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The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

Vol.7 No.5 2nd February, 1967.

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FASCISM IN BRITAIN TO-DAY



WILSON THE

WAGE - CUTTER

8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7.

Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata

1880

IN BRITAIN

TO-DAY



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WILLIAM THE

WAGE CUTTER

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WILSON THE WAGE CUTTER

For the first time since 1945 the average wage in manufacturing actually fell. Figures issued by the Ministry of Labour show that the average weekly earnings fell by 3s 10d to £20. 15. 6d - a fall of 0.9%. We are, of course, familiar with the famous average worker who gets this £20 a week. But these figures reflect a real process which took place in a year when the cost of living by over 4% (from 114.1 mid-December, 1965, to 118.3 mid-December, 1966). This amounts to a wage cut of some 4 to 5% for millions of workers.

This is a remarkable achievement, especially as it was done without any real resistance from the working class - with the exception of the heroic seamen's strike. First and foremost the right wing leaders of the unions must take credit for this state of affairs. But secondly, we must ask ourselves why it was that many sections of the working class which are not under the influence of the right wing leaders did not fight back either. The answer to this question is both revealing and sad: it is because the traditional left leaders of the unions did not, by and large, inspire a fight either. To blame the apathy of the workers is at variance with the facts. Where leaders have made a call there has been a response: witness the seamen's strike and other actions called for by the TGWU. What is more, in many cases victories, or at least partial victories, have been won once a militant stance has been taken.

There is no doubt that as the affects of this actual wage cut are increasingly felt that resentment and discontent will grow. The worker who is told by his employer and union leader that he must be patient and make sacrifices will find it hard to put this to his wife, as she feels the strain. Thus the potentiality for a struggle will definitely grow. We must in this situation resist two temptations: one to reject fighting through the unions altogether; and two to place excessive reliance on the union leaders initiating a struggle. To think that either spontaneously arising rank and file committees or left wing union leaders will do the job of leading the fight against this Government is to have big illusions. We must demand of the union leaders that they must fight, we must be very firm, but patient, with those on the left who feel isolated when they make a call for a fight, and we support every single aspect of struggle. The key factor must be seen that of stimulating a response through the unions themselves. And it is interesting that those who are most active in the shop stewards committee and on the shop floor recognise the importance of working in this way. It was Bill Jones and Clive Jenkins that the London Shop Stewards Defence Committee asked to sponsor their conference.

On February 21st there is to be a union lobby of Parliament. Between now and then The Week will do all it can to build support for this lobby. This campaign with the right orientation could help to break the impasse.

THE SCANDAL OF WOMEN'S PAY by Barbara Wilson

The position of women has been seriously neglected by all sections of the left. Their situation may be illustrated by figures drawn from the Ministry of Labour Gazette. The average wages of male and female full-time workers in the manufacturing industries are quoted in the March 1966 issue as follows:

	<u>Female</u>	<u>Male</u>
Monthly paid	£56. 0. 3.	£129. 6. 6.
Pay per week therefore	£12. 18. 6.	£29. 16. 11.
Weekly paid	£9. 17. 7.	£19. 9. 1.

These disgraceful figures do not even tell the full story, during the past six or seven years, when women might have been expected to benefit from the relatively high employment throughout the country. Their position has in fact deteriorated in relation to male workers. The following index figures represent the average weekly earnings of full-time manual workers over all manufacturing industries, based on Index April 1960 = 100.

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
April 1966	137.4	141.5

A similar trend can be seen in the index figures for salaried employees in nationalised industries, based on Index 1959 = 100.

	<u>Women</u>	<u>Men</u>
1965	144.0	153.3

The very low wages of women are dependent upon two factors:

- 1) The wage differential, e.g. policewomen receive 90% of the salary given to policemen.
- 2) The prejudice against accepting women into certain grades of work.

This makes it very difficult for women to enter skilled jobs. The Central Youth Employment Executive gives the following statistics for girl school-leavers: only 6% go into apprenticeships (the majority of these being in hairdressing), 13% into jobs which include some sort of training, and 40% go into clerical employment. Hence the majority of female workers find themselves in service industries.

In the present situation women can hardly hope to live independent lives, since society, by paying them through their fathers and husbands, denies them a sound economic base. Indeed, women are the most exploited section of the population at the moment, since under the capitalist system they are made dependent both on their employer and on the males of their own class.

That the attitude towards employment of women is socially conditioned cannot be doubted. During the war they were forced to enter many fields of work which were traditionally reserved for men, and I think it is generally

admitted that they acquitted themselves very well. However, after the war they were persuaded to make way for the returning heroes, and the government provision of nurseries, canteens, etc., which had facilitated their exit from the restrictive home environment, were brought to a close.

Women cannot become fully socially and socialistically conscious unless they are integrated on an equal basis with other workers and are intimately involved in the day-to-day struggles of their class.

AFTER THE WAGE FREEZE - WAGE CUTS ? from a special correspondent

On Wednesday, January 19, the management of the Brush Electrical Engineering Works at Loughborough, a subsidiary of Hawker Siddley, issued a memorandum to the men in the Switchgear Shop, asking them to co-operate in an effort to maintain the firm's prosperity by accepting a cut in piecework rates ranging from 26% to 30%. This would mean in some cases a cut in wages of about £7 a week.

This piece of gentle persuasion is the latest development in a struggle which has been simmering for the past 3 months. In November the management called a meeting of the men in the Shop, without any reference to the unions, and explained that the firm found itself in some difficulties in that it was unable to compete successfully with rival firms, and had to ask the workers in this particular Shop to co-operate in an effort to reduce production costs. They asked the men to form a committee to meet them and discuss the situation. After some discussion among themselves the men decided that they were not prepared to form such a committee.

A week later four men were informed that they were to be transferred to another Division. One of the men decided to question his transfer, but the management refused to have any discussion about it, even through the Shop Steward. The man was told that if he did not accept the transfer he would be made redundant that day. In the afternoon he was fired and given ten minutes to leave the premises. A meeting was called by the Shop Stewards and the Switchgear Department went on strike. The man was re-instated the following day.

A week before Christmas the management summoned the Section Leaders for discussion. The Section Leaders refused, but reported the feeling of the men that the books should be opened, so that they could see for themselves the details of orders and profits. A Shop Steward, under instruction from the management, then went round the Department asking each man individually if he was prepared to take part in a committee to meet the management. Out of over 60 men, only two were willing.

Early in the New Year a Shop Steward and one man from each Section went to the management. They demanded that, if the management had anything they wished to discuss with the men, this should be written into a memorandum which could be available on the Shop floor. When this was published a week ago, the extent of the 'co-operation' was revealed for the first time - "the reduction of piecework prices in order to achieve the savings which are required by the management capable of yielding good bonus earnings." WHAT KIND OF A BONUS IS A WAGE CUT OF £7 A WEEK ?

There is a growing ferment in the universities - witness the establishment of Radical Student Alliance and the growing criticism of the right-wingers in the N.U.S. - and the right wing leadership of the Labour Party has reacted in a predictable, if stupid, way. At its executive committee meeting last week the Labour Party decided to withdraw support from the National Association of Labour Student Organisations. Commenting upon this decision The Times said: "The association has fallen foul of the national executive because of its continued criticism of Government policy....", which makes it clear that the further charge of "Trotskyist influence" is a mere excuse.

Having emasculated its young socialist movement, the Labour Party is now without a student movement (in all truth it must be said that the only real connection between the Labour Party and NALSO was the miserly grant made each year). It seems that the leadership of the Labour Party is content to leave the field wide open to the Young Liberals and Young Communist League. The long term effects of this policy are obvious. At the meeting which founded the Radical Student Alliance Young Liberals did well in the elections, although the chairman of NALSO, Alan Richardson, was successful in the committee elections.

A protest campaign should be organised against this witch-hunt-like act. It is certain that many sections of the Labour Party - including those which would not necessarily agree with the policies of NALSO - will be appalled by this news. This feeling should be organised and culminate in a strong protest at this year's Labour Party Annual Conference.

UNIONS SHOCKED BY PICKET INJUNCTION by an industrial correspondent

Trade unionists at all levels are expressing their opposition to the court decision to grant an injunction against pickets in the Sunley dispute (see last week's issue). Stewards from the Myton site, who are also on strike, have volunteered to take the place of "writ-bound" Sunley pickets. Trade unionists from all over London have done the same. Mr. George Lothian, general secretary of the Amalgamated Union of Building Trade Workers, said after a meeting with the four other unions concerned that the AUBTW was providing solicitors' services for three pickets when the main injunction is heard on February 3. Speaking on January 25th he said "We're contesting the injunction because as a general principle we object to employers running to the courts for rulings against picketing."

VICTORY FOR LEFT IN POST OFFICE WORKERS' UNION by a London reader

Mr. Tom Jackson won an overwhelming victory in the contest for the General Secretaryship of the 275,000-strong Union of Post Office Workers. Gaining 9,469 branch votes (each vote represents 10 members) he easily beat his six rivals. He was formerly an assistant secretary in the union and is a member of the Labour Party. The vacancy was caused by the former secretary, Mr. Ron Smith, taking up an appointment on the new nationalised Steel Board. Mr. Tom Jackson was the main left-wing candidate in the election. There is also a vacancy on the General Council of the TUC of which Mr. Smith was also a member. There has been a great deal of discontent in the union over the attitude taken to the pay-pause and the incomes policy. The militants among the rank and file will expect a tougher line to be taken by Mr. Jackson.

WHAT HAPPENED AT THE DOLPHIN

by an eyewitness

On Sunday, 30th of January, a member of the Y.C.L. was shot down in the street by a gun-man. The shooting occurred outside the Dolphin pub at the back of St. Pancras Town Hall; the victim, Tony Bloom, is a well-known anti-fascist, but he appears to have been merely unlucky on the night concerned. The trouble started earlier when a man appeared in the pub wearing a fascist arm-band. Since the Dolphin is well known for its Y.C.L. clientele, he was obviously looking for trouble. It was pointed out to him by myself and others that he should leave the bar as his presence was provocative, to this he retorted, "if the reds wanted trouble they would get it." I assumed he was mad and left it at that. Later as the bar was closing we started to sing The International as is the usual custom on Sunday nights. The character and his friends thereupon gave the nazi salute. This caused a slight scuffle but no violence.

We left the pub and stood outside talking, after about ten minutes, the characters who given the nazi salute came out sieg heiling, and they got into their van which was parked on the kerb. Some of the comrades engaged them in conversation while I started to let down their tyres, suddenly one of them waved a pistol at us and pulled the trigger two or three times: luckily for us it didn't go off. The van then drove away with two or three of us running after it. The van turned right down Euston Rd. and we assumed they had gone for good. Two minutes later we heard shots. We ran back to the pub and found Tony Bloom lying in the gutter, with his comrades cradling his head - he had been shot in the stomach from a moving van.

All of us on the left, regardless of political differences, must extend our solidarity and sympathy to the comrade concerned. We do not know whether this incident was the work of one psychopathic individual, or part of a broader campaign of fascist violence. In the final analysis this is not important: of one thing we are sure: wherever we meet the fascists we shall treat them in the manner they deserve, we shall not be intimidated.

Jim Scott, Hackney Central LPYS.

Editorial note: many telegrams of solidarity have been sent to Tony Bloom in hospital, including ones from L.P.Y.S. branches, Rebel and the executive of the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. A collection is being made to send him on a holiday when he recovers. His address is: Tony Bloom, Ward 13, University College Hospital, Gower St., London W.C.1.

NEW REPORT EXPOSES INADEQUACIES OF SCOTTISH HOUSING PROGRAMME

A report on "Scotland's Older Houses" by a Government committee chaired by Mr. J.B. Cuthingworth, formerly of Glasgow University, declares that Scotland's housing position is worse than the Government has so far acknowledged. There are 273,000 houses (16% of the total stock) unfit for habitation. At the present rate of slum clearnace (15,000 p.a.) it will take 18 years to demolish all of these. A further 193,000 (10.7%) have a life expectation of between 15 and 30 years.

The report calls for special subsidies for Glasgow and other areas with particular problems. The report is published by the Stationery Office and costs 10/6d.

from a Glasgow reader

We are familiar with a view of General de Gaulle as basically anti-American - however, other views are being expressed in France just now. The popular new weekly L'Expresse has just accused de Gaulle of selling out to the Americans by permitting massive U.S. investment in French industry. The change in French policy coincided with the departure of Valery Giscard d'Estaing, the independent conservative Finance Minister. Mr. Giscard d'Estaing had been forced reluctantly to allow the General Electric Co. buy control of Machine Bull during 1964, but he had blocked any more take-overs by American firms. No official ban was ever announced: applications just gathered dust in the Finance Ministry. Firms such as Fords and General Motors waited in vain for approval for their investment plans and eventually gave up, seeking outlets elsewhere.

Early in January last year, Mr. Giscard d'Estaing was replaced by the fully-fledged Gaullist, former Premier Michel Debre. Soon afterwards a subtle shift in policy was noticed. In March, Mr. Debre announced the formation of an administrative committee to study foreign-investment proposals. He also explained the French Government's guidelines - these were that investments would be approved which led to France's productive and technological capacity being improved. This did not really amount to a new policy, but what was different was the speed with which the Government then acted on applications.

In the months that followed the Government approved the building of a Motorola semiconductor plant at Toulouse, the take-over of Raphael Parfums by Revlon, the take-over by the International Telephone and Telegraph Corporation of the famous firm, Claude Paz et Visseaux, the building of an I.T. & T. plant at Chartres, and a Firestone plastic fibre plant. Word got round and American monopolies which had had the brush-off previously tried again. Phillips Petroleum won a quick go-ahead for a plastics venture with Kleber-Colombes. Henry Ford, number two, was invited to Premier Pompidou's residence and told that France would welcome a Ford plant. Towards the end of last year, General Motors announced plans for a new automatic-transmission plant at Strasbourg and that it would greatly expand its electrical-parts plant in Paris.

In explaining this sharp change in French policy, American business journals have put the following reasons forward: (1) having failed to persuade her partners in the Common Market to adopt a common policy on the restriction of American investment, France decided that her own barriers were futile. Furthermore, after July, 1968, any American firm in one of the other Common Markets countries will be able to sell in France without tariff barriers. Thus France got the worst of both worlds; (2) France's balance of payments surplus has been declining; (3) France is in need of rapid technological advance if she is to face up to the new conditions after the tariff barriers drop in 1968.

The latest figures of American manufacturers' new investment in France are \$243 million in 1965; \$286 million in 1966; and \$345 million in 1967. The total at the end of 1965 was \$1,58 billion. French Government figures give an estimate of 10% of all productive capacity in the country being foreign controlled. American companies have by far the biggest share. With increasing unemployment in France the question has become a burning issue - in recent weeks General Electric's attempts to cut its losses at Machine Bull has led to the demand for nationalisation of that firm from the unions.

Australia is supposed to hold the Northern part of her share of the island of New Guinea in trusteeship for the United Nations. Those who are cynical about such generosity will have their opinions verified by the following which appeared in a special supplement to The Economist of January 28:

"....Not that coffee growers around Goroka" Editorial note: one of the main towns in Australian New Guinea) "are doing badly. One of them, John Akunai runs the Highland Commodity Exchange, a company with 2,000 native shareholders which buys coffee from members and other growers, and in 3 years has raised its dividend from 10 per cent to 15 per cent plus bonus - no dividend this year, since the whole cash flow is being ploughed back to build a \$A40,000 coffee factory...John Akunai is an avuncular tycoon, not unlike the great Satchmo in looks and personality, but as careful as any Victorian industrialist with his money. His men get \$A4 a fortnight, plus rations worth \$A2m and he has been known to pay them in beer bottles worth 2d each in the bad old days..."

N.B. the Australian dollar is worth about 8/-.

RACIALISM IN ACTION IN ATLANTA based on AP report

The wife of an Atlanta Negro minister was shot dead at her home Sunday, soon after an attempt was made to set fire to her husband's church. The police said Mrs. Lillian Corine Briley, 53 years old, was fatally wounded by a shotgun blast at close range soon after midnight. The Rev. George Briley, 53, told them he, his wife and a 3-year-old grandson were asleep when his wife was roused by the doorbell. He said he heard the gun blast a few minutes later and found his wife just inside the door bleeding from a chest wound. She died on the trip to the hospital. The minister said he and his wife were called to the church Saturday night because of the arson attempt. Special services were being held when a member of the congregation spotted smoke coming from under the door of the pastor's study. They found a flaming pile of cotton soaked with kerosene. They doused the fire with hand extinguishers.

U.S AIR LOSSES: THE TRUTH STARTS TO COME OUT from a special correspondent

The American authorities have described the North Vietnam figures of U.S. planes shot down as pure propaganda. Their own figures have been invariably much lower - usually only a third or half. However, it is difficult to hide the extent of such losses when one is also campaigning for greater military expenditure and for steps to be taken to increase the number of qualified pilots. This is the probable explanation for a greater frankness recently. On January 30 U.S. military officials in Saigon disclosed that American aircraft losses in the Vietnam war "have been greater than reported in the past...." A spokesman, quoted by UPI, said that not all American aircraft losses are included in the latest official total of 618 U.S. planes shot down in North and South Vietnam. It was explained for the first time that the total included only what were termed "combat-type" aircraft.

The spokesman said that at least 38 U.S. aircraft have not been included in the official releases until this week reported as fixed-wing aircraft losses because they were "non-combat" (sic) "and observation planes. What is more, the figures do not include any aircraft lost before 1965 nor those destroyed on the ground or by "accident". Maybe they will get round even eventually to admitting that the Vietnamese have been telling the truth!

We have just received the first issue of Jacob's Letter,* an information service on the activities of racist organisations in Britain which is published by the Jewish Aid Committee of Britain (JACOB). As the first item in the bulletin says: "All you will read in Jacob's Letter will be facts. Facts that we believe you will want to know. Facts you ought to know...." One of the most interesting items is the following:

"For those who have not been following the activities of the anti-semites and racials in Britain over recent years, we set out below the latest situation of the most active racist organisations in Britain today.

UNION MOVEMENT: Still officially led by the ageing Oswald Mosley although he lives in Paris now and only comes over occasionally to address meetings. His son Max plays an active part but the effective leader is veteran propagandist and organiser - Jeffrey Hamm. Street meetings have been held recently in Burnt Oak, Luton and the East End. Their publication Action was revamped a year ago and came out as the National European with a glossy cover and all. But Mosley's turgid columns on United Europe inspired nobody and the magazine has now been renamed Action and appears monthly.

NATIONAL SOCIALIST MOVEMENT: Colin Jordan's organisation has fallen to pieces since the 62 Group ferreted out and handed over to the police information leading to the arrest of 11 Nazis who were involved in a series of Synagogue burnings in the winter of 1964/65. As a result of statements made by some of these Nazi stalwarts, Francoise (Dior) Jordan was forced to flee the country....and Colin...was arrested last month." (Editorial note: he has since received 18 months) "There have been outbreaks of cowardly attacks on the coloured communities in the Midlands, including daubing of Moslem mosques with slogans, attacks on Sikhs in Leamington and other fly-by-night activities...

GREATER BRITAIN MOVEMENT: A large proportion of Jordan's membership went with John Tyndall when he split away from the NSM in 1964 to form this new 100% Nazi organisation. They are rabidly anti-semitic, anti-colour, anti-democratic and their official programme advocates that "medical measures shall be taken to prevent procreation on the part of all those who have hereditary defects, either racial...Much better organised than Jordan, they issue a well-produced magazine called Spearhead regularly and have held well-publicised, provocative meetings in the East End of London at which Jewish and anti-fascist protesters were arrested. Leading figures in this group are Dennis Pirie, who takes over the leadership when Tyndall is in prison, Peter Holland and Paul Trevelyan.

BRITISH NATIONAL PARTY: This party was formed in 1960 by an amalgamation of the White Defence League under Colin Jordan and the National Labour Party led by ex-journalist John Bean. Jordan split away to form the NSM in 1962 and since then Bean has built up the organisation in an attempt to establish it as a respectable political party, playing down the anti-semitic propaganda and concentrating on the more profitable (at the moment) anti-immigration policies. Bean got 9% of the votes when he stood as parliamentary candidate for Southall in the General Election: but he resigned from the leadership a few weeks ago without giving any logical reason, leaving himself free to manoeuvre himself into the best possible position in the amalgamation moves" (Editorial note: unity moves between the BNP and the League of Empire Loyalists) "He still remains editorship of the Party's

Continued over/

* Available from JACOB, 320, High Holborn, London W.C. 2.

monthly publication Combat and the confidence of the violent activist group of toughs within the Party, led by Ron Tear. President of the Party is Norfolk land-owner and country gentleman, Andrew Foutaine and the new leader is Philip Maxwell-Eden, following Bean's resignation.

RACIAL PRESERVATION SOCIETY: Originally founded by James Doyle and others as the Sussex Racial Preservation Society, this movement has blossomed quickly into a national organisation attracting many people who are worried about the growth of the immigrant population but who have not wished to associate with the more obvious neo-Nazi groups. An open rift developed in the movement recently when Mr. Robin Beauclaire, National Chairman, threatened to withdraw his financial and other support. The Society's reaction to Doyle's arrest has not yet been revealed" (Editorial note: he has been accused by the Sussex police of being in the possession of stolen antiques) "Its publication British Independent is reputed to be printed in over 200,000 copies and has been distributed - free of charge - by members of the Nazi groups described above, at street meetings and door-to-door.

OTHER ORGANISATIONS: active in various ways, and linked to the above movements either by common membership, stewarding of each others' meetings, sales of each others' literature, amalgamation discussions or just occasional talks between the leadership include the LEAGUE OF EMPIRE LOYALISTS, ANGLO-RHODESIAN SOCIETY, THE PATRIOTIC PARTY, NATIONAL YOUTH LEAGUE, NATIONAL STUDENT FRONT, THE NORTHERN LEAGUE, THE ODINISTS and - believe it or not - a group which calls itself THE BRITISH ISRAELITES!"

Jacob's Letter promises to "deal separately with these organisations and in future issues" it hopes to "give a detailed profile on each movement and the personalities involved - both publicly and behind the scenes."

SCOTLAND CARRIES HEAVY BURDEN IN SQUEEZE by Tony Southall

The figures of unemployment for December show a rise of 39,053 on the previous figure. But in Scotland alone the rise was 9,200 to 82,700. Thus an area with 10% of the population accounted for 25% of the rise in jobless. A glance at the news of pay offs and closures in the last few weeks shows how this has arisen. The Northburn Steel Company closes its 450-man works on February 17th. Babcock and Wilcox, Dalmeir, and Kelvin Electronics are paying off a total of 1,000 men in the next few weeks. In the past few months Murtees Watson and four smaller factories in Renfrewshire have closed, putting 700 on the dole. Singers (along with Brown's - the lifeblood of Clydebank), which halved its labour force to 8,000 in 10 years, is making more sackings. The one bright spot is that the Rootes car plant at Linwood has now returned to a 5-day week - but this has only been possible because of the 550 redundancies there in October.

As could have been predicted, in spite of pious statements by Government spokesman about protecting the Development Areas, Scotland has once again suffered badly under the latest economic squeeze.

P.S. since this article was written news has come through of 100 sackings at Beardmore's Forge, Parkhead (a subsidiary of Firth Brown and John Brown). Shop stewards are convinced this is the preliminary to the closure of the whole works which employs 1,550 men.

Yugoslav Press and the Tribunal

The first news about the formation of the Tribunal in Yugoslav press was favourable. The Slovene daily Delo even carried out an editorial, greeting Russell's action. At the same time, the same paper published a letter by the sculptor May congratulating Vladimir Dedijer for his election. The Belgrade literary review Knjizevne novine paid a special tribute to Russell for the idea of forming the Tribunal.

Bertrand Russell's Appeal to the American Conscience was published by NIN, the leading Belgrade weekly, Vjesnik u srijedu, the leading Croat weekly (350,000 copies), and several other weeklies and reviews including the Encyclopaedia Moderna.

Russell's letter to Delo thanking them for their support was published in the paper in full with a favourable comment. The Soviet news agency Tass carried a news-item about Russell's letter.

Vladimir Dedijer gave a whole page interview about the aims of the Tribunal to the Slovene weekly Nasi razgledi and Nin in Belgrade, which were reproduced in part in the daily press, radio and TV.

The situation changed in October when Mr. Josip Vidmar, the President of the Slovene Academy of Sciences, and the member of the Central Committee of the Slovene Socialist Alliance, came out against the idea of forming the committees of support for the Tribunal, with the argument that such committees are good only in the capitalist countries and not in Socialist countries where the desire of people is expressed not through individuals but by the political organisations, such as Socialist alliance.

The student paper in Ljubljana Tribuna strongly criticized Vidmar for both his statements on the Tribunal, as well as on the character of the war in Vietnam. (Vidmar equated the struggle in Vietnam with the conquering of the world by Socialism on the pattern Christianity and Mohamedism did). The students of Ljubljana University formed a Committee for the support of the Tribunal, despite Vidmar's attitude. In his articles Vidmar spoke in sneering tone about Russell and Dedijer, particularly about Russell's aristocratic background. Vladimir Dedijer also joined the public discussion on three occasions. The daily press carried the news-items about this issue. Several leading Slovene personalities wrote articles supporting the Tribunal (Matej Bor, the President of the Yugoslav Writers Federation), but they were banned in the press.

On the other hand, the Yugoslav daily press, radio and TV gave a full coverage of the Tribunal first session in London, particularly Vecernje novosti, the daily with the biggest circulation in Yugoslavia.

Ho Chi Minh's telegram to the Tribunal had a very good effect in Yugoslavia, as well as the interview of J.P. Sartre in the Nouvel Observateur. Sartre's interview was reproduced in full in the Nin and the Vjesnik u srijedu. The latter paper carried a full report of the work of the Tribunal, publishing the documents of the Aims of the Tribunal.

In the meantime the discussion on Vidmar's attitude continued. The leading Slovene literary review Sodobnost in its December issue devoted a special number on the Vietnam war, and the work of Tribunal. Russell's Appeal to the American Conscience was reproduced. Peter Vodopivec published an article criticising strongly Vidmar's attitude on the Tribunal.

Several feature articles appeared lately in the Yugoslav press. A biography of Ralph Schoenman, written by Vladimir Dedijer, with a big photograph of Russell and Schoenman was published in the daily Politika Express, as well as two interviews of Russell and Schoenman. Russell's interview was quoted by the Soviet and Bulgarian press.

The students of Ljubljana at last won their case against Vidmar. In Ljubljana a Committee for the support of the Tribunal was organised, headed by the Rector of Ljubljana University, five deans, many professors, Matej Bor, the President of the Yugoslav Writers Federation and other prominent people. The student paper Tribuna carried a facsimile of a letter of Russell (thanking them for their support of the Tribunal) on the front page, together with all materials of the Tribunal.

On January 3, 1967, Vladimir Dedijer gave a statement about the first six weeks of the work of the Tribunal, which was published by all the leading Yugoslav dailies, radio and TV.

TELEGRAM FROM PHAM VAN DONG TO BERTRAND RUSSELL

Dear Lord Bertrand Russell,

I have the honour to acknowledge with sincere thanks the receipt of your letter dated November 26, 1966.

I wish to inform you that the first commission of the International Tribunal headed by lawyer Leon Matarasso sent here to collect documents on U.S. war crimes in Vietnam has successfully accomplished its task and left Hanoi on January 14, 1967.

During its two weeks stay in Vietnam, the Commission worked actively in six provinces and Haiphong and Hanoi. It enjoyed wholehearted assistance from the Vietnamese people and responsible D.R.V. organisations. It also interviewed the South Vietnam N.F.L. permanent representation in Hanoi and heard the latter's report on U.S. war crimes in South Vietnam, talked with witnesses introduced by the Front, and collected valuable documents on U.S. war crimes in South Vietnam.

I am happy to inform you of this and wish you the best of health and success in the lofty cause of struggle for peace and justice against cruel and barbarous U.S. aggressors committing intolerable crimes against the Vietnamese people and peace and progressive mankind.

Please convey to the members of the International Tribunal my warm greetings and best wishes for good health and successes in Tribunal's work.

signed
Pham Van Dong
Prime Minister,
Democratic Republic of Vietnam.

HOFFA FIGHTS BACK

from a U.S. correspondent

Jimmy Hoffa, leader of the giant Teamsters' Union, has been the target legal harrassment ever since he assumed leadership of the union. The feud between him and the Kennedy family is legendary. No one would describe Mr. Hoffa as a saint, and his methods of keeping control of his union are dubious - too say the least! - but of two things one can be certain: (1) that he has incurred the wrath of the U.S. ruling class because of his success in winning victories for his members; and (2) that the bulk of the membership of the union - by the far the fastest growing union in the U.S. - regard him as a very effective fighter on their behalf.

After several attempts it appeared last year that the administration had been successful in getting him behind bars for a considerable period. The following union conference took measures to enable Hoffa to lead the union from prison. But now a development has taken place which may mean that Hoffa has a chance to avoid imprisonment. The Wall Street Journal of January 26th reported:

"...By stroke of fortune, or perhaps by a proffered reward, a man said to be an FBI 'special employee' wise in the ways of wiretapping has dropped into the Teamster Union laps....The purported 'special employee', meaning a paid Federal Bureau of Investigation informant, goes by the name of Bud Nichols...He claims that the Justice Department paid him \$1,684 to eavesdrop, not only on Mr. Hoffa and his lawyers, but also on the Chattanooga federal jury that found Mr. Hoffa guilty in 1964 of tampering with jurors in an earlier case.

"Any day now, Teamster attorneys intend to file papers petitioning the Supreme Court to hear what they will contend is new evidence bearing on Mr. Hoffa's conviction. The papers will include an affidavit in which Mr. Nichols swears that Walter Sheridan, former head of the Justice Department's special 'Hoffa squad', instructed him to slip tiny transmitters under the mattresses of the Chattanooga jurors when they were sequestered...Moreover, Mr. Nichols is preparing to swear that he placed four microphone 'bugs' and tapped six telephone lines leading to rooms in the Patten Hotel, which were occupied during the trial by Mr. Hoffa and his lawyers..."

Mr. Walter Sheridan, now a chief of the giant National Broadcasting Company, has denied this of course. However, as the paper continues: "...some Justice Department officials seem concerned that Mr. Nichols' story may sound sufficiently impressive to win Mr. Hoffa a reprieve...." One doesn't have to support Hoffa as a union leader to wish him luck!

FEWER STRIKES IN 1966

from an industrial correspondent

Britain had fewer strikes in 1966 than in any year since 1953. The decrease of 424 in the number of stoppages beginning in the year, from 2,354 to 1,930, was mainly reflected in mining where the number of workers is declining (although the drop in the number of strikes is much greater than the proportionate loss of manpower). There were also falls in working days lost in the following industrial groups: Motor vehicles and cycles (520,000), shipbuilding and marine engineering (104,000), metal manufacture (104,000) and engineering (100,000). The exception to the rule was in transport where the seamen's strike caused a loss of 850,000 working days.

Editorial note: we have commissioned a fuller article on this subject.