

RIGHE LAUNCHES ATTACK AGAINST DEMOCRACY IN LABOUR PARTY.

There have been a number of attacks against democracy in the Labour Party in the last few weeks. The adoption of the new Standing Orders for the Parliamentary Labour Party in a most high-handed way against the minority who opposed them is among the latest moves. (For an account of this comrades should read Michael Foot in this week's Tribune) A number of cases of the Executive refusing to endorse left-wing Parliamentary candidates has taken place, the latest being the rejection of Ernie Roberts, Assistant Secretary of the A.E.U.. All this takes place in the background of the appointment of that most vicious of all right wingers, George Brown, as being in charge, in effect, of party discipline.

We should not see things out of proportion and conclude that now all the left is to be expelled or that there will be a grand witch-hunt. Under present conditions it will be very difficult for the right to carry-out a large scale purge. All the more difficult because of the existence of a firm left wing trade union centre based upon the Transport and General Workers Union. However, there is no doubt that unless the left oppose in an organised way these moves a serious situation will develop. It seems likely that the aim of Gaitskell at this stage is to consolidate his Blackpool victory and intimidate the left, especially in the House of Commons. He will be encouraged in this by the lack of fight of the M.P.s who had the whip taken from them and the general lack of support for these people. Combined with moves to limit the discussion at next year's Labour Conference on defence, this whole affair marks a stage in the struggle to complete bureaucratic control of the Labour Party. It can be especially damaging to the left as it can have the effect of intensifying disillusionment amongst the unilateralists. This could lead to a wholesale contracting-out of the Labour Party struggle and, instead, a concentration on Committee of 100 type of activity. Thus Gaitskell would get what he wants without recourse to a general purge.

The left should oppose these moves by all means. In particular we should prod those in Parliament who got the whip withdrawn to make a more decisive stand. In that way they will be able to mobilise far more support behind them. They could become the spokesmen in Parliament for those who take part in Civil Disobedience. Tribune should stop sniping at the Committee of 100 and see that the Labour Party left until it can offer the sit-downers some real medium of protest and action, cannot criticise them. Arising out of the experiences of the December 9th demonstrations a whole new discussion will take place amongst those supporting the Committee of 100. Voices are being heard now for a greater concentration upon industrial centres rather than <sup>upon</sup> activities which provide amusement for the cows and sheep. The coming together of these people, the left in the Labour Party and the industrial struggle in 1962 would be a force which could relegate Gaitskell to the league of ex Labour leaders in the House of Lords.

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CONGO BLOODSHED by T.M.

The recent resignation of Dr. O'Brien as UNO representative in the Congo has highlighted once again the appalling tragedy of the Congo, and the complete inhumanity of imperialism when its profits are threatened. In this conflict between O'Brien and the Katanga lobby, the diplomacy of imperialism, has been exposed to the world. As O'Brien pointed out, Britain voted for the UNO resolution, which demanded the withdrawal of mercenaries from the Tshombe 'Government', and was then furious when O'Brien proceeded to act on this. Long ago, of course, the British delegate abstained when Belgium was requested to withdraw her troops from the Congo.

The conflict between O'Brien and the British imperialists reflects, in reality, a conflict between American and British interests. The Americans are much more concerned with overall strategy and are probably fearful of a complete breakdown, as in Algeria, unless a unified bourgeois state is established.

When Wilson demands support for UNO, this is a typical social democrat supporting the 'intelligent' solution. ALL foreign troops should be withdrawn from the Congo. The resignation of O'Brien in itself means that when thieves fall out, a rare glimpse of the truth is vouchsafed to us. More and more the Congo crisis calls for independent workers and peasants organisations linking up the whole continent to expel the imperialists. When Nyerere and Nkrumah threaten strikers with heavy penalties and the NDP is outlawed in S. Rhodesia, the tempo of the African Revolution is obvious.

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## THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE COLOUR-BAR BILL

### 1,000 STUDENTS STOP GLASGOW

As part of their protest against the colour-bar imposed by the House of Fraser, 1,000 students halted traffic in the city centre on Friday 15th December when they demonstrated outside the firm's main store. Details of how the firm imposed a bar on coloured students working over Christmas were given in issue No.2 of the Bulletin.

All Scottish Universities have now followed Glasgow in imposing a total boycott on student labour for the House of Fraser. The Students' Unions took this action after exchanges of correspondence with the House of Fraser which gave them no satisfaction on the question of the employment of coloured students.

The House of Fraser has large national interests. It controls the large, and very select!!, Harrods of Knightsbridge, the famous London stores, Dickins and Jones and D.H. Evans, Kendal Milne, Rackhams and J.F. Rockney. Sir Hugh Fraser head of the empire is chairman of Associated Fisheries which is at present engaged in a £4 million takeover bid of two large fishery firms - Hellyer Bros. of Hull and the Kingston Steam Trawling Co.

### N.A.L.S.O. LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN AGAINST COLOUR-BAR BILL

As part of their campaign against the colour-bar Bill, N.A.L.S.O. organised a lobbying of Parliament for December 12th. We have not had a report of this yet. The aim of N.A.L.S.O. is to co-ordinate all the individual actions against the colour-bar Bill into a national campaign. Among the latest Students' Unions to vote against the Colour-bar Bill is the Chelsea College.

### CAMPAIGN CONTINUES AGAINST BRADFORD LOCARNO

The latest moves in the struggle against the Bradford Ballroom which imposed a colour-bar - the Locarno - include a decision by the students at the Bradford Institute of Technology to cancel their £122 New Year dance booking with the Ballroom. At the meeting which took this decision, the students unanimously condemned racial discrimination of any kind. The Musicians' Union has asked the bandleaders at the ballroom to tell the management that unless racial discrimination by December 30th, their two bands will no longer play from that date. There is a move afoot to get the Labour Lord Mayor to cancel his annual ball booked for the Locarno in March. Nearly 600 Leeds University students have signed a request for a referendum of all 5,000 Student Union members on making the condemnation of the Locarno colour-bar ruling official union policy.

### NOTTINGHAM LABOUR PARTY PROTEST AGAINST COLOUR BAR BILL

At a meeting held Thursday 14th December the Nottingham City Labour Party, which represents all the constituencies in Nottingham and the Trade Union and Co-op affiliates, passed by 26 votes to 11, with many abstentions, a resolution protesting against the colour-bar Bill. The resolution was proposed from the chair and was no doubt a result of the large number of moves made by various organisations against the Bill. However the right-wing were very disunited on the issue. Two out and out racials spoke in the debate, one being booed into silence. The right wing who opposed the resolution did so on the grounds of it being 'inexpedient' and disclaimed any colour-bar feelings. There was the interesting phenomena, which is almost certainly a national one, of the very men who were the chief spokesmen for Gaitskell in the defence controversy now being extremely critical of the tactics of the Parliamentary Labour Party on this Bill.

The vote does not represent a true picture of the Nottingham City Labour Party. The right wing had mobilised for this meeting on another matter and many left wingers have stopped attending the City party meetings after decision after decision had been ignored by the Council Labour Party group. The issue which concerned the right-wing most was a resolution from North Constituency to the effect that aldermen should not be appointed after reaching the age of 65. This hit hard at the aging right wing caucus on the Council, most of whom dream of ending their days as aldermen freed from the necessity to fight elections. The left could only give conditional support to this move as it opposes in principle the aldermanic system. However the resolution was passed by a big majority and there will now ensue a struggle to implement it. This will be an important fight as it brings into question the claims of 'independence' of the Labour Party Council group.

The meeting also passed resolutions protesting against the Government's Congo policy, pledging support for the Civic theatre and for a change in the procedure of issuing next year's election manifesto.

In a television broadcast last month, Fidel Castro declared that he believed absolutely in Marxism. He said that the new party which is to be set up in Cuba would be a Marxist-Leninist one and would be based upon collective leadership and not upon single-man rule.

'There was a time when I was politically illiterate' he declared. 'After these years of revolution I have learned a great deal.' He had recently come upon his student copy of 'Das Kapital' which he discovered he had read only to page 300. 'Now I am going to finish it.' Fidel Castro said as the audience stood to applause.

FRANCE - 'La Voie Communiste' SEIZED AGAIN

From France we have received a letter from the Bureau of 'La Voie Communiste', journal of dissident French Communist Party members:

'La Voie Communiste has received another blow. Issue number 25 has been seized. This measure is completely arbitrary as the points in the dossier illustrated by Sine, in the seized issue, protesting against repression against Algerians, had already largely been reported throughout the press.

It will be remembered that issue number 24 of the journal which was also seized contributed mainly to revealing the truth on this subject, as it was the first journal to speak of the crop of Algerian dead along the Seine.

This time we have done nothing in fact other than to complete the information already published. We merely defined the situation and attempted to give an over all picture of the repression. It is for this the Government cannot forgive us.

It is very difficult for us to face up to the new seizure. The Government is trying by every means to smash us. We appeal to our readers, sympathisers and subscribers, in the greatest urgency, to help us to face this situation. The Voie Communiste must not disappear. We have a role to fill, help us as far as you can. We need to restart a new fund, the old one is completely exhausted.'

POLAND - GOMULKA POSES SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT THE 22nd CONGRESS

The full text of Gomulka's report-back speech of the 22nd Congress is now available. In addition to the support given to Khrushchov in his speech, careful reading shows that Gomulka went some way to meet some criticisms of the explanations given of the 'cult of the individual.' Some extracts will illustrate this:

'.....The question how it was possible for the cult of the individual to originate, and why this side of the question has not been fully clarified is being widely asked.

'Our Party should also voice its opinion on these matters, define its standpoint. Let us take first the question of the cult of the individual. There is no doubt that our Soviet comrades have the most to say here. If <sup>not</sup> everything has been said as yet in the subject of the origin of the cult of the individual, it is probably still too early for that.

'In our opinion, in order to understand the causes of the cult of the individual it is sufficient to realise the conditions under which the Soviet Union was building socialism and to take into account the traits in Stalin's character. Lenin himself had pointed out Stalin's character and warned against leaving him in the post of the Party's Secretary-General.

'The Soviet Union started out for socialism from the extremely narrow economic base left behind by Tsarist Russia. Equivalent to it was the social base a working class small in numbers in relation to the total population, but militant and conscious of its aims, and the masses of peasants who were the decisive majority of the population of that multi-national country.

Tsarist absolutism, the persecutor of the Russian revolutionaries, the prolonged civil war against the counter-revolutionary generals and the war against imperialist intervention produced the severe mien of the Russian Communists. The Soviet Union was the first country which was forging the ideas of socialism into material and social reality...'

AUSTRALIAN TROTSKYISTS START INTERNATIONAL BOOK SERVICE

We have received details of an International book service which has been organised by the Australian section of the Fourth International. The stock-

list includes some 200 books covering a wide range, from marxist classics to some important works of fiction. Some of the works listed have been reread by the comrades themselves. They are also offering a second-hand list. Arrangements will be made to ensure the closest collaboration with this very commendable venture.

Speaking at an N.C.L.C. meeting in Belfast last month, Noel Browne, leader of the National Progressive Democrats, forecast a merger of the two main parties in Eire, the Fianna Fail and the Fine Gael. He said that there was little difference between them now, especially as the 'old guard' of the Civil War had departed from the scene. He contended that there must be a corresponding advance of the radical forces to meet this challenge in the years that lay ahead. ---

It was now possible to build a radical socialist organisation in the predominantly Catholic South and for that reason they wanted the Protestants of the North to join in and play their part as a liberalising factor. "Irishmen are beginning to leave their religion at the church door," he declared. This was because the church was beginning to learn to go with the times.

There had been a remarkable change in outlook in the Republic in the last 10 years and this had been proved by the 25,000 increase in Labour Party votes. This was the first time that the Irish Labour Party had gone out strongly on a welfare state programme and advocacy of public ownership. The most significant thing about the recent general election in the Republic was the fact that there had been a big upsurge of support for Labour in the rural areas, while the party had lost seats in Dublin. It was hard to say why this was so in an industrial area, but one thing was certain, Dr. Browne asserted, and that was the fact that gerry-mandering was responsible for the loss of Denis Larkin's seat in Dublin. The animosities of the Civil War had almost died away and people were at last beginning to consider the social and economic issues on their merits.

Dr. Browne said that his interpretation of the total eclipse of the abstentionist Sinn Fein party did not correspond with the view in the North that this happened because people were disgusted with the direct action policy of the group. He believed that Sinn Fein had received its votes in the previous election as a protest against the two big parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. He thought that the shift to Labour in the recent general election was another form of this protest against the big parties.

When asked whether he and Jack McQuillan, the other N.P.D. representative, would eventually join the Labour Party, Dr. Browne said that they made no secret of their belief in socialism; but they were against entering the Common Market - which the Labour Party supported - because it would entail membership of NATO.

### THREE DAIL MEMBERS SUSPENDED

Three Dail members were suspended from the Irish Parliament after their efforts to have a debate on Congo affairs and Dr. O'Brien's resignation were rejected by the Irish Government. They were Dr. Noel Browne and Jack McQuillan of the National Progressive Democrats and P. McAuliffe of the Labour Party.

The incidents took place on December 6th during question time. The Dail was suspended three times altogether for 15 minute intervals. Dr. Browne and Jack McQuillan did not leave until attendants escorted them out. During Question Time Dr. Browne said that the Irish Government's attitude towards the resignation of Dr. O'Brien was part of the pattern of the country's whole operation in the Congo which had been that of safeguarding the interests of the Welenskies and the Waterhouses. That they had stood by the physical assassination of Lumumba and now they were standing by the diplomatic assassination of Dr. O'Brien and the sell-out of the Congolese people on the issue of partition in the Congo, a thing they were whining about here at home.

Later there were repeated attempts to get a debate on the question but each time the efforts were blocked by the chair which ruled them out of order. After these unsuccessful attempts, Jack McQuillan refused to be seated and continued to raise the question. It was moved that he be suspended and this was carried by 81 to 15. Amid uproar he continued to speak, saying that at a when hundreds of Irish troops were being sent to the Congo, key men were leaving and the whole operation had been exposed by Dr. O'Brien and the Chief of Staff and yet the House wasn't to be allowed to discuss the matter. Later after the House had been adjourned, and the Captain of the Guard had tackled McQuillan, Dr. Browne kept up the attack. He protested against the unfair ruling and declared that Irish troops were being used to fortify Wolensky, Waterhouse and the puppet Tshombe. The house was again adjourned and after refusing several times to leave, Dr. Browne was eventually escorted out by three ushers. When the House resumed McAuliffe protested against the scandalous removal of Dr. Browne by force which had been done without any vote. Again the suspension of the deputy was moved and passed. McAuliffe refused to leave and the House was again adjourned. Throughout all this the two big parties voted together.

The proposed rent increase for Liverpool corporation housing tenants is yet another sign of the gathering Tory offensive. The increases can amount to 14 shillings a week in some cases. Labour councillors resisted sharply and the date of increases was actually put back from December 4 to January 1st. Popular concern seems to have <sup>been</sup> varied and disorganised, so much so that a demonstration on the issue was so badly attended to be called off. This is a harsh reflection on past failures of the left in recent years. During the debate the Tories used smear tactics on Councillor Hart, referring to his C.P. background. Councillor McKoowan demanded cheap money for house building, measures for land control and building controls. Showing the serious effect of the increases on the standard of living of the workers, Councillor Crooks, noted that in Speke and in Gillmoss, recently increased bus fares had already added 12 shillings a week to the budget, a further 8/6 would be added by the rent increases. One might add that in the new conditions of the Tory offensive, it is clear that local and national problems are ever more closely linked and unless the various struggles are generalised the effect of local reverses can be demoralising on the workers' movement.

#### NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS LAUNCH QUESTIONNAIRE CAMPAIGN.

Young Socialists in Nottingham have launched an 'Ask the People' Questionnaire and all the branches in Nottingham are expected to support it in addition to the Young Co-operators. The questionnaire sets out to gauge public feeling and interest in local government affairs. Having established this and in the process having gathered valuable data it will be possible to draw up a programme based upon what people think rather than what we think they should think. Also it will be an opportunity to bring home to people the importance played by local government in their life and how they can influence it. It is hoped that a good campaign will have some effect in revitalising the Labour Party at ward level. There is no doubt that any increased interest in local affairs is bound to veer to the left. Once the mass of the people have brought home to them how much they are putting into the moneylenders pockets and how this whole policy originates from the Tory Government they can go no other way.

A number of organisations have already expressed support for the campaign including the Co-op Party and Market ward. During the Christmas holidays some teachers are to have a trial run with the questionnaire and on the basis of the lessons learned a briefing meeting will be held. A copy of the questionnaire is included with this bulletin.

#### SCOTLAND - STRIKE MOVES FROM ENGINEERS AND MINERS. - SUPPORT FROM MANCHESTER

A national <sup>in</sup> token strike is being called for by the district committee of the Amalgamated Engineerin<sup>g</sup> Union in Paisley. This move is in protest against the rejection of the engineers' pay claim. They are to ask their executive to press for the strike at the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Both the Paisley men and Manchester A.E.U. shop stewards are pressing for the recall of the union's national committee.

The Manchester stewards have decided to support any action decided upon to win their full higher pay and shorter hours demand. At a meeting Thursday 14th they discussed a plan to mobilise workers from the big North-West industrial belt.

Scotland's 58,000 miners are to <sup>stage</sup> a one-day strike, probably on February 2nd, against the pit closures and in support of their pay claim. The decision was made by a special delegate conference of the Scottish area of the National Union of Mineworkers.

This will be the first all-Scottish coalfield strike since nationalisation, it will be timed for the day the miners' and railwaymen's lobby of Parliament takes place against closures. It is expected that at least 400 Scottish miners will take part in the lobby.

#### FACTS AGAINST THE COLOUR-BAR BILL

We are told that there is strong public feeling in support of the Government's moves to impose restrictions on immigration, most people including those on the left have taken for granted that by and large there are more for the Bill than against. It appears that this may be a wrong picture. The Sunday Telegraph, run by Roy Thompson the Moral Rearmament millionaire, published the result of a Gallup poll which had been taken just after the second reading of the Bill. 3½% of those questioned said that they would switch their votes away from the Tories because they disliked the Immigration Bill, whereas only 1% said they intended to switch their vote away from Labour because it opposed the Bill. Whatever else this might prove it indicates that public feeling is not strongly in favour of the Bill.

NOTTINGHAM BUS TO BRIZE NORTON

Some forty odd people went by bus from Nottingham to take part in the Committee of 100's demonstration. They represented Young Socialists, University Socialists, students from the Teachers' Training College, individual Labour Party members, local C.N.D.ers, etc... The Communist Party was almost completely absent the one C.P. member and Y.C.L. <sup>who came</sup> or are both known to have unorthodox views. Youth was, of course, well to the fore but among those participating was a founder member of the Communist who had previously been in the old Socialist Labour Party. Not the least important aspect of the trip was the continuous political discussion which took place coming and going.

NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS SUPPORT COMMITTEE OF 100

At its last meeting the South Notts Young Socialist Federation passed a resolution protesting against the police treatment of Committee of 100 members and expressing general support for the aims of the Committee of 100. The resolution was passed against the attempt by the Labour Party appointed Youth Liaison Officer to use bureaucratic means to stop discussion on the subject.

CARLTON LABOUR PARTY PROTESTS AGAINST POLICE TREATMENT OF COMMITTEE OF 100

The Carlton Labour Party (Notts.) passed a resolution at its last Constituency General Management Committee protesting against the repressive actions by the police against members of the Committee of 100 and demonstrators. The resolution also gave general support for the aims of the Committee of 100.

COMMITTEE OF 100 DOCKS GROUP FORMED

At a meeting addressed by Pat Pottle and held at the Canning Town Public Hall a Docks group of the Committee of a 100 was formed. There were representatives from the Royal, St. Katherine, London, Tooley St. and West India docks. The Chairman is a member of the Stevedores' Union (the Blue Union) and the secretary a member of the T. and G.W.U.. The group plans to back work on nuclear weapons and is hoping to support the Committee of 100 by industrial action in other ways. Other groups are to be formed at Hull and Liverpool. A number of individual dockers have already refused to handle parts going to Aldermaston. A group of dockers took part in the December 9th demonstrations.

FIRST ANTI-NUCLEAR MARCH IN NEWCASTLE

Tyneside had its first anti-nuclear march when fifty people marched in a poster parade from Newcastle right through the City Centre and the East End suburbs to Wallsend, in the first week of December. Other activities have included a meeting in Wallsend market place, a vigil by 60 people outside a shipyard when a missile ship was launched and shipyard meetings. A march is to be held through Newcastle Sunday 17th of December.

Y.C.N.D. MARCH THROUGH MIDLANDS

This year the National Youth Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament has organised a demonstration through the Midlands for Christmas week. The Demonstration starts on December 27th, at Leicester and then moves on each day to a new town. After Leicester, they will go through Nottingham, Derby, Stoke, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Birmingham and Coventry. There will be no marching between towns but instead there will be leafleting, street meetings, public meetings, etc.

LONDON STUDENTS COMMITTEE OF 100 FORMED

A Students' Committee of supporters of the Committee of a 100 has been formed in London. It will aim to organise firm bodies of support in all colleges and teaching establishments. It plans to organise its own demonstration in London soon. The Committee took over some of the work of organising support for the December 9th Demonstrations.

T.G.W.U. NOW OFFICIALLY SUPPORTS C.N.D.

The executive of the T.G.W.U. has unanimously decided to officially back the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament. This is the first time that the Union has made a formal link with the C.N.D. This decision gives us the basis for demanding similar moves in other organisations e.g. the Young Socialists.