

FLAGRANT ANTI-LEFT BIAS IN APPROVAL OF CANDIDATESLong-standing left winger rejected - former leading fascist accepted

Nothing could illustrate the anti-left bias in the present system of the approval of Parliamentary candidates than the the recent case of where Councillor Denis Hobden was rejected and Mr. Lesley Jones approved. This action was taken at the same organisational sub-committee of the NEC of the Labour Party which rejected Ernie Robertts. We are indebted to Tribune of the 5/1/62 which has brought this shocking case out into the open in Francis Flavius' column.

All readers who have not read the article should do so, briefly the facts are that Lesley Jones joined the Labour Party in 1953 after 16 years connection with Mosley's Union movement. As recently as 1951 he deputised for Mosley when the latter was unable to speak at a meeting. (Tribune on its front page says that he was a branch secretary of the Union movement as late as 1959 - we think this must be a printing error). In 1957 and 1958 he was rejected by the NEC as a candidate, so no one can say that the full information about him isn't known to the members of the NEC. Councillor Denis Hobden, a trade unionist since 1934, joined the Labour Party as soon as he was able in 1944 (as a civil servant he could not join before then) and has held a variety of jobs including Constituency secretary. He has been given no reason for his rejection.

This question of the acceptance of candidates is no unimportant issue. In the recent struggles over defence and clause four, the Parliamentary labour party has been well to the right of the Labour Party as a whole. Owing to the undemocratic set-up of the Labour Party, the ONLY REASON GAITSKELL IS THE LEADER IS BECAUSE OF HIS CONTROL OF THE PARLIAMENTARY LABOUR PARTY. It is clear that he is using the method of candidates having to obtain approval as a means to ensure the continuation of his domination of the Parliamentary labour party.

The left must wage an all out campaign on this question. Not merely because of the monstrous injustice of this and other cases, but because what is at stake is the preservation of the remnants of Party democracy. Moreover, victory on this front would do much to tilt the balance of forces of the whole struggle. Conversely defeat on this issue would be very serious indeed at the present stage of struggle. We need not have any illusions about Parliament to see the difference between having a Parliamentary labour party predominantly made up of men of Ernie Robert's calibre and one even more dominated by barristers and the like of Lesley Jones. On this issue it should be possible to make common ground with the large majority of the rank and file of the Labour, even those who have different views to the left on such questions as defence. By such a blatant move the NEC have given to us an opportunity to mount a really powerful campaign and get the right wing on the run.

CARLTON LABOUR PARTY PROTEST AGAINST ROBERT'S REJECTION

At its last meeting the Carlton constituency Labour Party passed a resolution condemning the rejection by the NEC of Ernie Roberts candidacy of Horsham for Parliament.

CENTRAL NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS FOLLOW SUIT

At its meeting on Thursday the 4th of January the Central Nottingham Young Socialists passed a similar resolution to that of Carlton Labour Party.

NORTH NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS OPPOSE PARLIAMENTARY GAG

For their resolution to the annual conference of the Young Socialists, the North Nottingham branch has framed a resolution opposing the new standing orders for the Parliamentary labour party which will effectively regiment all Labour's M.P.s into carrying out the Gaitskell line. The resolution has been approved in principle by the constituency (this has to be done before the resolution can go forward) and is being reworded in light of the discussion.

THE WHITE MAN'S MISSION IN AFRICA?

Welensky, Voerwoed and some of Britain 'ultras' such as Lord Salisbury are fond of talking of the 'white man's mission in Africa' and his civilising role. At a court in Johannesburg, 4/1/62, an African aged 20, was sentenced to 8 strokes of the cane. His crime? telling a white woman she had nice legs. No printable comment.

£85 MILLION FALL IN GOLD RESERVES

As promised in the previous bulletin, we are going into this question in a little more detail. This is because it is important to understand that the present policies of the Tory Government do not arise out of their stupidity or hatred of the working class, but from a real crisis of British capitalism. This in turn needs to be understood when considering the possible political evolution in the coming months - the postmaster general is quite correct when he said that he is not standing firm against the post office workers because he is pig-headed. He may be a pig-headed man - we don't know the gentleman - but the main motive force to his stubbornness is the determination of the Tories to peg wages in an effort to put the burden of the crisis on to the backs of the workers and to retain the confidence of their continental capitalist friends. The weakness shown when the electricity agreement breached the wages pause shook the faith of the big continental bankers in the Tories' ability to stabilise the pound. One of the by-products of this was doubt about the wisdom of leaving their money, attracted by the high interest rates, in the London money market.

The balance of payments crisis has been one main expressions of the wider crisis of British capitalism. Internal inflation, overseas military expenditure, welfare state and Keynesian economics all contribute, but are in practice merely the by-products of British capitalism's attempts to adapt itself to modern conditions and the threat of social change. Indeed British capitalism has managed to prevent a slump of the 1929 variety, but only by transferring the effects of the chronic crisis of British capitalism to other fields. It may be said that they have succeeded in modifying the tempo of the crisis but have not by any means managed to solve the basic contradictions of capitalism. Hence we can see the dangers of the policies of the right wing who merely want to intensify all the very policies which ^{are} helping to give rise to the balance of payments crisis.

The fall of £85 millions in the gold reserves during December was largely due to the usual year-end payments on the U.S. and Canadian post-war loans amounting to £67 millions. Even so, this leaves a loss of £18 millions in normal transactions, compared with a corresponding gain of £59 million in November (of which £50 millions was used to make a repayment to the I.M.F.) In this first place, the big total drop demonstrates that British capitalism is not earning enough balance of payments surplus that is needed to meet these annual debt payments, let alone providing for overseas investment and 'aid'. All the latter is still financed by the precarious reserves or out of short-term funds attracted to London from abroad.

Secondly, the December loss brings home how unreliable is the inflow of these short-term funds. Early in December, rumours of a possible revaluation of the Italian lira and the Swiss franc (both without foundation) were sufficient to drain away large funds from London although they had only come in during October and November. At the end of the year, further large amounts of money were withdrawn from both New York and London by Continental commercial banks for the purposes of 'window dressing' of year-end balance sheets.

Between August and November there was a total of inflow into London of some £300 millions: seen against this trend the reversal in December was only small. But the Bank of England's "Quarterly Bulletin" points out that the inflow during August and September seems to have been due primarily to the reversal of short term positions, e.g., the rebuilding of abnormally low balances held in sterling, including inter-company accounts.

Thus we see that even as a short-term device the attempt to get over the balance of payments crisis by attracting short-term funds is extremely limited apart from the long-term disadvantages which have been outlined in a previous article in the bulletin.

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS CRISIS IN JAPAN

We hear much about the 'West German miracle' in the economic field, but since the end of the war the recovery and subsequent rate of growth of the Japanese economy is even more remarkable. For several years a rate of 10-11% increase was achieved, a rate only achieved in the workers' states. On the basis of massive U.S. investment, the vast internal market created by the post-war agrarian reform and the vast reserves of labour which help to keep down wages even in a time of boom the Japanese economy has surged forward, but now the same laws arising from the contradictions of capitalism are beginning to make themselves felt. There is a close parallel between Germany and Japan (with the refugees supplying the vast reserves of labour in the W. German case) and we can perhaps see a little of W. Germany's future by looking at Japan today.

Continued over/

Japanese balance of payments crisis continued/

The present crisis in the Japanese balance of payments dates from the beginning of 1961 when it was clear that the gap on trade account was widening. This became a certainty when the gold and foreign exchange reserves began to fall in May as many in Japan had forecast.

What trends have given rise to this crisis? the first is that of imports which have been soaring all through 1961 through a number of causes. One is the investment boom which has been going ahead harder than ever now that exporters have the prospect of import liberalisation by next October. It is important to be as competitive as possible by then. Another cause is the doubling of the national income plan in ten years. When the targets of this plan were published in the spring each industry hastened its preparation not only to produce its share of the 1970 target but a larger share.

The second main factor for the crisis is the stagnation of exports, mainly due to the U.S. recession which is now ending. The U.S. takes about one-third of total Japanese exports. The problem thus facing Japan is to increase the export of light industrial products to Western industrialised countries and exports of heavy industrial goods to under-developed countries.

At the moment the former suffer from discrimination under article 35 of G.A.T.T. (General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs) on the part of most Western countries which explain the determination of the Japanese Government to liberalise or free from import quotas, 90 per cent of her import trade by October 1st. The Japanese Government knows that no complaint about article 35 will be listened to until this has been done. Many industrialists are undoubtedly nervous about the effects of this move.

As for the export of heavy industrial goods, such as electrical generating sets to under-developed countries, Japan on the whole has higher costs in these sectors of industry than Western countries. She does, however, mostly have lower transport costs to markets like India and the countries of South-East Asia.

The other difficulty is that these countries are short of capital to pay for these products and when they receive loans they are oftentied. Thus the best hope in the immediate future, and Japan knows this, is to export light products to the West. What measures has the Japanese Government taken up to the present to deal with the crisis? All measures have been taken through the medium of credit restriction and not by increased import quotas. The country's difficulties were clearly due to the internal boom. In July the commercial banks were asked to make a 10 per cent cut in their loans extended to customers for the purpose of capital investment.

The bank rate was raised in the same month and again in September. But the chief means of control is through the loans extended by the Bank of Japan to the commercial banks. Since the commercial banks are already extended to their limit they can only make further loans if they are matched by yen for yen loans from the Bank of Japan. The latter will never, in fact, refuse a loan but it may charge one of the penalty rates which may be as high as nine per cent.

Basically the crisis is caused by the contradiction between the rapidly growing industrial power and the almost stagnant purchasing power of the Japanese people, hence then excessive dependence on exports (Selwyn Lloyd please note!!) the upshot being the instability of the Japanese economy and to quote the economic document adopted at the Sixth World Congress of the Fourth International: "...the inevitable awakening of the most exploited masses, together with greater economic instability, will end by creating in Japan a situation that is the most explosive of all the capitalist countries."

A GREAT AMERICAN VICTORY

It is not only the workers' states which can record economic successes, according to the Economist of 30/12/61, certain legislation in the United States achieved its purpose: "...the acreage planted was the least for fifty years and the acreage harvested was the least since records were first kept in 1909" However there was a gloomy side: "...yields went up, by 4 per cent.....as a result in the end this year's total output is only slightly below last year's record" and as a result the administration is introduce a plan to drastically reduce agricultural production. Thus whilst two thirds of world's population is under-fed and millions die each year from malnutrition and starvation the leading capitalist nation cuts down food production. Is any other evidence necessary of the complete rotteness of capitalism?

BIRMINGHAM TRADES COUNCIL ISSUES ANTI-COLOUR BAR LEAFLET

10,000 copies of a leaflet entitled "Brotherhood of Man" are to be distributed in Birmingham by the Trades Council. The leaflet is designed to provide a constructive answer to the large amount of racial propaganda which is rife in Birmingham. In question and answer form it deals with 10 of the most commonly used slanders against the coloured people. It demonstrates that even if there were no coloured people at all in the country that there would still be a housing problem and puts the alternative of housing being a social service and not a field of profit-making. It reminds the readers that coloured workers have always shown the utmost solidarity with their white brothers during strikes. It poses trade union membership and working class unity as the best means of protection in relation to redundancy etc. At the last meeting of the Council delegates placed their orders for copies and made arrangements to distribute them.

YORKSHIRE FEDERATION OF TRADES COUNCILS CONDEMN MECCA COLOUR BAR.

At its last meeting on the weekend of 6th/7th January, the Yorkshire federation of Trades Councils, representing 36 Councils, passed an emergency resolution calling upon the Mecca ballroom, Bradford to lift their colour bar restrictions on admission. It also called ^{and} upon all a sections of the trade union movement and labour party to do the same ^{and} oppose the Mecca policy. The meeting also condemned the Government's Colour bar Immigration Bill.

MASS PROTEST MARCH AGAINST COLOUR BAR BILL IN LONDON

As previously reported in the Bulletin the MCF is organising a march through London this Sunday the 14th of January, starting at 2.45 for the Marble Arch, Hyde Park. It will proceed from there to Trafalgar Square. Many immigrant organisations will be taking part in the march, including a group of West Indian hospital workers in uniform. Trade union, Co-operative, Labour and Young Socialist organisations will be taking part with their banners.

Organised with only short notice, a bus is to go from Nottingham to take part. People from several Young Socialist branches, the Afro Asian West Indian Union, CND, University Socialists etc. will be travelling down.

CIVIL SERVANTS START 'WORK TO RULE' JANUARY 17th.

The 145,000 members of the Civil Servants Clerical Association will begin their work to rule on January 17th unless the Government relents ^{its} attitude towards pay arbitration agreements. In the current issue of 'Red Tape', the union's journal, the general secretary, George Green, gives a guide as to how the work to rule will be put into effect.

The C.S.C.A. has members in all major Government departments (War, Pensions, Inland Revenue, etc.) and there - as in the Post Office - work gets done not by rules but by good will. The Post Office itself will be hit on another front - for C.S.C.A. members are concerned with making up telephone accounts. "No one can complain." says Mr. Green, "If officers carry out their duties in accordance with well-defined instructions.....Working to rule will mean that the staff take no risks and meticulously check at each stage that work is being done according these instructions" In the typing and machine fields, working to rule would have "an immediate and obvious effect on output. It would be pointless to ask for their observance of working to rule while clerks continued to use typewriters. Working to rule would imply that clerical officers must write out and not type their work."

DERBYSHIRE MINERS START WAGE CAMPAIGN

Derbyshire's 32,000 miners are setting the pace for a national wage claims campaign. They have prepared and issued an eight page pamphlet "Smash the Wage Freeze", thousands of leaflets putting their case and hundreds of double-crown posters calling on the pit-men to prepare for action to win a rise of 3s.4d. per shift. In addition they have announced plans for eight mass meetings, the first of which is this Saturday the 13th at the Chesterfield Miners' Welfare at 10.30. On Sunday 14th, also 10.30 there will be meetings at Alfreton, Shirebrook and Heanor. The following Sunday the 21st, meetings at Staveley, Whitwell, Ilkeston and Glapwell. All trade unionists, Labour Party members, especially Young Socialists should link themselves with this campaign.

U.S.D.A.W. PLANS COF PUBLIC ACTIVITY

At its last meeting the Nottingham Central branch of U.S.D.A.W. agreed to support the Trades Council Spring Campaign by supplying public speakers in the City Centre. It also requested the Trades Council to consider making such activity an all the year round practice.

From several towns come reports that Christmas school-leavers are finding it hard to get a job. The Youth employment officer in Doncaster said, "It is a serious situation. By the time the Summer school-leavers were fixed up we just had no vacancies left for the next batch." Only 140 of the 300 leavers have found jobs in Doncaster. In Yorkshire's Don Valley, Thorne and Goole areas 423 out of 853 school-leavers are still looking for work. Liverpool, with over 500 juveniles unemployed before Christmas, school-leavers joined the hunt for work in an area which is particularly short of apprenticeships and training schemes. There, Mr. R.E. Jenks said that, "the situation is not nearly as hopeful as it was 12 months ago."

A one or two point drop in industrial production, as a result of Government policy, may seem a small affair, but these young people are really feeling the effects of Britain's crisis.

WEST NOTTINGHAM YOUNG SOCIALISTS SUPPORT ALGERIAN STRUGGLE

The West Nottingham Young Socialists have adopted a resolution for the Young Socialist ^{annual} conference which pledges full support for the F.L.N. and Algerian Provisional Government. It calls upon the Labour movement to support their Algerian brothers in deeds and not just words by supplying money, etc. for the fight against French imperialism. It also calls for the expulsion of the Mollet 'Socialist' Party from the 2nd International and in particular the Mollet youth organisation from the I.U.Y.S.. These organisations should make way for the representatives of the United Socialist Party, which was formed by socialists who broke away from or were expelled from Mollet's party because of their opposition to the latter's 100 per cent support from French imperialism in Algeria.

EAST MIDLANDS SCHOOL ON ALGERIA

The South Nottingham Federation of Young Socialists has organised a school on Algeria to be held on 21st of January in Nottingham. The speaker will be John Baird, editor of Free Algeria.

QUESTIONNAIRE CAMPAIGN STARTS

The previously mentioned questionnaire campaign has made a start in Nottingham. Members of the North Nottingham branch made a small sample canvas a week or so after Xmas. The experience they gained will be of considerable help in framing the final form of the questionnaire. At the last meeting of the South Nottinghamshire Federation of Young Socialists the campaign was discussed and all the branches have been asked to draw up plans to get the campaign underway.

EHRENBERG CRITICISES SOVIET AUTHORITIES BEFORE 1,000

Hundreds were turned away from the Moscow Polytechnic Museum when Ilya Ehrenburg read extracts from the as yet unpublished 4th and 5th volumes of his memoirs. The crowd of over 1,000 heard him say, when asked how he managed to survive the Stalin era, that sometimes life was like a lottery ticket - he had "drawn a lucky number." When asked about his feelings when he heard of the death of Pasternak, he said that the four line announcement of Pasternak's death was unworthy of a great Russian poet." at which point the audience burst into applause.

The young Russian poet, Yevtushenko, whose recent denunciation of anti-semitism in Russian provoked charges of "pygmy cosmopolitan", etc., has replied in the form of a poem. This poem has not so far been published by the Soviet press, but has appeared in the Polish "Polityka" and goes beyond just a charge of anti-semitism. We have appended the text, as per Guardian report as a supplement.

FRANCE - TROTSKYISTS CALL FOR 'SELF-DEFENCE UNITS'

In a statement issued in connection with the December 19th demonstrations and strikes the Parti Communiste Internationaliste, the French section of the Fourth International, while calling for full support said that 'this strike must not be a final aim in itself...' the workers organisations should 'build a united front against the OAS...' and 'organise in order to destroy it self defence groups which will not wait for the action of the of the gaullist regime which is unable to oppose fascism.'

IS THE GOVERNMENT RESPONSIBLE FOR THOUSANDS OF DEATHS?

During the recent cold spell there was an enormous increase in the death rate, most of the deaths being the very old and the very young. The latter reap most benefit from welfare foods, which since the Government imposed charges upon them have been used much less. (Orange juice -60% ,Cod liver oil -70%, Vitamins A & D-54%)

CEYLON - 62 SENATORS AND M.P.s CALL FOR REVISION OF TROTSKY'S TRAIL

The Lanka Sama Samaja Party (Ceylon Socialist Party), Ceylon section of the Fourth International, has organised a big campaign for the revision of the Moscow trials and Trotsky's case. In a letter to the I.S. they report that 62 senators and members of the House of Representatives had signed so far a letter addressed to Khrushchov calling for these steps to be taken.

Our Ceylon comrades stated in their letter that they had not taken any signatures from members of the U.N.P. (the extreme right wing) or from Cabinet Ministers. The signatures came from our Party, the SLFP (the Government Party), the MFP and the Tamil Federal Party. One copy of the petition went direct to Moscow and a duplicate (also with original signatures) to the Soviet embassy in Ceylon.

CEYLON - BIG STRIKE WAVE

In a report to the I.S. our comrades state:

".....We are having a wave of strikes. The CTB General Strike (which started with the support of the SLFP union also) was a great victory, not only from a trade union angle, for the party, but also politically (since the Prime Minister was exposed as having stated falsehoods)

"Whereas perhaps as much as 75% of the CTB workers had earlier been pro-SLFP politically, after the strike the situation is quite different, with us as the principal gainers. The harbour strike is also a complete one in Colombo (i.e., the workers of the Port Cargo Corporation.) There are several unions, but we have managed in making the real issue that of the monthly ^{wages} (not attached to any norm), in spite of the confusion spread by the other unions. If we win, it will be a great step forward, generally strengthening the self-confidence of the working class.

"The Oil workers and bank clerks may follow. Also early 1962 a big strike of the Government workers (along with the clerks) is in the offing. SLFP's M.P.s are demoralised, while the Cabinet itself is divided by internal rivalries.."

FRANCE - APPEAL FOR ALGERIAN PRISONERS

The I.S. has asked all Fourth Internationalists to make as widely known as possible the following appeal by the Committee of Solidarity with all victims of Repression of the Algerian War. The committee organises and co-ordinates all aid for Algerians who are imprisoned on an international and national scale. The appeal reads:

"The Algerian prisoners have recently fought a hard battle lasting 21 days, 21 days of hunger strike, 21 days during which they did not hesitate to risk their lives to achieve their demands and to obtain recognition of their status as political prisoners.

"Among other things, they have won the right to receive four parcels per year: at Christmas, at the end of Ramadan, at Easter and on July 14th.

"A parcel of 5 kilos (11 lbs) costs about 30 new French francs (2 guineas) We want to send these four parcels to each prisoner. We would like to send parcels to the Algerians kept in "camps de regroupement" in France and in Algeria.

"To meet these new needs we rely once more on your sympathy. Please send your gifts (money exclusively) to :

M. Albett Roux
30, rue Lecourbe,
Paris 15^{eme}.

The appeal is signed by the president Laurent Schwartz, who comrades will remember as a witness for Pablo and Santen at their trial. Among other members of the committee are Simone de Beauvoir, Jean Paul Sartre, Arthur Adamov, Claude Bourdet, Michel Leiris, Maurice Nadeau, Vercors, and Pierre Vidal Naquet. Schwarz and Roux have both been the victims of plastic bomb attacks by the OAS.

ITALY - OUR COMRADES ADDRESS ITALIAN SOCIALIST YOUTH CONGRESS

A delegation of the G. C.R., Italian section of the Fourth International attended the recent Congress of the Italian Socialist (Nenni) Youth. One of the comrades addressed the Congress in the name of the G.C.R.. L'Avanti, paper of the Italian Socialist Party reported the speech.

U.S.A. - S.W.P. OFFERS HELP TO COMMUNIST PARTY AGAINST GOVERNMENT REPRESSION

The Socialist Workers Party of the United States has sent a letter to the leadership of the U.S Communist Party offering all help in its campaign against the recent Government action against that party.

Text of poem by Yevgeni Yevtushenko in reply to criticism of him by the Soviet press. This text is reproduced from the Guardian having been translated from Polish as it appeared in the Warsaw journal "Polityka"

They tell me: "You have courage, man."
But it is not true.
I have never had an excess of courage.
I have simply thought it indecent
To have to sink
To the cowardice of my colleagues.
I did not try to shake the world to its foundations.
I wrote.
So what...I did not write a denunciation.
What was puffed up stung me to laughter.
I ridiculed what was false.
I tried, quite loudly, to say what I thought.
Some time, posterity will remember
(And shame will burn;
When vileness and bluff have been destroyed)
This very curious time.
These curious times
When
The most ordinary decency was called "courage."