitamin.

Dr. Royston Lambert in his book "Nutrition in Britain 1950-60" underlines the findings of the National Food Survey which shows that imperfect nutrition became more widespread during the 50's. In 1960 a quarter of the population fell below official standards in at least 3 or more nutrient factors. It was found that smaller families eat better than large in all but top income groups. A graphic example is given by the fact that the mean heights of 14-year-old boys from small families in Croydon were 5 inches more than those of boys from large families in Salford. The 'two nations' maybe still do exist!



INDUSTRIAL week

MASTER PRINTERS TURN DOWN EXTRA HOLIDAYS by John Daniels

The decision of the BFMP (British Federation of Master Printers) to refuse the demand for a third week's annual holiday made made by the PKTF (Printing and Kindred Trades Federation) has led to bitter criticism of the employers by the General Secretary of the PKTF, G. Eastwood. In the Graphical Journal, monthly organ of the Graphical Association, Eastwood states that, "the employers have now been told that we entirely reject their contention than any improvements in conditions must be completely offset by savings in production." The employers' proposals were veiled in such euphemistic phrases as "flexibility of manning and operations" a key question in an industry whose labour force is beginning to feel the rigours of automation.

CONFLICTING VIEWS ON GUNTER AND THE TRADE UNIONS from Tom Nicholls

The June issue of Solidarity contains a sharp attack on Mr. Ray Gunter's ideas for reforming the unions. It then goes on to attack the record of the 1945-51 Labour Governments with regard to their handling of a number of strikes saying "All this may be new or surprising to many young people now active in the working class movement." A number of cases where the Labour Government used troops in strikes is then documented in detail.

Engineering News of 14th May on the other hand is full of praise for Mr. Gunter (This paper has been taking a conservative line on most industrial issues) While supporting Mr. Gunter's ideas it does not feel hopeful that these will get much support in the trades unions or from a future Labour Government.

SOUTH LONDON USDAW SUBMITS A PLAN FOR BUILDING THE UNION from Sam Bornstein

South London branch of USDAW has submitted for consideration by the London Divisional Council, the Executive and the membership as a whole, "a study of the problems involved in organising distributive workers, with suggestions for their solution.." which has been drafted by Walter Kendall. That such a study is needed is demonstrated in the first para of the study when it is disclosed that the present membership of USDAW is 19,000 less than at the time it was founded by the merger of the National Union of Distributive and Allied Workers with the National Amalgamated Union of Shop Assistants, Warehousemen and Clerks in 1947. It is impossible to do justice to the study in the space available but the chapter headings will give an idea of the scope; these are "The Present Situation" (covering the union history, changes in distribution, T.U. growth, etc.); "Problems and Solutions" (covering turnover, comparison with other unions, etc.); "Using our Resources" (which examines each sphere of the union's structure and makes concrete proposals); and a general conclusion.

TWO BOOKS ON THE SUEZ AFFAIR

from Alex Acheson

Cyril Ray recently reviewed Ben Gurion's "Israel, Years of Challenge" in Punch - "He has written a turgid tract, no more, which contrives to devote three chapters to the Sinai campaign without a single preference to Anthony Eden, and reveals nothing, save for a give-away phrase about 'the first indication of Anglo-French intervention against Egypt, received on the night of October 30th.' So Mr. Ben Gurion knew that the "intervention" was against (my emphasis) Egypt before Egypt had even replied.

Reviewing D.M.J. Clark's "Suez Touchdown", Ray writes - "Captain Clark's briefing from his C.O. before the landing at Port Said was to the effect that 'the British and French have decided to retake the Suez Canal' No nonsense about 'separating the combatants' in this book by a man vulgar enough to refer always to the 'wogs'."

POLES PUBLISH STUDIES ON UNDEVELOPED COUNTRIES' ECONOMIES

The Polish Scientific Publishers (PWN) are beginning a series of publications devoted to the economic problems of Asia, Africa and Latin America. The series is supervised by an editorial committee with Professor Oskar Lange as the Chairman. The first volume "Planning and Economic Development", with a preface by O. Lange, contains papers by the following authors: A.K. Gupta and A Rudra (India); S. Tsuru (Japan); M. Sadli (Indonesia); R. Pankhurst and T. Gulitat (Ethiopia); C. Furtado (Brazil); P.G. Casanova (Mexico); and C. Ayari (Tunisia).

The second volume is "Agriculture, land reforms and economic development" and contains papers by D.G. Kharve and V.B. Singh (India); E.N. Morales (Bolivia); J. de Castro (Brazil); A. Nouschi, E. Younes and B. Be Berreb (Tunisia) and Professors Dresch, Dumont, Berque, and Ben Barka (Morocco). Other volumes of the series will discuss the following topics: Bottlenecks and barriers to growth; Foreign trade and economic development; and Tradition and progress.

Full details of these and other similar publications can be obtained from: B.H. Blackwell Ltd., Oxford; or Cracovia Book Company, Ltd., 58, Pembroke Rd., London W. 8,

CO-OPERATIVE ADVANCE NUMBER THREE

Co-operative Advance is a modest but extremely useful publication devoted to problems of the Co-operative movement. It is the journal of the Co-operative Advance movement, which arose out of the fight against the attempts by the right in the Royal Arsenal Co-op to witch-hunt the left. We have just received number 3. This has a lot of material comparing the conditions of Co-op employees with those of the John Lewis Partnership and Marks & Spencers. It is sad to say that the Co-op comes out badly in these comparisons, and the facts and figures quoted will, no doubt, provide valuable ammunition for USDAW members engaged in negotiations. The question of the co-ops handling South Africa goods is also dealt with and in addition to an article supporting boycott, and exposing the General Committee's manipulations, the journal has inserted the Anti-Apartheid leaflet naming South African brands. Two other articles deal with expenditure on political purposes. Co-operative Advance can be obtained from Will Fancy, 45, Greenvale Rd., London S.E.9., 2/- a year, post-paid.

Time magazine of 15 May carried an interesting portrait of the Roman Catholic Cardinal Spellman, together with other information which contributes some telling insights into the relation of the churches to contemporary American society. Spellman is, of course bishop of New York, a see which has become "the richest in the world" as a result of his canny shepherding. He is now "the second most powerful man in the (catholic) church". This is mainly as a consequence of "his unique ability to help out the church in useful ways that seldom get into print. After World War 2, he convinced Pius of the need to internationalise the Vatican's Italy centred investments". The fortune of the church held by the Vatican alone now amounts to some £800 million according to the Wall Street Journal. It has made some very advantageous entries into the world of property speculation, especially in the U.S. Wall St., itself is now partly owned by the church. Time lists some of the ways in which some of The American churches can cash in on the tax immunity, which is granted to them. "Many state laws are so broad that Churches- and fraternal organizations- may buy such property (that is property not used for religious purposes) with lease back arrangements under which they rent it to the former owners: income from the rents and leases is tax free. The R.C. Knights of Columbus do not pay income taxes on their rental revenue, which comes from such sources as the land on which Yankee Stadium stands; a Detroit Steel Warehouse and a Connecticut steel mill. In New Orleans, a Jesuit run Loyola University pays no federal income tax on its revenues from its radio and television stations, and thus is in a better position to compete for business than its leading rival". The dimensions of property speculation alone is shown by the following! "Church groups own 14% of all taxable property in Pennsylvania, 17% in Maryland, 18% in New Jersey. Spellman himself is a past master at all these financial dodges: apparently he is known as Cardinal Moneybags in the Vatican. Time's Portrait continues; "Some Catholic laymen deplore the fact that his voice loud and clear in condemning 'The Deputy', dirty movies and the Communist threat, is rarely heard on such social issues as segregation and political corruption. Catholic book publishers seldom try to get Spellman's imprimatur on anything more controversial than the life of an Irish saint".

Spellman's weight has naturally been thrown behind U.S. imperialism all over the world from Peru to Vietnam (where he was of course closely associated with the Dien regime). The report ends on a touching note! "His greatest consolation, he says, has been his annual Christmastide visits to the troops overseas, 'which gave me a chance' to do something pastoral. That has always been my ideal -to be close to the people.

This picture of the churches conforming to and supporting the uglier features of American life is re-inforced by a short item in the same issue of Time on the recent conference of the Methodists. This church, which prides itself on its zeal for principle, compromised on the question of racial integration and "shelved a proposal to make refusing anyone admission to worship an ecclesiastical crime".

ASPECTS OF THE U.S. LABOUR MOVEMENT by a special correspondent

This month's issue of Labour News from the U.S.I.S. carries some intriguing items:

(1) The drive for a shorter working week. One line the drive is taking is to raise overtime pay from time and a half to double time. It has been clearly recognised by the unions in the US that overtime working as a common practice means cheap labour for the boss. "The increased volume of production in the overtime hours reduces the employer's overhead costs per unit - the greater volume is spread over the fixed overhead costs. But more than that, the cost of hiring additional workers has increased. Through both legislation and collective bargaining, various fringe benefit costs have been added to the employment-cost package, which varies with the number of workers employed rather than with the number of manhours worked." "An increase in the overtime penalty from time and a half to double time would increase the employers' costs of scheduling overtime work. It would discourage them from scheduling such overtime and provide an incentive for business firms to hire additional workers." (The article makes clear that the main incentive behind the drive is to provide jobs for the 4 million unemployed.)

(2) Shop Stewards in the U.S. A review of a new study "The Rank and File Leader", describes the author's* findings on shop stewards' attitudes in America. "...taken together, they challenge some accepted canons about mass (and classless) society in America, about the "job-conscious" theory of the labour movement, and even about the direction in which labour education should be moving. The basic conclusion is that the steward reflects without question a "consciousness of kind" or class consciousness, a "we" and "they" attitude towards all questions discussed. This leads him to discount corruption in unions as a device of anti-union forces and to rally round his union leadership even more firmly. It leads to "solidarity" feelings and effective representation for negroes and women...."

"The stewards feel that "they" control economic life, even down to ordering recessions, and that technology and automation are fearsome forces that cannot be stopped but must somehow be controlled. On the subject of war and peace, the stewards are strongly against a nuclear war, believing that co-existence is possible...." "The author concludes that whilst socialist ideology is clearly not in their scheme of things" (yet?? Ed.) "neither is the "job-consciousness" description big enough to hold what they feel and believe, which the author describes as class-conscious or social-unionism." * Sidney M. Peck

CHRISTIAN TRADE UNIONS CRITICISE COMMON MARKET SET UP

Following the criticism of the unions affiliated to the ICFTU of the lack of a workers' representation in the institutions of the EEC, the European Christian Trade Unions have followed suit. A resolution adopted at the recent 3rd annual conference of the European Trade unions affiliated to the International Confederation of Christian Trade Unions urged, "a democratic Europe in which the worker's place is assured" and rejected "a Europe made up only of technocrats, cartels and capitalistic groups". On the other hand the resolution called for (1) effective Community action against cartels; (2) establishment of tri-partite committees to coordinate economic planning (workers, employers and the state); and a merger of the 3 existing Community Executives (EEC, Euratom and ECSC). Whilst the Christian unions are a long way from being socialist, these moves are encouraging for the process of the unification of European workers' trade union movement.



THE THIRD WORLD REVOLUTION

ARGENTINIAN BOURGEOISIE FEARS "RED REVOLUTION" IMMINENT by Jim Wilcox

The occupation of factories by Argentinian workers continued on a larger scale in the past few weeks: some 2½ million workers occupied hundreds of factories in the course of the "combat plan" of the CGT (Argentinian TUC). Newsweek commented: "The tactic (of occupying factories) was first introduced two years ago by a non-Peronist union, and it brought immediate results. Plagued by overproduction, limited markets and the lack of working capital, factory owners often found strikes welcome respites. But being held as hostages by angry workers was something else again." However, the comment on the recent occupations was as follows: "The CGT's combat plan was not very combative. In most instances the workers simply closed down a plant by welding the gates shut, locked up a few unpopular foremen and executives in a storeroom, and then waited for the police to free them. Rarely did the whole operation take more than a day nor was it meant to. The CGT told its members to leave firearms at home and offer no resistance to the police...." He (the General Secretary of the CGT) promised that the one day takeovers would continue until June 15 when every plant and business would be occupied simultaneously by its workers - unless, of course, the CGT's demands are met." These demands include a minimum wage of 130 dollars a month (the current average wage is 70 dollars a month), reduction of the 7% unemployment, an end to inflation which has caused prices but not wages to grow by 20% since December, and an end to the repressive laws against Peronists and Communists.

The Newsweek report continues: "The danger is, however, that workers' takeovers can easily escalate into revolts and, indeed, most Argentine industrialists consider them the first stage in a 'Red Revolution'...." Fortunately CGT boss Alonso has so far elected not to exploit the Government's softness by pressing for revolutionary measures. Yet the crucial question remains: if the CGT does not get its demands and does take over every business in Argentina, what happens next?"

(For the background to the Argentinian situation see Alberto Ciria's article in Week No. 8).

Ed. Note: The latest news we have to hand on the Argentine situation is that the state prosecutor has demanded the banning of various trade unions and the arrest of and indictment against 7 CGT secretaries and 110 branch secretaries. The CGT has declared a state of alert and the strikes and occupations continue.

ZANZIBAR TO TAKE ALL ENTERPRISES AND ARM THE PEOPLE

Speaking at a ceremony to mark the taking over of the electricity board (which is now controlled by a co-operative), President Karume said that everything must be "in the hands of the people and run by the people." At another meeting, where he announced the £5m. loan from China, Karume said that all participants in the revolution would, on Sunday, receive arms to keep at home.

MORE ON THE NEW ZEALAND LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE by Owen Gager (Christchurch)

Ed. note: we have already had a report on this conference but the following from our New Zealand correspondent provides valuable additional data:

The 48th annual conference of the New Zealand Labour Party met May 11-15 in Wellington. It was subject to considerable pressure from New Zealand's national trade union organisation, the Federation of Labour, to include in its objectives "the socialisation of the means of production, distribution and exchange...." (Ed. note: see Week number 22) This was rejected by a three to one majority. "However, three remits were endorsed, one of them unanimously, which did introduce some socialist elements into existing Labour Party policy. One, perhaps the most important, urged that the Trade Practices and Prices Tribunal be strengthened to protect the interest of the consumer "whether it be from the actions of individuals, companies or monopolies," and if such measures failed, the remit committed the next Labour Government "to take appropriate action to nationalise monopoly interests." Another remit pledged support to "the principle of the state taking a major part in the developing, financing and control of the fishing industry," while a third demanded an "Institution under public ownership and control" to "provide for the acquisition and distribution of drugs."

These remits were pushed through by a combination of university branch and trade union pressure. Little change in the officers elected at the conference is discernible - the new president, Mr. N. Kirk, M.P.M is only slightly to the left of his predecessor. The main left wing influence came from the trade union movement which wants more socialist policies to combat employer efforts to place the brunt of falling export prices on wage-earners.

ALGERIA WANTS SCRAP EVIAN PROVISIONS ON OIL - FRANCE EXPECTED TO AGREE

A special correspondent reports: Top level talks between O. Wormser, director of economic affairs for the French Foreign Ministry, B. Boumaza, Algerian Minister of Economy, began last week, only a few days after a triumphant Moscow visit by Ben Bella. The Russians had agreed to build a tanker for Algeria and to staff an Algerian petroleum institute to train Algerians for the oil industry. The French oil industry is convinced that the De Gaulle Government will concede major points to tough-talking Boumaza in order to retain its already badly weakened political links with Algeria.

The Boumaza demands are simple. He wants to scrap the agreements made at Evian. Instead he wants direct participation by the Algerian Government, with majority control, in every phase of the industry. Boumaza repeated his previous complaints that the royalty and depletion provisions set out in the Evian agreements leaves Algeria with a "pauper's share" of Saharan oil income. He also made some comments on the economic agreement with Russia. The Soviet Union will "create" a petroleum institute designed "for the massive and fast training of Algerian petroleum technicians." "If the French companies would do the same," he added, "We would applaud with both hands because we think this is exactly a field for peaceful competition. We called upon the Soviet Union to train technicians because the aid of the petroleum companies in this respect is practically non-existent. Soviet help is most welcome."

Based on Oil and Gas Journal reports

BRICKBAT :-

From Bob Potter.

Dear Editor,

On behalf of Solidarity I must object most strongly to the extremely misleading interpretation of our views given by you in the review of our pamphlet "Busmen - What next"... In the review in question, you accuse us of "invoking devils and witchcraft and bloodcurdling yells of 'betrayal', every time an unsatisfactory settlement is concluded." And this is exactly the opposite of the attitude taken by Solidarity! It is true that the political character of the trade union bureaucracies was not examined in great detail in this particular publication, although this has been done many times in our other publications. As an example I am sending you a copy of our Vol 11 no. 10, where, on page 25 you can read: "It is no accident that trade union and labour bureaucrats, of every political colouring, instinctively and inevitably must oppose any form of rank and file activity. The bureaucracies are fully integrated into the structure of capitalism. Independent action by the working class is the greatest threat to their existence. To talk therefore, of these leaders 'selling out' the membership is absurd. There is no other way in which they could act...."

As the article you seem to be attacking, in the bus pamphlet, and the one from which I now quote, were both written by me, I hope that a careful re-reading on your part will show the false impression you have obviously formed. It seems to me that this careless reporting on your part negates the fundamental purpose of "The Week". The violent opposition of Cousins personally to the 1958 strike is a recorded fact, which not even his most servile supporters on the Central Bus Committee would deny. It was stated as a relevant fact... not as evidence of "betrayal", but as a further illustration of the need for rank and file organisation. Speaking personally, I think that your publication can play an extremely important role in the working class movement, provided it really does give accurate coverage of all levels of activity. In these terms of reference I would be in favour of giving you the fullest support, I hope therefore, that the above mis-representation will be corrected in a subsequent edition.

Our Reviewer Wrote:- This is just what I meant by 'devils and witchcraft'. Comrade Potter seems to think he is viewing union leaders objectively, in that they have no option but to be devils and witches. It just isn't true that all union leaders must oppose 'any form of rank and file activity'. Indeed, all union leaders whether they know it or not, depend on rank and file activity. Cousins knows this, as is witnessed in his speech to the T.U.C. last year, on wage restraint. A much more subtle analysis of the ambivalence of union leaders is needed than that offered by Comrade Potter. But his pamphlet is very interesting and I said so.

Editorial Note:- What do our readers think?

BOUQUET:- Phillip A. Luce (Leader of the May Second Movement).

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