

International Bulletin

Vol. 1. No. 37/8

Price Sixpence

Sept. 18th 1962

TORIES DETERMINED TO TAKE BRITAIN INTO THE COMMON MARKET

by J. (Nottingham)

It is clear from the way that the Commonwealth Prime Ministers' talks are going that the Government is determined, against all opposition, to take Britain into the Common Market. The Tory Party, as usual, is expressing the interests of the decisive and most highly monopolised sections of British capitalism in this policy. The latter have the most to gain from entry because they are in the best position to compete with West European capitalism, and, on the other hand, the most to lose by being kept out of the expanding West European market by the 'common tariff.'

Opposition to entry is growing. The harshness of the terms insisted upon by the 'Six', the growing realisation of the consequences of entry by certain sections, e.g., the farmers, and the campaign by the various opposing forces have all contributed to a swing in 'public opinion' against entry. The non-entrists, a really 'broad' movement ranging from the League of Empire Loyalists, Lords Beaverbrook and Montgomery, the "True Blue Tories", over to Briginshaw and his Forward Britain Movement, Tribune and co., and the Communist Party all argue that the benefits accruing from entry (to British capitalism) will be negated by the damage done (to British capitalism). Briginshaw speaks from the same platform as Hinchingbroke and General Hilton, of the True Blue Tories; the Forward Britain Movement stresses its non-party character and tells people not to bring party banners on its demonstrations; just as the Daily Worker enthusiastically reports praise that its editor received from a leading Tory for the line taken at an anti-Common Market demonstration.

Supporters of entry include nearly all the capitalist press, influential bourgeois journals like the Economist, the bulk of the Tory Party, the Liberal Party, and Labour Party supporters who range from Roy Jenkins (and his Labour Party Common Market Committee) to Bob Edwards of the Chemical Workers Union. In the eyes of the mass of the people the big argument is between these two camps. Marxists have not succeeded in presenting an alternative to both. To present such an alternative case is the crying need of the situation.

The marxist alternative is based upon a class appraisal of the whole question. The Common Market represents an attempt by the capitalists of Western Europe to adapt themselves to the realities of the latter half of the 20th century, to strengthen themselves in face of the working class, in face of the colonial revolution, in face of the workers states and in face of U.S. imperialism. Insofar as it represents an attempt to consolidate and preserve capitalism, Marxists are bound to oppose the Common Market. But to any such proposal Marxists must pose a positive alternative - in a crude way the Common Market represents the recognition by the most far-seeing capitalists that national boundaries act as fetters on the productive forces, that the elaborate structure of tariffs, import controls, etc., is completely outmoded. Marxists have recognised this for a long time and have posed the alternative of the United Socialist States of Europe, as a step towards a world federation of Socialist States.

The cynic will respond that it is utopian to speak of the United Socialist States of Europe just now. Our answer is that such a slogan embodies a strategic aim which in turn determines our basic orientation and tactics. We fight for a Socialist Britain (not based on Commonwealth preferences, but based upon an economic alliance with all the world's progressive forces - the workers states, the colonial revolution, etc.) as a step towards a United Socialist States of Europe. An integral part of this fight is the struggle for unity in action by workers' organisations to meet the threat to workers' conditions arising from the Common Market (and especially Britain's entry which would mark a new stage in this respect), an embodied in the slogan for a conference of workers organisations. To the united front of West European capitalists we must counterpose the united front of West European workers. From unity in action can come unity in a theoretical understanding of the necessity of the United Socialist States of Europe.

There are signs that wide sections of the Labour Movement would respond to such a policy - one which is in keeping with a basic working class approach and in the traditions of the movement. Small steps can be made immediately by fighting for solidarity in all struggles, and a good beginning would be to have some means whereby the Labour Movements of Britain and the countries of the 'Six' are informed each others' struggles.

N.A.L.S.O. School against U.S. intervention

Two moves were made at the Kessingland Summer school to express opposition to any kind of attack against Cuba by the U.S. imperialists. The first was a general resolution opposing intervention which was passed by a meeting of participants (with only one or two votes against and a handful of abstentions) with the idea of this being sent to Cuban Embassy, U.S. Embassy, etc. The second was organised by two Italian delegates to the school who collected the signatures of participants to the following:

"The International Socialist youth Seminar which has met at Kessingland from the 7th to 14th September, expresses its solidarity and unconditional support for the Cuban Socialist Revolution, the bulwark of the struggle for the freedom of the Latin American countries, in the forefront of the struggle against American imperialism.

"We oppose the continuing threat of aggression to the freedom of Cuba on the part of mercenaries in the pay of American imperialism.

"We register our determination as internationalists to fight for the building of Socialism in each and every country, and the overthrow of capitalism."

West Indians demonstrate outside U.S. Embassy

Members of the West Indian Committee for National Sovereignty, which has members from all the Caribbean territories controlled by British imperialism, last week organised a "Hands Off Cuba" poster parade and demonstration outside the U.S. Embassy in London. Among the posters carried were ones reading: "Viva Cuba Socialista," "Yankees Leave Cuba Alone," and "Cuba Wants Trade Not War."

A.E.U. call for industrial action if Americans invade

At its last meeting the Gladstone Park, No.2 branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union protested against the campaign against Cuba by the U.S. imperialists, and demanded that the T.U.C. should warn the Government that industrial action would follow armed intervention by the U.S. Government in Cuba.

Glasgow Young Socialist writes home from Cuba

Sydney Williamson, former chairman of the Govan Young Socialists, who gave up his job at Rolls Royce, Hillington, Glasgow, to go to Cuba in July, has written home. He is working in a drawing office along with a Russian and an American helping in projects to build up the economy of the Cuban workers' state. He is learning Spanish and has joined the militia. About the food situation in Havana he writes:

"No one is starving. Some people have never been so well fed, in fact. The one fault I find is the shortage of milk which is only available for young children and invalids. Still I am quite getting to like black coffee."

He goes on to say that living in Socialist Cuba is "...the most wonderful experience I've ever had."

Tribune and the defence of Cuba

Although Tribune is doing valuable work in drawing the attention of wide layers of Labour Party members to the dangers of U.S. intervention in Cuba this is marred (and could perhaps be completely negated) by its condemnation of Russian aid to Cuba. In an item on the back page of last Friday's issue (14/9/62) it says at the end of the article:

"In the meantime, the Soviet Union does not help matters by strengthening her arms shipments to Cuba and threatening full-scale war in her defence. Of course Cuba must be defended. But, as we argued last week, this can be better done by United Nations observers than by Soviet weapons. The non-aligned States should propose U.N. intervention in Cuba at the forthcoming session of the U.N. General Assembly."

This approach is a good illustration of the dangers of a non-class analysis of world events. It can only have the effect of taking the sharp edge off opposition to U.S. intervention, it takes the problem out of the realm of class interests and into the realms of psychology (as though tension is caused by U.S. fear of an arms build-up). The suggested solution by the U.N. is particularly unacceptable - the U.N. is dominated by governments representing capitalist states, hence in the last analysis it always comes down on the side of preserving capitalism (and usually acts in the interests of U.S. imperialism). Our Cuban class brothers need Soviet arms to deal with mercenaries and who can doubt that but for the threat of Soviet intervention Cuba would have already been crushed? One letter has already been sent in protest (which suffers from being a little too pro-Stalinist) - this should be followed by many more.

The upholding of a bourgeois court of Colin Jordan's appeal against sentences passed on him and Tyndall shows again how carefully and skilfully the ruling class preserves, while not countenancing, the reserve fighting force which it may still have to use in the event of growth of the Marxist Left in conditions of economic blitzkrieg. This little incident should serve at least to shatter the illusions of those who still pin their faith in the capitalist executive and judiciary as organs for the effective suppression of fascist bodies.

Marxists must drive home to every section of the Labour Movement the lesson that only the strength of the working class can smash fascism. Other people -- liberal-minded persons, racial and religious minorities, muscular Christians and the like -- can and must be won for an anti-fascist campaign, but the bedrock must be the organised workers' movement, and it is our job to help straighten out the thinking on this question and to get things properly moving.

Does this mean that, where the Labour Movement is in "control" (however limited the form of that "control"), say of a local council or educational authority, it should abstain from making whatever use is possible even of the machinery of bourgeois government? On the contrary, while taking care not to rely on such "legalistic" methods, every advantage which they present should be seized upon and utilised to the full. The undeniable fact that the ruling class will retaliate against the Left by using Fascist provocations as the excuse to ban Left meetings and marches, and dismiss Left-wingers from jobs, does not affect the issue. Since when, Fascism or no Fascism, have Left-wingers not been dismissed when they have presented a serious threat on a vital sector?

This class issue can be approached only on class lines. It is no concession to emotionalism to congratulate the Coventry authorities, Labour-controlled and under working-class pressure, for the job they did on Jordan. When defending Leftists similarly dismissed, we fight not as middle-class Liberals in defence of some abstract concept of freedom, but as champions of members of the working class who have been victimised on the job. Only by clearing our minds of libertarian cant will we achieve clarity on this question as a prelude to necessary organised action.

HANDS OFF CUBA/continued

London Meeting to oppose intervention

There will be a meeting called by the Britain-Cuba Committee on Friday the 21st of September, at the Mahatama Gandhi Hall, 41, Fitzroy Square, London W.1. commencing at 7.3. p.m.. The speakers include Bob Edwards, M.P., Clive Jenkins, George Elvin and Stanley Mayne.

N.B. The address of the Britain-Cuba Committee is: 2, King's Hall Road, Beckenham Kent.

Fair Play for Cuba Committee organises pickets in New York based on Militant reports

The picketting of the United Nations headquarters in New York on Sept. 7th by the Fair Play for Cuba Committee was supported by various Cuban-American and Puerto Rican groups. The F.P.C.C. Acting Executive Secretary Richard Gibson said the demonstration had been hastily called because of the unprecedented war hysteria in the press against Cuba and that a planned demonstration at the same place would be held Sept. 18 when the U.N. General Assembly convenes.

He went on: "Vested interests in the U.S., certain elements in the Pentagon and Cuban counter-revolutionary groups in their pay are seeking by every means to provoke a war between the U.S. and Cuba, no matter what the cost. There is no Cuban problem," he added, "There is only a very serious problem of convincing U.S. statesmen that this nation must learn to live in peace with its neighbours no matter what their political, economic and social systems."

The picketting of the United Nations headquarters will take place from 5.30 to 7.00 p.m.. We should show our admiration for these people, who, right in the heart of the most powerful reactionary nation in the world, give us all an example, by following their lead.

The fight against redundancy continued/

Call for national rail stoppage

Representatives of railway workshop workers who lobbied their union representatives who were engaged in talks at the B.T.C.'s Marylebone headquarters on Wednesday 12th, September said they had ^{come} to press for a national strike. One of the men, Norman Temple of Darlington said:

"We have come here to call for a national railway stoppage. In the North we have the confederation and the N.U.R. district council with us. We do not want to inconvenience the public in any way, but this might be the only way of averting a national tragedy."

Another, also from Darlington said that the unions had talked much too long. The workers were calling for a national stoppage of the entire industry. Other spokesmen added that strike action was the only language Dr. Beeching and the Government understood. Altogether there were nearly 100 shop stewards representing all grades of railwaymen from 14 key centres. They came from Darlington, Swindon, York, Eastleigh, Cowlairs, Cawrphilly, etc.

Nation-wide demonstrations have continued: in Derby, over 1,000 railway workshop men and their wives met at the central hall; in Manchester the N.U.R.'s North West district council has called upon its national executive to approach other unions for a joint protest campaign; in Liverpool, delegates representing 18,000 workers of the Liverpool and North Wales district called for a special general meeting of the union to consider whether strike action should be used to defeat the Government's plans, and meetings have taken place in many other centres.

There is to be a national delegate meeting of engineers in railway workshops in London on September 27 to hear a confederation report on the jobs situation. Some 200 delegates will be invited and the discussion is expected to be very lively because certain union leaders are doing all in their power to head off strike calls.

Merseyside trade unionist and unemployed to march through London

Merseyside trade unionists and unemployed will march through London on November 6th on their way to a lobby of Parliament as part of their campaign to draw attention to the unemployment situation in their area. A preliminary conference is to be held in Liverpool in October to draw up plans for the demonstration. Unemployment has gone up recently from 26,000 to 29,000, and local trade unionists have shown that there are 50 local factories with a total of two million square feet of space empty on Merseyside.

Second strike at English Electric Aviation (Luton)

On Friday 14th, September for the second Friday in succession 300 workers of E.E.A., Luton walked out over the management's rejection of demands for better terms of transfer to the firm's Stevenage works. Peter Soutcott, the works shop stewards' convenor, has said that the terms offered by the management would mean an average reduction of £2 per week. The factory is due to close following the Government's cancellation of the Blue Water missile contract. It is understood that 1,000 of the workers are expected to be offered work at Stevenage.

High Vacuum workers stand firm at Crawley

Despite the sacking of another 39 workers from the machine shop and tool room, the 400 strikers at Edwards High Vacuum, Ltd., Crawley are standing firm. The strike started over the dismissal of 50 workers and the refusal of the management to discuss this with union or the shop stewards. They regard the move as an attempt to split them but they intend to continue their fortnight old struggle. The management have since announced that ^{they} will declare more redundancies.

OTHER INDUSTRIAL STRUGGLES

In addition to the Petrol men's guerilla strikes which have received widespread publicity, other wages disputes include a strike by 400 workers at the Pirellie rubber firm at Burton and a dispute involving 1,500 men at Harls Court, London. A whole number of disputes over conditions, etc, are in progress: Welders at Drakelow Power Stations site, Glaziers at Grimsby, 670 hosiery workers at Luton and Pottery workers at Middlewich.

A packed meeting of South Paddington Labour Party on September 4 heard the N.U.R. case outlined by a member of its National Executive, Bro. Frank Lane of London Transport. Brother Lane explained the full effect of the Beeching cuts, both on railway workers and on the travelling public. A number of those present, including N.U.R. members, were sharply critical of the N.U.R. Executive for participating in the closure of branch lines and in discussions with the B.T.C. where in terms of compensation of dismissed workers, rather than all-out opposition to redundancy and sackings, represented a line of retreat.

The discussion which followed Lane's address drew the lessons of the rail nationalisation experience: The need to socialise all of the commanding heights, to plan the economy in a unified way, to minimise or even refuse compensation to former owners and shareholders and to push towards workers' control.

Many speakers referred to the possibility of a transport strike as the best means of fighting back against the Tories on this issue. The local party pledged itself to use its resources to the full, under the instructions of the local strike committee, should such a struggle arise. The just fight of the railwaymen will be raised at a series of street corner meetings which the party is planning over the autumn months.

Derby protest against cuts

by R. (Derby)

At its last meeting the Chaddesden Labour Party passed the following resolution:

"This meeting of the Chaddesden Labour Party, is appalled at the inevitable effect of the present Government's lack of a co-ordinated Transport policy. The closing of British Railway Branch Lines increases existing transport problems by forcing both passengers and freight on to the roads that are not adequate for the flow of present day traffic. A further effect created by the closing of these lines, is the large scale redundancy in Operating Departments and Railway Workshops which could have a disastrous result in railway centres like Derby.

"We therefore call on all local authorities and organisations to protest to the Ministry of Transport against the destruction of the Railway Industry, an industry which can, if adequately planned, play an important part in the social and economic life of the country."

Second one-day strike at G.E.C. (Erith, Kent)

On Friday the 14th, September, the second one-day strike took place at the Erith factory of General Electric Company when 1,600 downed tools to prevent dismissals. As part of a rationalisation scheme, 200 employees from various parts of the plant were going to be declared redundant. In order to prevent this union officials asked the management to put all workers on to a 34-hour week and keep all staff. The management have decided that this is not 'practical' and consequently the workers have decided to strike each Friday until they get satisfaction.

British Oxygen strikers go back after concession

Workers at the British Oxygen Company in Edmonton, North West London agreed yesterday to return to work following a recommendation from their shop stewards. On Friday, August 10. 200 workers were given notice by the management, there had been no consultation with the unions and the 1,500 workers struck.

The men returned on Wednesday, September 5th to enable a works conference to take place but came out again when the management refused to withdraw the notices. The notices have now been suspended until September the 21st and negotiations are now taking place.

More redundancies announced

During the last week the following redundancies, shut-downs, etc have been announced: at Luton, already hard hit by the Blue Water affair, 150 workers at the Electrolux factory have been given notice; at Melton Mowbray, Leics., the Stanton Ironworks blast furnaces have been closed down one month early because so many of the 230 workers declared redundant left to get other jobs; at Blyth, Northumberland, it is expected that 300 men will lose their jobs when the Blyth Dry Docks and Shipbuilding firm completes the last ship it has on order; at the Workington Iron and Steel Company workers are going from a 12 shift per week to a nine shift p.w. system; at Nottingham, Meridian have announced the closure of their women's hose department; and at Mountsorrel Rolls Royce, it has been announced that inspectors, welders and sheet metal workers will soon be redundant.

in late August

When the King and Queen of Thailand (Siam) made a state visit to Sydney New South Wales, they were met by three political demonstrations. The first took place as the Queen got out of the Royal Rolls Royce at the Town Hall steps when a Thai student ran towards the car carrying a placard saying: "Thailand is a military dictatorship". He was hustled away and then two Australians rushed forward with placards also denouncing the regime in Thailand. They were arrested but a young woman continued the protest by showering the Royal party with leaflets.

These incidents were widely reported in the Australian press and made a refreshing relief from all the sob stories about the Queen's beauty and the King's regality. The two men came up in court, one being fined £A.2 for offensive behaviour, the other was remanded in custody being charged with offensive behaviour and vagrancy (this, no doubt, being a technical offence). The leaflets were issued under the authorisation of the Sydney University Australian Labor Party Club but the General Secretary of the A.L.P. was quick to disassociate the Party from the demonstrations. However these young Australians clearly acted as the conscience of the Australian people - and have set an example to all.

Herewith the text of the leaflet (shortened for space reasons)

NO THAI TYRANTS

Most Australians know very little about Thailand except that the King plays a saxophone, that the Queen devotes most of her energies to looking "lovely" and that in June of this year Australian troops were sent there to defend what President Kennedy calls "a bastion of freedom."

However most people aren't aware that in Thailand there is: (a) no FREEDOM of SPEECH; (b) no FREEDOM of the PRESS; (c) no FREEDOM of ASSOCIATION; (d) no FREEDOM of OPPOSITION; (e) no FREEDOM.

The present government is in fact a military dictatorship led by Marshal Sarit Thanarat, which seized power in October, 1958, abolished the Constitution, dissolved the National Assembly, and banned all political parties. Martial law was declared and sweeping arrests were made of former Assembly representatives, newspaper editors, writers, labour leaders, teachers, students, and businessmen who were accused as Communists or fellow-travellers.....

Under the 'interim' constitution of January, 1959, a Constitutional Assembly was established --- but all its members are government appointments. But even so the Government does not trust its own followers, and neither the Prime Minister or his Cabinet are answerable to the Assembly.

The Constitution is supposed to be an 'interim' affair, but is still in force today, four years later. Moreover Marshal Sarit has declared that the Thai people cannot have a permanent constitution until they have achieved "national discipline", and that "political freedom" and "human rights" will not be tolerated if they jeopardise "the national security."

Under Article 17 of the interim constitution the Prime Minister has the power to take ANY steps he deems necessary "for the purpose of repressing or suppressing actions might threaten the national security, or the throne, or subvert or jeopardise law and order." In other words the Prime Minister has absolutely unlimited power.

Nor has the Government failed to make use of this -- all political parties except the government party, have been banned, as have been the trade unions. The country remains under martial law, and anyone suspected of the slightest sympathy towards communism or opposition to the regime, is subject to immediate arrest.

But dictator Sarit does not always bother with the wearisome procedure of a court martial. He "has returned to the practices of the 19th century absolute monarchy by arbitrarily meting out punishment without recourse to law or the courts. In 1958 when a series of fires were attributed to a group of Chinese, Sarit personally conducted a brief investigation and ordered each suspect to be shot immediately. In July, 1958 similar action was taken against a Thai national (Supachi Srisati) who, as leader of an allegedly pro-communist group, was executed without trial, after a brief interrogation, also conducted by Sarit."

(Pacific Affairs, Dec. 1960 pp355/6)

.....

The visit of Thai royalty is not just a good-will mission. It is designed to blind the Australian people to the realities of Thailand, and to prepare them for further military intervention in South-East Asia by S.E.A.T.O. Obviously the colonial peoples of Asia will not tolerate these corruption-ridden oligarchies for ever. The Australian people must refuse to support military dictatorship in South-East Asia by demanding the withdrawal of Australian troops from Thailand.....

SUPPLEMENT: We have appended a copy of the leaflet given out by supporters of the Fourth International at the Helsinki Youth Festival.

The end of the war in Algeria leaves the country in a broken state. The recent scenes shown on "To-night", of factories closed, docks forsaken and workers idle in the towns and of barren and overgrown fields and workers idle in the country, give a good idea of what has happened to Algeria. The mass of misery - the food shortages, housing shortage, destruction - is immense.

Yet there is no reason for despair. A courageous socialist programme could save Algeria, and quickly, for the climate of the country is favourable to rapid growth. A determined effort to clear the orchards and vineyards, to reconstruct the waterworks and reseed the cornfields, to preserve the flocks and herds, would restore the food situation in a few seasons. The roads and railways must be reconstructed. The raw materials of Algeria must be produced once more and the empty factories remanned. The houses and shops left by the emigrant French must be quickly taken over. The factories must become public property, together with transport, banks, insurance and mines.

How is this to be done? The answer is by work, work and more work. Work organised as socialist labour. If the Algerians are to prevent a new form of imperialist domination, by means of loans of capital for "rehabilitation"; if they are to save the Government of Ben Bella from going to Rothschild and the Comite des Forges, cap in hand; if they are to cut at the root a new class of Algerian capitalists, of "NEPmen" and speculators, intent upon making wealth out of present scarcity and misery, intent upon posing as the "providers of capital" for the future of Algeria; if, in short, the Algerians are going to win what they have shed their blood for over the last seven years, they must remake their country by their own labour, by their own organisation.

Like Russia after the Civil War, they have inherited a devastated ^{at} country. Their task is great and the sufferings will be cruel. But Algeria must take the socialist road, and Algerians must understand that it is necessary to suffer now, even more than they have suffered, in order to keep free from the clutches of capital. There are plenty of Algerian Kerenskies and Nagys in Paris and Algiers. There are plenty of "restorers" for Algeria.

The need is for the Algerian workers and peasants to organise themselves. If there are shortages, rationing, let them organise their own semi-starvation, so that they can appreciate its need and date its ending. If there is to be unending labour, let them organise it themselves - so that the word "unending" becomes only a journalistic exaggeration and they see clearly how they can plan socialism in Algeria.

Let the Algerian people learn from all the history of our revolution - from what has happened in Russia, China, Jugoslavia, Greece, Cuba and Indo China. Let them understand that capital is not necessary, if they are determined to make a new start. Capital can be replaced by socialist labour - and labour is one thing they have in plenty. It requires its social organisation - and this is precisely the task. And what a wonderful task! If the Algerians can solve their present problems in a socialist fashion, what a triumph! What an example to the peoples of the world!

Only vast quantities of unpaid labour, of overtime without wages, of free socialist labour, can solve the problems of Algeria. Only vast quantities of labour of all kinds, determined to reorganise Algeria and make the farms flourish once again and the machines hum, can save the people. Only if the workers and peasants of Algeria believe that they are free to do this in their own way, for their own ultimate benefit; only if they believe that they are not working to install a new national class of exploiters on their backs; only if immediate benefits come to them, along with their long-term tasks, so that they can carry home to their women and children in their hands at the end of the week a piece of reality, to show that their task is practical as well as unpaid, will the Algerian workers and peasants swing gladly into this colossal labour.

It is a gigantic and a wonderful task. It is the task that follows the military victory, and if the Algerians tackle this job in the same way as they tackled the war, there can be no doubt of their ultimate success.

COMMITTEE FORMED TO HELP ALGERIANS TO REBUILD

According to a letter in this week's Tribune from John Baird, M.P., a committee is to be formed in this country to help the Algerians reconstruct their country. The main task the committee is to tackle is getting teachers, doctors, nurses and technician to go to Algeria for short periods or longer.

Violence and terror against the campaign to register Negro voters in the South while the Kennedy administration - fully informed beforehand of the threats - dodges its clear responsibility to afford protection and limits itself to "investigations" and timid court action. The violence is most severe in those counties where Negroes are a majority of the population and where they could win elections if they won the right to vote.

In Sunflower County, Mississippi, two Negro girl students, active in a voter-registration campaign, were wounded Sept 10th by shot-gun blasts fired through the window of a house in the city of Ruleville. The girls, Vivian Hilliet and Marian Burkes were staying in the home of Vivian's 78-year-old grandfather, Herman Sisson, who had to take them to a hospital himself after attempting unsuccessfully to summon the local police.

"I don't expect the police around here will be arresting anybody anytime soon for what happened," Sisson said.

The Sunflower County voter-registration campaign for Negroes - who number 13,500 of the 22,300 persons of voting age in the county, with only 161 Negroes registered - was announced last month by the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee. The county is in the Delta region of Mississippi and is the birthplace of the White Citizens Councils and the home county of racist Senator James O. Eastland (dem.). S.N.C.C. workers in the county found the registrar's office closed when they went there with Negroes attempting to register to vote. Thereupon S.N.C.C. chairman Charles McDrew wired Senator Eastland asking him to instruct the registrar to open his office or to resign from the Senate if "violations of voting rights are not corrected." President Kennedy was also informed of the situation and specifically informed of the threats of violence.

Following a raid by armed white men on a voter-training office August 17 in Greenwood, Miss. - also in the Delta - McDew wired the president: "Request you send federal marshals to Greenwood, Mississippi, to protect voter-registration workers. If no federal intervention is forthcoming in Greenwood and other Delta cities, there is great possibility of more Emmett Till cases."

In southwest Georgia, where S.N.C.C. has been involved since last fall in a voter-registration project in the rural counties surrounding the city of Albany, renewed terrorist activity occurred Sept. 9 when two Negro churches in Sasser were burned down. Both churches - Mount Olive Baptist and Mount Mary Baptist - were involved in the voter-registration drive in Terrell County. Only 53 Negroes in the county are registered to vote. White voters there total 2,894 although Negroes are 64.4 per cent of the population.

Last month another church involved in the voter drive in Leesburg, 20 miles from Sasser, was also burned down. On Sept. 5 in Dawson, the county seat, shotgun blasts were fired into a Negro home where a group of voter-registration volunteers were sitting. A white youth and a Negro girl were wounded. The Mount Olive Baptist church was the scene of a raid on a voter-registration meeting last July by Sheriff Zeke T. Mathews, his deputies, and other white-supremacists. Fortunately, newsmen were present in the church. Under pressure of the widespread publicity given this blatant act, the Department of Justice filed suit before Federal District Judge J. Robert Elliot asking that the Sheriff be enjoined from further interference with voting activities.

But Judge Elliot, a notorious segregationist and a leading Democrat who was recently appointed to the bench by President Kennedy, denied the request on the grounds that nobody's civil rights were threatened. In Washington, the Department of Justice announced on Sept. 10 that it was "investigating" the destruction of the two churches. In Charleston, Missouri - across the Mississippi River from Cairo, Illinois, where S.N.C.C. integration met with racist violence - 31 youths were arrested Sept. 1 during a demonstration in front of a segregated movie theatre. Seven youths are still in jail under bonds ranging from \$100 to \$1,500.

MILITANT DOUBLED IN SIZE

Commencing with September 17th issue the Militant (New York) has increased its size from 4 to 8 pages. At the same ^{time} the editors have utilised the "new elbow room to make the paper more informative, useful and interesting." (as they put it.) We are sure that the increase in size of the Militant will greatly facilitate sales in this country. We want to speedily amend our order for the paper, especially as we have found the original order far too modest even before the increase in size. Please write in and let us know as soon as possible how many you require.

Readers may be interested in the latest developments in C.N.D. on Merseyside. In addition to the normal local groups, a Merseyside Central Committee ^{has existed} for some years to organise large scale area activities. As mentioned in reports on the Industrial Committee which appeared in the Bulletin a few weeks ago, this body has behaved in the usual bureaucratic fashion and, in actual fact, the organising of activities such as the Merseyside Whit March has fallen squarely on the one or two really active groups.

Dissatisfaction with this state of affairs led to the calling of an Extraordinary General Meeting to set up a more effective area organisation based on a new constitution. This meeting took place on the 1st September. A sub-committee of the old Central Committee brought forward a constitution which would have established a rigid Executive Committee elected at an annual general meeting. This would have presided over monthly meetings of an area council consisting of delegates from the groups and the Industrial Committee.

A few members of the Sefton Park and West Derby groups countered this with proposals for an executive elected from group delegates and subject to immediate recall, the delegates themselves being subject to recall by the groups. It was also proposed to state unambiguously that supporters should be organised in groups on a "district, factory, construction site or institutional (e.g. university) basis", thus bringing the industrial groups right into the centre of the organisation with full rights of representation.

After a long debate these alternative proposals were adopted, with strong support coming from a contingent of Y.C.N.D. members. Merseyside C.N.D. has therefore reaffirmed the position of the industrial groups and adopted a principle of elections which could become significant in the light of the recent Arrowsmith/Collins controversy.

KESSINGLAND CAMPERS ASSIST IN SETTING UP C.N.D. IN YARMOUTH by G. (Nottingham)

The presence of comrades at Kessingland was instrumental in assisting with the formation of a new C.N.D. group in Great Yarmouth, where no previous group existed and where a comrade had been spending some weeks preparing the ground. Two people from Kessingland travelled to Yarmouth and addressed a successful meeting of supporters which elected its own Committee and seemed all set to establish a thriving group. The meeting, of about 40 people contained many Labour Party people as well as a large proportion of young people, and there was a lively and fruitful interchange despite the presence of the local "bete noire". The local press received the meeting sympathetically and a report was printed.

The same weekend, car loads of people from Kessingland left to take part in a Young Socialist Carnival in Lowestoft, distributing leaflets and recruiting with local Labour Party people. These two events might be commonplace elsewhere but in agrarian/rocket base Norfolk they are far from being the norm that they are elsewhere.

N.B. We have since been informed by an East Anglia correspondent that C.N.D. groups are to be formed in Bungay, Diss, Loddon and Mitford.

N.A.L.S.O. CONFERENCE OF CLUB SECRETARIES

There is to be a conference of club secretaries of N.A.L.S.O. groups the week end of the 22/23 of September. It will discuss activities in the next six months and make plans for co-ordination of N.A.L.S.O. activity generally. It will discuss in particular: the education project, student socialist journals, plans for News of N.A.L.S.O. and future camps.

The education project is mainly concerned with higher education and has as its aim: "To formulate a specific and detailed programme covering higher education (i.e. fifteen plus). To gather information and suggestions from as many people as possible, produce a pamphlet, circulate this to all N.A.L.S.O. members by December, 1962; and finally present it via the N.A.L.S.O. Annual Conference for adoption by the Labour Party.

KESSINGLAND - A GREAT SUCCESS

There will be a full report in the next issue of the Bulletin about the Kessingland camp but in the meantime we can say that the whole affair was a big success in many directions. Attendance covered about 120 people altogether, all the discussions were well attended, much common ground was found amongst participants, masses of marxist literature were sold - and most important of all, already people are talking with enthusiasm of next year's camp.

Derby protest against Young Socialist purge

At its last meeting the Chaddesden Labour Party passed the following resolution:

"That Chaddesden Labour Party believe that in view of the tolerance and common sense shown by the N.E.C. in not proceeding against the four sponsors of the Moscow Peace Congress, that the same tolerance and commonsense be shown towards the Young Socialist Movement.

"It therefore calls upon the N.E.C. to lift both the proscription from Keep Left, and the suspension from the four National Committee members."

Blackpool resolution suppressed

We reproduce herewith a letter which appeared in last Friday's (14/9/62) Tribune because of its importance:

"Banbury C.L.P. are not alone (Tribune, September 7)! We, too, in Blackpool North have joined the ranks of parties whose Conference resolution has been excluded under the Three-Year-Rule.

"The resolution states: "This Conference, affirming that the Labour Party represents a coalition of working-class interests, unions, co-operatives, Socialist societies, and rank-and-file workers in the constituencies, banded together to secure representation for their aspiration in Parliament, and in this fashion to eradicate social injustice and establish a Socialist society; believing for this reason that attempts to establish a leadership cult, to decide policy in private party caucus and impose it on the country, have been so disruptive, holds that leadership which interprets rank-and-file opinion can be outstanding and is essential; that leadership which treats rank-and-file opinion with contempt is, as experience has shown, damaging to the party and, to election success, catastrophic; endorses the resolution passed at Annual Conference 1960 setting out the constitutional place of Parliamentary L.P. and A.C., and requires further that the N.E.C. must in all cases accept the instructions of Annual Conference.

"When Richard Fletcher attempted to obtain the reference back of the C.A.C.'s Report at the Blackpool Conference on behalf of several organisations whose resolutions, severely critical of the leadership, had been similarly excluded he said: "The resolutions are about events which have occurred since last year's Annual Conference. The Three Year Rule is being invoked. How can you discuss last year's events which had not then happened?"

"With the refusal of the leadership to act on the party's policy on nuclear tests, Polaris and German bases, Fletcher's arguments are still valid: no valid interpretation of the standing order can exclude these resolutions.

"It may well be, of course, that the terms of Section 6 allow too much room for the N.E.C. to manoeuvre, in which case the remedy is simple - have it deleted entirely or elect officers who will interpret the Rule fairly."

LATEST LIST OF SPONSORS FOR TRADE UNION PAPER

A new leaflet has been produced giving the latest list of sponsors of the Trade Union and Socialist Newspaper, it was given out at the Trade Union Congress and much interest was aroused. The new list reads as follows:

Frank Alluan, M.P., (N.U.J.); Tom Badstevener (A.E.U.); Dick Beamish (N.U.M.); Percy Belcher (T.W.U.); R.W. Briginshaw (N.A.T.S.O.P.A); Joyce Butler, M.P.; Ald. W. Callow; Cyril Cooper (S.T.C.S.); Geo. Craddock, M.P.; S.O. Davies, M.P.; John Eber (A.S.S.E.T.); Bob Edwards, M.P. (C.W.U.); Geo. Elvin (A.C.T.T.); Coun. J. Everett (A.E.U.); James D. Garst; Anthony Greenwood, M.P.; W. Griffiths, M.P.; C. Harrington (N.U.R.); Judith Hart, M.P.; Coun. E. Hillman (N.U.G.M.W.); Sidney Hyam (N.U.J.); Hugh Jenkins (Equity); Bill Jones (T. & G.W.U.); R. Kelly, M.P. (N.U.M.); Walter Kendall (U.S.D.A.W.); Russel Kerr (A.S.S.E.T.); Dave Lambert (AUFW); Stanley Mayne (I.P.C.S.); Ian Mikardo (A.S.S.E.T.); Stan Mills (N.U.R.); W. Monslow, M.P. (N.U.R.); L.J. Nicholas (N.U.R.); Don Pullen (A.S.L.E.F.); John Rankin, M.A., M.P.; Ernie Roberts (A.E.U.); H. Scanlon (A.E.U.); Dick Seabrook (U.S.D.A.W.); Ald. Tom Shaw (A.E.U.); Stephen Swingler, M.P.; Prof. E.A. Thompson; A.C. Torode (S & D.); R. Tench (N.U.R.); Bob Wright (A.E.U.); Bert Wynn (N.U.M.)

SPONSORING COMMITTEE TO BE FORMED IN NOTTINGHAM

A local committee to organise support for the trade union and socialist paper is to be formed in Nottingham. Already firm support from well known and active trade unionists from the F.B.U., the A.E.U., the N.U.P.E., the Metal Mechanics, the T.W.U., the U.S.D.A.W., etc., etc., is guaranteed.