

International Bulletin

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NEW STAGE IN FIGHT AGAINST THE WITCH-HUNT

The climb down by the N.E.C. of the Labour Party over the four sponsors of the Moscow Peace Conference represents an important victory. The determination of the Gaitskell wing to go ahead with the purge is shown by the 11-10 vote on the question of moving against Russell on the grounds of non-payment of subs. Everyone is aware of the hypocrisy of this move and yet 10 people on the N.E.C. were prepared to use it. However the climb-down and the retreat stage by stage from the original proposals to immediately expel the four represents a considerable thwarting of the plans of the Gaitskell/Brown axis.

Those members of the right wing who did not support the extreme form of witch-hunt are frightened of the effects of a thorough going purge, but also to a certain extent they are a tendency which leans on the left. The Crossman types owe their position to the fact that can manoeuvre on the basis of left wing pressure on the leadership. They want to keep the left inside the Party so long as it is under control. In a period of upsurge in the workers' movement they would make some left noises and they realise that a left is necessary for them to adapt themselves to such a situation. The Gaitskell/Brown tendency, on the whole, do not visualise such an eventuality at all - they are frank and determined representatives of move to turn the Party away from all the 'old-fashioned' kind of socialism. The left is main obstacle to this, but maybe the Crossmans realise that after the left had gone they would have to reappraise their position in light of a rapid evolution to the right. In such an evolution there would be no place for a Crossman tendency.

Whilst we should recognise the role played in this by the barrage of resolutions, protests, etc., in stiffening the left on the N.E.C., making others hesitate and generally making things difficult for the purgers, we cannot be complacent. The attack continues against the Young Socialists; Keep Left have been proscribed and its supporters are facing disciplinary action, four members of the National Committee of the Young Socialists have been suspended and face further investigation, and three other members of that National Committee had to give guarantees (including that of not participating in 'factional' activities) before they could attend the much delayed National Committee meeting.

The left should use the climb down over the four to the maximum to seek force some concessions on the Young Socialist front. A fresh round of protests and resolutions should go forward - the N.E.C. have shown tolerance and commonsense over Russell, Collins, Wootton and Chorley, we call upon them to show the same tolerance and commonsense in relation to the Young Socialists. A mighty campaign on these lines would succeed in isolating the witch-hunters completely. We must insist on the commoners getting the same treatment as the lords. Hand in hand with this should go an attack on the whole system of proscriptions, each Labour Party organisation should ask for a list of proscribed organisations, and when this list is read out, laugh it out of court. In this new situation, which has led to a change in the atmosphere of the Labour Party, we have a great opportunity to inflict a big defeat on the Gaitskell clique and to strengthen the whole position of the left and the Young Socialists.

DUNLOP AND THE COLOUR BAR

One is led to the conclusion that a recent case demonstrates that the Birmingham firm of Dunlop applies a colour bar, not ^{only} against immigrants but against an English born Indian. Mr. Umasankar Sankarayya, born in London, son of a Birmingham doctor, applied for a vacancy for graduate apprentices with Dunlops. He holds an honours degree. He was told that there were no vacancies and that his application would be filed for future reference. A letter from Dunlop's Assistant Staff Personal spoke of "difficulties" - "primarily because you are an Indian" "This may sound 'colour-barish' but, in fact the problem is partly one of administration and partly one of national preference", the letter continued "If you are looking for a life-long career in the U.K. then you are in competition with English graduates....and as a company we have a preference for 'local products.'" In view of this Mr. Sankarayya has drawn the conclusion that he is barred because of the colour of his skin.

The Australian Section of the Fourth International has recently held its two-day National Conference. The Conference was attended by 20 delegates and 10 observers and marked an important step forward in the steady progress made by the Section over the past years.

Reports were delivered on : The Political Situation, the Australian Economy, the crisis of Stalinism, the Colonial Revolution and its effect on Australia, and on the organisational tasks of the Section. A new constitution of the section was adopted, and a number of resolutions adopted on the situation of the Fourth International. All reports and resolutions were fully discussed in the best traditions of democratic-centralism, and absolutely no obstacles were put in the way of free expression of points-of-view.

The main political report delivered by the chairman of the Working Bureau outlined the general perspective of our movement in Australia in light of the line adopted at successive World Congresses. It noted the particular historical circumstances that allowed Australia a certain "exceptionalism" in its industrialisation, which however was uneconomic from the possibility of competing with America, Europe, etc. The economic decline already marked after almost 20 years of continuous boom threatened to speed up, particularly with Britain's proposed entry in the E.E.C. It then analysed the various political parties. In dealing with the Australian Labor Party it noted that it was the "mass workers party" and that "its history has been one of struggle between two inevitably conflicting tendencies: the one being the adherents of 'responsible government', wedded to the social status quo....the other projecting albeit confusedly, an anti-capitalist socialist orientation....." And that "the L.P. is the essential arena of the struggle to clarify the healthy left wing..."

As for the Communist Party, which has a base in the trade unions, but little electoral or political support, it is noted ... "By vigorous activity in the 1930's was able to challenge the routinist officialdom of the debilitated unions..." but that it failed to lead the working-class in struggles that achieve very sufficient gains. It has been hit by the debunking of Stalin and the Sino-Soviet polemics, although "more recently the C.P. Central Committee by a majority decision reversed its previous attitude, and came down on the side of the Khrushchov fraction and against the Chinese....It is a decision which will not solve the mounting problems of the C.P. leadership."

While noting that the struggle in the C.P. opens up "possibilities... greater than ever before" for our movement, "this work of reorientating Communist militants, while essential, remains secondary to our primary orientation of integration in the mass workers' movement." The next report on Stalinism, went on further to elaborate on the nature of the crisis and our work in this field. "it is important here to emphasise", the reporter stated, "that in our conditions the road to political salvation for the C.P. members is inseparable from (their) understanding of the entrism policy...in propaganda aimed at C.P. members, we must make the explanation and substantiation of entrism sui generis (of a special kind : 3d note) a special task...."

We shall not quote from the Report on the Colonial Revolution as a quote appears in the coming issue of the "Fourth International." The report however marks the serious attempts being made by the Australian Section to adapt to the new situation of the colonial revolution as the epientre number one of the World Revolution at the present stage, and particularly because of its spread to the South Pacific and New Guinea, where the Australian Section has resolved to make a strenuous intervention.

Then a new provisional constitution adapted to the expansion of the Section was adopted. A new National Committee of nine members was elected representative of three states. The Conference closed by sending greetings to the I.S., the I.T.C., and comrades Pablo and Santen.

INTERNATIONAL TO HOLD CHILDREN'S SCHOOL FOR EUROPEAN COMRADES

members of the European sections will be

CUBA - TROTSKYISTS PUBLISH LENIN'S TESTAMENT

Cuban Trotskyists have recently published a 44 page booklet containing Lenin's Testament, an article on the Testament by Trotsky and a summary of the theory of the Permaemnt Revolution written by Trotsky. In the fly-leaf the comrades announce the forthcoming publication of the book The Permanent Revolution. Readers will remember that the plates of this were broken up on the orders of an official last year. The Cuban Government since then have stated that this, and the banning of the Cuban Trotskyist paper Voz Prole. taria, was a mistake. Through Che Guevara the man in charge of the Cuban economy they described the action 'as an error committed by a second-rank functionary.'

MEXICO - NEW TROTSKYIST NEWSPAPER LAUNCHED

Through the I.S. Information Bulletin we learn that the Liga Obrera Marxista, an organisation of Mexican Trotskyists, has started publication of a newspaper - El Obrero Militante. The first issue contains articles on the guerilla struggle in Guatemala, on the struggle of the Mexican telephone workers, on the Spanish strikes and on the role of trade unions.

CEYLON - YOUNG SOCIALIST NUMBER FIVE IS OUT

We have received copies of Young Socialist number five from Ceylon. This issue, which as usual is well turned out, contains articles on the attempted coup in Ceylon, Algeria, the Indian Elections, British Guiana, the Ceylon strikes, etc. There are full-length articles on 'The Politics of Coup d'Etat', an analysis of the Criminal Law (Special Provisions) Act, which was passed after the attempted coup, an article on Socio-economic foundations 3rd century Anuradhapuar Kingdom in Ceylon, and a reprint of Michel Pablo's letter from prison to the F.L.N. The journal can be obtained for 1/3d P.P.

NEW TROTSKY PAMPHLET RECEIVED FROM CEYLON

Copies have arrived of 'In Defence of October' by Trotsky, which is the text of lecture made by Trotsky to social democrat students in Copenhagen in November, 1932. In placing the October Revolution in its historical context he deals with the materialist conception of history, the meaning of revo ution, the causes of October, the law of combined and uneven development. The pamphlet was previously published in this country under the title 'The Russian Revolution' The pamphlet, which is a Young Socialist publication, can be obtained for 9d.

FRENCH TROTKYISTS CHANGE FORMAT AND NAME OF THEIR PAPER

We have received copies of the journal of the P.C.I., French Section of the Fourth International, for June. The title has been changed from "La Verite des Travailleurs" to "l'internationale" and the format doubled in size. In explain- the reasons for the change an editorial says that the old title was necessary to distinguish them from the ex-Trotskyists - the Lambert group - who were publishing a journal, La Verite (the truth), but that they were not satisfied with the name Workers Truth, because this was not strictly an accurate title. Now everyone knows of the difference between the groups and a new more satisfactory title was on the order of the day. The paper in its new, more attractive, format, will no doubt have a much wider sale, and we must congratulate our French comrades on this step forward. the paper can be obtained for 6d p.p.

LATEST SOCIALIST CURRENT 'DEBUNKS' SOLIDARITY PAMPHLET

The latest issue of Socialist Current is given over entirely to replying to the 'Solidarity' pamphlet, the Workers Opposition. Entitled 'The basic reasons for the Degeneration of the October Revolution' and described as a defence of bolshevism the issue demolishes the myth the 'Solidarity' group are trying to build up around the Workers Opposition. It treats the pamphlet as two separate ones, pointing out that the arguments which the pamphlet's publishers put in their introduction and 25 pages of footnotes and those of Kollontai are diametrically opposed to each other. Showing that Kollontai's arguments are really a form of syndicalism, it argues that her proposals would have led to arising of a bureaucracy in the trade unions instead of the Bolshevik Party. In dealing with the footnotes, etc., the pamphlet demonstrates the essentially idealist (in the philosophical sense) nature of the arguments. Socialist Current can be obtained for 7d p.p.

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE WITCH-HUNT

Central Nottingham C.L.P. opposes N.E.C. action against Young Socialists

At its last meeting on Wednesday the 27th, June, the Central Nottingham Constituency Labour Party passed the following resolution:

"That this constituency Labour Party views with dismay the recent attacks on Young Socialist newspapers, and investigations into democratically elected Young Socialist National Committee members. Recognising that freedom to express one's point of view is an essential right in a democratic organisation we demand that these Young Socialist newspapers be allowed to go on publishing."

The resolution was carried with one vote against (that of the paid organiser of the Labour Party in Nottingham). The meeting was also noteworthy because of the election of a well-known left-winger to City Labour Executive.

"SAVE THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS" meeting

As noted in the last issue of the Bulletin this will take place on Sunday the 22nd of July, 2.30 at Denison House, Vauxhall Bridge Road. The meeting sponsored by Tribune will have the active participation of Young Guard supporters. A bus is going to be organised from Nottingham; already Young Socialists from Derby, Wirksworth, Ilkeston and various Nottingham branches have signified their intention of coming. A large and successful meeting could be the focal point of a new campaign to beat the witch-hunt against Young Socialists.

Merioneth Labour Party and the threat against Lord Russell

The Merioneth Constituency Labour Party, of which Lord Russell is a member, was very upset by the threat to ease their most famous member out of the Labour Party owing to the non-payment of his dues for 1962. The Chairman and Treasurer, neither of whom have paid their dues, said they would resign if he was expelled, the Chairman also said that he would never vote Labour again. Half the members of the C.L.P. are not paid up for the same reason as Lord Russell; subs. are normally collected near the end of the year.

The Press and the Labour Party

The capitalist press is doing its best to back up the Gaitskell wing of the leadership in its fight to purge the left. Apart from the more obvious ways e.g., the campaign they ran over the May Day disturbances, the 'quality' papers are intervening more subtly. Many examples come to mind but one of the most direct was an article in the Guardian of the 27th June, that is the day of the N.E.C. which took the final decision on the question of the four sponsors of the Moscow Peace and Disarmament Conference. This article entitled "Labour's frontier on the Left" and written by John Cole, the Guardian's Labour correspondent amounted to an attempt to justify the whole system of proscriptions. Another interesting incident was the 'plug' given to Counterblast, the Young Socialist right-wing paper by the Daily Telegraph on Monday the 25th, June. Under a heading which announced that Julia Gaitskell, Gaitskell's eldest daughter, had written the lead article, it quoted from article and gave at the end the address and price of the journal. We wonder if they would give 'advertising' to a left journal?

Two victories in Glasgow

We are informed that two attempts by the right wing to witch hunt the left in Glasgow have been defeated recently. When the three leading right wingers of the Glasgow Labour Party - Tom Simpson, secretary; Pat Trainer, chairman and Alex Cameron, treasurer - proposed that the Woodside C.L.P. be disbanded this was turned down by the executive of the Glasgow Party. (Alex Cameron is the Glasgow secretary of the Campaign for Democratic Socialism). Similarly an attempt to disband the Springburn Young Socialists was defeated at a General Management Committee of that C.L.P. by 70 votes to 5.

INDUSTRIAL C.N.D. CONFERENCE

Following on the decision of the Annual Conference of the C.N.D. to turn to the industrial front, the North-West region of the C.N.D. is organising a conference for the 21st of July, at the MILTON Hall, Deansgate, Manchester at 3.00. They are asking trade union branches, etc., to send two delegates. No doubt there will be a lively discussion here and the experiences of the Merseyside C.N.D. industrial committee will be well to the fore. Anyone interested in going should write Harry Rowley, 14, Tib Lane, Manchester 2.

YOUNG SOCIALIST ACTIVITY IN LONDON

by a London-Y.S. correspondent

The London and Middlesex Regional Committee has successfully launched a series of open-air meetings in protest against the Immigration Act. This series of meetings will last throughout the Summer and is a step forward for the Committee which up until now has been little more than a talking shop. The first meeting was held on Saturday 23rd, June, at Hackney and speakers included Young Socialists from all parts of London and members of the Movement for Colonial Freedom. The meeting attracted a large attendance and it is hoped that the future meetings, to be held fortnightly at Wood Green, Paddington, Kilburn, and Deptford, will be as successful.

The West London Federation of Young Socialists is mounting a campaign to recruit young people in the West London area. The first stage of this campaign was an open-air meeting held in the Nottinghill area of North Kensington. The meeting was held in the Portobello Rd., an area favoured, because of its large West Indian population, by Fascist organisations. The main topic of the meeting was housing, with emphasis on the special problems of youth, and the ever-present Immigration Act. Despite the fact that many "Tourists" were attracted, good contact was made with the youth of the area. The West Lond Federation is planning a Day-school for the end of July, at which it is hoped that either Arnold Wesker will speak on "Centre 42", or Ernie Roberts on the new Trade Union paper.

Pat Sutherland, West London representative on the London and Middlesex Regional Committee has been asked to speak on behalf of the committee at a meeting in the House of Commons on July 4th. To be sponsored and introduced by Tony Greenwood and Frank Alluan, the meeting will have speakers from N.A.L.S.O., C.M.D., the Co-op. Youth, and the Young Socialists. A report will be sent next week.

TENANTS' ACTIVITY IN PADDINGTON

by a Member of the Tenants' Assoc.

Members of Paddington's St. Stephen's Gardens Tenants' Association have recently held two meetings outside a landlord's house in the Hampstead area, in protest against the attempted eviction of a family from their flat in St. Stephens Gardens. This area of Paddington suffered badly from the combined effects of the 1957 Rent Act, and the Street Offences Act, and the tenants' association was originally formed to combat the many undesirable clubs which mushroomed during this period. In the past the association has fought many evictions but few cases have been worse than the one which was subject of the protest meetings. The family in question originally owned the house in which they now lease a flat but were forced to sell owing to the bad health of the man, his wife being left to look after four children when he was admitted to hospital. Prostitutes now occupy other flats in the house and it is obvious why the landlord is attempting to evict the family. The protest meeting was supported by two candidates in the forthcoming Council by-elections, who are also members of the tenants' association.

GORBALS YOUNG SOCIALISTS' LEAFLET

The Gorbals Young Socialists' have recently issued a recruiting leaflet the text reads:

REBELS WITH A CAUSE

We are rebelling against this sick society, poisoned by capitalism, the system which breeds -

(x) Unemployment (x) Slums (x) Race hate (x) Religious hate
(x) insecurity (x) injustice.

THE SOLUTION IS SOCIALISM

The way of life which gives power to the people. A classless society where the worker receives the full fruits of his labour and culture and society are not warped and debased by the profit motive.

The Young Socialists fight for justice and a world without the shadow of unemployment. If YOU believe these issues are important -

YOU STAND WITH US

Join Gorbals Young Socialists Now - contact.....

(Ed. Note: for space reasons we have not followed the layout of the

leaflet)

N.U.P.E. RECRUITMENT CAMPAIGN IN EAST MIDLANDS.

The National Union of Public Employees has launched a campaign to recruit among staff employed at educational institutions, e.g., universities, Teachers' Training Colleges, etc. They will welcome the assistance of other trade unionists and socialists in this campaign. They have a large amount of literature covering the union's activities. A Mr. Colin Barnett ^{who} has recently moved to Nottingham from Harrogate where he was active in the New Left Club is in charge of the campaign.

THREE MORE FOR KESSINGLAND

In the past week, three more people have registered for Kessingland Camp. Two more from Nottingham and one from Leicester. Although the total is slowly creeping up efforts must be redoubled to get the minimum of ninety-odd necessary to make the camp a paying proposition by covering costs.

London seems to be the weak link in the campaign, but there will be an opportunity to do something about this at the SAVE THE YOUNG SOCIALISTS meeting on July 22nd. It is hoped to have a special leaflet to give out at the meeting. It is a fact that the type of people who go to this meeting are just the types most likely to attend Kessingland. Supporters of the Kessingland Camp should use this meeting to the maximum.

BIRMINGHAM CITY LABOUR PARTY RESOLUTIONS FOR ANNUAL CONFERENCE

Among the resolutions submitted by affiliated organisations to be considered at the Wednesday 4th July meeting, of the Birmingham City Labour Party are three left wing ones. Whichever resolution is adopted will go forward to the Labour Party Annual Conference. The resolutions are :

Yardley Ward Labour Party

This conference calls on the Leader of the Labour Party to re-affirm his belief in Clause four of the Party Constitution.

Electrical Trades Union, Birmingham Midland Branch

This Conference instructs the N.E.C. to call, in line with other wings of the movement, the Trade Unions and Co-operative movements, an Annual Conference of Constituency Parties.

Sheldon Ward Labour Party

This Conference is of the opinion that the indiscriminate proscription of individuals is weakening the Labour Party and does not prevent undesirable elements from joining the Party.

This Conference therefore agrees that it is the only body which can accept or refuse any other Party, Union or Organisation permission to affiliate.

It also agrees that individuals cannot be precluded from membership simply because he or she is a member of a non-affiliated body.

MANSFIELD LABOUR PARTY RESOLUTION ON CUBA

The Mansfield Constituency Labour Party is submitting to the Annual Conference a resolution on Cuba. The resolution deplores the action of ^{the} American Government in imposing a blockade of Cuba which will bring poverty and misery for the people of Cuba.

The Mansfield C.L.P. is to organise a Festival of Labour together with the neighbouring C.L.P.s of Ashfield and Newark at the Berry Hill stadium in September. There is also to be a public meeting in October addressed by Michael Foot.

THREE STRIKES AGAINST 'OLD-FASHIONED' BOSSES

Although in the long period of full employment the bosses have preferred to work through the right wing trade union leaders rather ^{than} oppose trade unionism as such, from time to time certain capitalist firms show their true colours. There are now three strikes in process against such types.

The first is in Manchester. The long-established firm of Cohen and Enser was recently taken over by Rest Assured Ltd. The 100 workers, members of the N.U.F.T.O. had been on short time for two years. Shortly after the take over, 14 of the workers were threatened with the sack, they included: all but one of the shop committee, former members of the committee and other militants. Declining the offer to pay the 'redundant' men £80 each compensation, the workers went on strike, June 27.

The two other strikes are both in the engineering trade. Shortly after 14 out of the 23 workers at Benton Eng. Co., Harold Hill Essex joined the A.E.U., a the shop steward they elected was sacked at a minutes notice. The workers, most of them under 18, are now on official strike. Strictly speaking, in Letchworth we have a lock-out at the Letchworth Plating & Printing Co., the firm, which employs 40 including many relatives of the management, called in the police to evict 27 union members who staged a sit-down demonstration after three shop stewards they had elected were given one hour's notice. The manager, who had put up a notice saying that under no circumstance would he recognise or negotiate with a union, threatened with immediate sack anyone who tried to persuade others to join a union.

These three cases are a foretaste of what is to come, as increasing competition puts more and more pressure on the smaller firms. It also shows how even in these kind of firms the workers are beginning to take action.