

THE BULLETIN

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for
Socialists*

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Letter to Readers

This week we take the unusual step of carrying an advertisement for something other than a publication. We do this for the reason that we believe that it will be of interest to our readers, and that it is a thoroughly commendable venture. The holidays advertised, for which parties are now being organised, are inexpensive, non-political and particularly designed for young people. If you are interested in joining one of these parties or wish to travel to these centres individually at any time during the season, we suggest you write to the address given on the bottom of the enclosed leaflet.

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MAY DAY 1963: Although in Britain we do not celebrate May Day on May 1st (except in Liverpool) even the compromise celebration of the first Sunday in May is a very important event. Years of bureaucratic revision have tried to turn it into a holiday affair with the May Queen as the centre of attraction but still the essence shows through the tinsel. May Day is the day the workers demonstrate as a separate class, as a separate social force - the most important and decisive social force. This year ought to see a tremendous turn-out and the May Day demonstration should be turned into one calling for the kicking out of the Tories.

It is worth noting that the original May Day movement was largely concerned with the fight for the shorter working week. This year the most reactionary aspect of the Tory's attitude towards the working class is expressed in its attempts to stop, through 'Old Nic.', the progress of the fight for the 40 hour week. The fight for the shorter working week should be to the fore in all campaigning both at May Day and in the coming year.

RACIALISM IN BRISTOL: A distressing situation in the Bristol Labour movement has come out into the open. A section of the working class, the busmen who work for the Bristol Omnibus Company (or at least some of them) have threatened strike action to enforce a colour bar. The busmen at one depot are reported to have decided to withhold their contribution to their union's political fund because of the Labour Party's opposition to the colour bar move. The main wings of the Labour movement in Bristol: the Trades Council, the Borough Labour Party and T.G.W.U. (the men's union) have come out against the colour bar. It may be that the bus company and the press are exaggerating the feelings of the busmen and this as an excuse to cover the firm's policies. However, Marxists must face the fact, that a serious situation exists and that sections of the working class are infected with chauvinism.

Of course, basically this question has nothing to do with colour and it is the fear of unemployment (or even the fear of loss of overtime earnings) which creates the atmosphere which expresses itself in colour bar ideology. The Tory Government gave authority to the arguments that coloured workers help to cause unemployment and the housing shortage by pushing the Commonwealth Immigration Bill through. Fascist groups will attempt to exploit the situation as they have in the past. However, there are fundamental differences between the present position and the last time incidents of this nature occurred. Firstly, the level of unemployment is much higher particularly amongst the youth. Secondly, the situation of British capitalism is more critical and the main party of the British bourgeoisie face electoral disaster as matters stand now. Whilst the Tories have international 'cold war' reasons for not wanting 'colour trouble', no such restriction applies to local Tories or to the various Tory-minded journals. Whilst not raising the bogey of an immediate mass fascist movement, as some have done, it is necessary to take this situation very seriously.

We must pursue the fight against this nascent racist threat to the unity of the working class movement through the Labour Party by stiffening the positions already taken by Wilson and others. No compromise of any kind is possible on this question. We must be prepared to explain this whole phenomena from a class point of view.

IS JIM MATTHEWS TO HAVE FORDS ANTI-SHOP STEWARDS JOB?

The Daily Express of 22nd April carried an item by its industrial correspondent which claims that "Big Jim" Matthews, one of the most right wing T.U. officials in the movement, is in line for the job of keeping the Ford's shop stewards in their place. Readers will remember that the Jack report of inquiry into the industrial relations at the Ford Dagenham works recommended the appointment of a full time T.U. official to be 'in charge' of the Shop stewards. Matthews retires from his post in the NUGAW at the end of June and some T.U. officials think he would be the man for the job the reports adds.

BIG VICTORY FOR LEFT IN THE A.E.U. - The election of Hugh Scanlon, a left wing Labour Party member and a sponsor of Union Voice, to the position of E.C. member of the A.E.U. by 13,743 votes to 9,461 is a real smack in the face for the right wing of the union. Two previous ballots were declared void, the right wing leadership of the A.E.U. alleging interference on Scanlon's behalf. Eddie Frow, the district secretary of the Manchester area, was recently suspended for including a resolution criticising the executive's handling of election in the D.C. minutes. Despite all this, Scanlon has won in what is reported to be the highest poll for the election. His area covers large parts of the North West, and the Midlands and includes the big engineering centres of Birmingham, Coventry and Manchester.

RIGHT WING UNDER HEAVY PRESSURE AT U.S.D.A.W. CONFERENCE. - Although the platform won out on the question of defence policy, the right wing leadership have not had it all their own way by any means at the USDAW annual conference. On two domestic issues they suffered reverses of some significance. The first being on the question of an enquiry into why the union loses one third of its membership each year. A resolution from the South London branch called for the setting up of such a committee and the seeking of fields of large scale recruitment. Alf. Allen, the general secretary, said that the setting up of this committee would be "tantamount to a vote of no confidence in the executive", this brought widespread shouts of disapproval from the delegates. From the chair, Walter Padley made an 11th hour switch to avoid an overwhelming defeat for the leadership. He called for a unanimous vote for the proposition.

The second, and more significant, defeat was on the question of equal pay. The union is committed to equal pay for men and women, of course, but it has negotiated many agreements which perpetuate or even increase the differentials. Branches wanted to remedy this anomaly by committing the union to refuse future wage increases which do not "assist in achieving" equal pay for men and women. The executive opposed a resolution along these lines from the North West London branch. Padley however, unwilling to accept defeat, called for a card vote. It was then carried by 121,691 votes to 108,286.

GIRL STRIKERS GET JOBS BACK AFTER STRIKE VICTORY. The 100 factory girls who struck for five weeks to force the management of Brayheads Electronic Components, Dronfield, Derbyshire, to recognise their union, have all got their jobs back. The management after conceding defeat have announced that the strikers will get letters telling them when to return. Some are due to begin on Monday the 6th May.

ALBANIANS PREDICT KHRUSHCHOV'S DOWNFALL SOON

In a recent article in the Albanian Communist Party paper Zeri i Popullit, Khrushchov was denounced as a "demagogue, slanderer and schismatic" and, the paper claimed, "Marxist-Leninists" are cutting the links of the "revisionist conspiracy" one by one. It forecasts that the "demagoguery and Khrushchov's tricks will not last for long because this would be dangerous for the international communist movement." The Albanian paper claims that K's policies have created a series of difficulties in internal and foreign ^{affairs} which can no longer be concealed. The result of all this is that some people with "doubts about the alleged blessings of this revisionist course" are struggling against K. and his clique.

CHINESE SUPPORT GRIPPA GROUP IN BELGIUM

We have already reported the expulsion of four members of the Central Committee of the Belgian Communist for pro-Chinese views at the Easter Conference of that party. The Chinese press have widely reported the statement issued by Grippa and the three

"We are expelled by the 14th Congress of the C.P. of Belgium because we oppose opportunism and revisionism into which the leading organ is leading the party; because we hope that the resolutions of the 11th, 12th and 13th congresses of our party be collectively implemented and that the charter of the international communist movement -- the statement of the 81 communist and workers' parties -- be respected....our expulsion by the national congress was achieved behind the backs of the communists in Brussels. It even refused to hear our views."

(Ed: the wording follows the NCNA report)

It is noteworthy that the Chinese press did not report any message of greetings by the Chinese C.P. to the Belgian C.P.

FINNISH C.P. SECRETARY ATTACKS CHINESE

At the 13th Congress of the C.P. of Finland also held over Easter, the General Secretary of the party, Ville Pessi, attacked the Chinese C.P. and the Albanian C.P. He said that the Finnish Communist Party "cannot understand the positions taken by the Chinese with regard to the Caribbean crisis last year," he also expressed "regret" at articles in the Chinese press attacking other C.P.s.

AUSTRALIAN C.P. SPLIT WIDENS

An Australian correspondent has drawn our attention to the struggle going on inside the Australian C.P., particularly in the Victoria state organisation. A group around Ted Hill, the former Secretary of the State organisation faces expulsion unless they repudiate their pro-Chinese position. Frank Johnson, who took over secretaryship from Hill, has now been accused of acting as a contact man between the Hill faction and the pro-Chinese New Zealand C.P.. Flo Russell, a supporter of Hill, was dismissed from her job as industrial organiser but the Hill faction got 20 signatures from T.U. cadres protesting against the dismissal. Our correspondent points out that the Hill faction although to the 'left' of the Sharkey leadership have more in common with the Albanians than with revolutionary socialists. He promises a report of the Victoria state convention where this particular struggle came to a head.

Meanwhile, the press reports that after Peking Review had attacked the Sharkey leadership in its March 29th issue, the C.P. bookshops in Australia suddenly all sold out of the journal!

The Times last week carried a report, datelined Lisbon, April 26, which was concerned with a manifesto calling for better conditions for workers in Portugal. The report stated that the manifesto is being distributed and it is hoped to present it to the Minister of Economy on May 1st. The manifesto, which is unsigned, also calls for the end of the Angola war and an amnesty for all political prisoners and exiles. It urges workers to gather at the Ministry of Economy when the document is due to be presented.

It states: "Our lives are becoming more and more painful and difficult. Salaries and wages do not meet even our most immediate needs". Emphasizing difficulties in obtaining adequate food, clothing, education, health services, and housing, the manifesto states that the cost of living is rising frighteningly; there has been a serious shortage of potatoes, rice, olive oil, and dried cod fish. These form the staple diet of the Portuguese worker. Speculators with influence in the state corporative organization are accused of exploitation. The manifesto demands a general rise in pay for workers, lower rents and solution of the housing problem, lower taxes, and better education for under-privileged children.

At a meeting held in the Lisbon School of Economics on April 26th, university students told reporters that they would continue to fight for "the essential liberties for all Portuguese which are contained in the constitution". They complained of Government restrictions on their activities. They hoped to hold a holiday camp in the summer at which they would elaborate a future plan of action. Students complained that Dr. Gaivao Teles, the new Minister of Education, and Dr. Paulo Cunha, the Rector of the University, had not fulfilled the promises to make essential reforms in the university after last year's students' strike. (From a London correspondent.)

WESTERN EUROPEAN MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

from Hsinhua (3/5/63)

The working people of Western European countries marked May 1st international Labour day with meetings and demonstrations. In Rome, 200,000 working people held a rally at San Giovanni Square. Workers in Bari, Naples, Milan, Turin and other Italian cities also held meetings celebrate the occasion.

Working people in Paris gathered before the Labour Exchange to honour this day of workers' solidarity and struggle. In Dortmund and Cologne, West Germany, rallies were also held by the working people.

Greek workers marked May 1st with a 24-hour general strike and mass meetings in defence of their rights. Nearly 20,000 workers attended a meeting at the Panatianaikos stadium, held after a struggle with the authorities ended in permission being given to hold it. A big May Day meeting was also held in Salonika.

The Lisbon workers' May Day demonstration was ruthlessly countered by the Portuguese Salazar dictatorial rule. Steel-helmeted rifle-carrying police in battle dress used clubs, tear gas and waterhoses against unarmed workers. Many were injured and arrested.

In Helsinki, thousands of workers braved the rain to attend a meeting marking international Labour day.

MAY FIRST CELEBRATION IN LIVERPOOL: On Merseyside it is customary to hold a celebration on the actual May 1st and this year was no exception. About 400 took part in a march through the city which was seen by thousands of shoppers and lunch-break workers. Unemployment was the theme of the demonstration - among the banners were those from Plumbers, constructional engineers, builders, boilermakers, foundry workers, Labour Party & Trades Council, Young Socialists and the Merseyside Unemployment Workers Committee. Builders from several sites stopped work to take part in the demonstration.

We were very fortunate in obtaining from a delegate to the recent C.P. Congress a copy of the amendments to the main political resolution and the list of branch resolutions. The resolutions and amendments show that the split in the international communist movement is leading to emergence of tendencies within the British C.P. . Although all the dissident resolutions were defeated by very large majorities, the very fact that branch organisations exist with a majority of dissidents is a most important change in the internal life of the British C.P. . Of course, democracy has not been won and there are many restrictions on discussion, e.g., a resolution from North Lewisham called upon "Congress to censure the Political Committee for its refusal to allow the publication of contributions to the pre-congress discussion in "Comment" which argued against the proposal of the E.C. to end public controversy..." in the international communist movement. The right of tendencies has most certainly not been won and it remains to be seen how long the oppositionists will remain without action being taken against them.

The amendments and resolutions cover a political spectrum ranging from a 'pro-Chinese' position - Bell Green, (Coventry) - to one from Walthamstow, which reads: "In the opinion of Congress it would assist in the preservation of peace and the advance to Socialism if those members of the Party entitled to do so took their seats in the House of Lords and participated in its debates on appropriate occasions."

An amendment from Fawley (Hampshire) put the Chinese position on the relationship between the fight for peace and the fight for socialism. During the debate the delegate from the branch expanded his point of view to include an attack on the "British Road to Socialism" arguing that the party had discarded the revolutionary method for the constitutional one and that it was evading the issue of the seizure of state power, seeing only the question of a Parliamentary majority. His speech was widely reported in the Chinese press.

The longest and best amendment come from L.S.E./King's College (London) covering nearly two pages of the order paper and comprising well over 2,000 words. It has the effect of completely rewriting the section: Why Britain's Crisis. Making a revolutionary socialist analysis, it calls for a struggle around transitional demands to raise the worker from "... an economic level of consciousness to that of a political understanding of the need to smash the capitalist state and to replace it by workers' rule." It goes on to lay down tactics for Marxist participation in united fronts around given issues which are completely contrary to the standard liquidationist tactics of the Stalinists. This remarkable amendment ends up by calling for the reconstruction of the Communist International"....which, in the era of imperialism, is a basic necessity for the organisations of world revolution." (Ed. Note: copies of the amendment have been produced and are available at 2d each - 1½d for bulk).

In the section for Communist Unity a resolution from North Lewisham calls for a continuation of the international discussion and said that the role of the CPGB should not be to try to stop public controversy" but to try to get the discussion on a more healthy basis..." and such a line of action to achieve this. Bell Green's two resolutions in this section are both directed against Yugoslavia the first calling for more factual information about the policies and economics of fraternal countries, and the second called for the reaffirmation of the famous ^{passage} denouncing Yugoslav revisionism in Moscow Declaration. The section on the Communist Party has a number of resolutions with critical undertones: Odhams calling for the rearrangement of Congress timetable to allow adequate political discussion. Stretford and Fulham called for a speedy publication of a Party history.

An Australian reader has drawn our attention to the following editorial which appeared in the Australian journal Financial Review:
"Thanks to the new company law, the people of Australia have been told about the financial results of General Motors-Holdens in 1962.

Without this enforced obligation, we should still be in the dark as to what this immensely important company was doing, as the company took steps about two years ago to ensure secrecy about their profits in Australia.

There has already been much discussion about the size of the profit made by the company - some \$5 $\frac{1}{2}$ million, of which nearly £12 million has been remitted to the United States in the form of dividends.

Mr. Staniforth Ricketson said recently to the shareholders of Capel Court Investment Company, on the subject of foreign companies investing in Australia: "In some quarters there has been a tendency to suggest that we in Australia should be grateful for the good things they have provided, as indeed we are.

"However, no one can justifiably claim that the entry of overseas capital into this country has been due to any factor other than the desire to take advantage of Australian conditions and markets for the purpose of making profits.

"Public opinion has crystallised into a demand that overseas corporations which are reaping the benefits of Australian conditions should be prepared to concede to the local public at least a 30 per cent equity in their Australian operations.

"On more than one occasion, our present Prime Minister has emphasised the desirability of local participation in the equity and profits of Australian subsidiaries of overseas companies....."

General Motors-Holdens have now given Mr. Ricketson their considered answer. Having been obliged by law to tell the Australian public what profits they are making, and having bowed to that legal enforcement, this company now reveals that in 1962 they paid about £11.9 million in dividends to their United States parents.

This was equal to approximately one half the total earnings of all Australia's exports of butter during 1961-62.

It is clearly of no use any longer to even discuss this issue with the G.M.-H. management."

URUGUAY UPSET BY U.S. DUMPING SEEKS CUBAN TRADE

A Hsinhua report from Montevideo dated May third, reports that the Governmental Council of Uruguay decided on May 2nd to invite a Cuban trade delegation to Uruguay to negotiate a trade agreement between the two countries. The Government made this decision in view of the fact that its efforts to get the U.S. to stop dumping rice to Canada (Uruguay's traditional market) have been to no avail. Uruguay is feeling the effects of keen competition in her export markets and is seeking new ones. A delegation from the Korean Democratic People's Republic is in Uruguay negotiating trade now.

JAMAICA - POLICE BAN UNEMPLOYMENT MARCH. (From "The Militant", 22.4.63)

Police banned a "hunger march" of jobless called by the Unemployed Workers Council which was to have been held in Kingston on March 31. Special troops were moved into Kingston during the last week in March to intimidate the workers and enforce the ban. Earlier in the month, Leonard Soloman, 26 year old member of the UWC, was arrested on trumped-up charges of sedition.

The Unemployed Workers Council held a mass protest meeting in the face of the government's show of force, on March 31. Over 4,000 workers present ratified a resolution declaring: "Be it resolved that the Unemployed Workers Council, having the support of hundreds of thousands of Jamaicans, protests against government suppression of the rights of citizens to peacefully demonstrate and express their will as a shameless...suppression of democracy and civil liberty".

Leonard Soloman was arrested on March 7. The government claims that he made "seditious" remarks at three street meetings held by the UWC. At these meetings Soloman demanded that the government take steps to deal with the nation's severe unemployment problem.

The condition of the Jamaican people is critical. Although the island was granted political independence from Britain last August, it is still dominated economically by British and American capitalists, who siphon off the wealth of the country.

Jamaica has a population of 1,700,000. Of the work force of 700,000 there 300,000 unemployed or underemployed, living at near-starvation level.

At present 45% of the country's farm lands are owned by 350 people, equivalent to eight-tenths of one percent of the farming population. On the other hand 77% of those engaged in farming own only 14% of the land. The infant mortality rate is staggeringly high.

Against this background of extreme poverty and exploitation the Unemployed Workers Council was born in May 1962. The Council began in West Kingston in the struggle of the unemployed against the government's practice of political discrimination in the hiring of labour at an oil refinery project. A whole series of militant actions and demonstrations by the UWC, which were attacked by the police, forced some concessions from the government. In carrying out the fight at the oil refinery project, the UWC reached out for support among the unemployed nationally. This in turn led it to formulate a programme for a general solution of unemployment across the whole island. And the UWC became the spearhead of action by the jobless.

The "hunger march" was called to demand the end to unemployment on a national scale. The prospect of tens of thousands of angry jobless panicked the government and the march was banned and the troops called in. The UWC called upon students, intellectuals and democratic forces to support the workers in opposing the undemocratic acts of the government.

ECONOMIC NOTES:- STRIKES IN 1962.

The April Ministry of Labour Gazette produced a detailed analysis of strikes in 1962:

Industry group.	Number of stoppages	Number of workers	Working days lost	
			Aggregated	per 1,000 employees
Coal mining.	1,205	154,500	308,000	250-500
Food industries.	12	4,900	5,000	10-20
Coke ovens, man. fuels.	2	1,000	1,000	50-100
Chemicals, explosives, plastics etc.	10	8,000	10,000	20-50
Iron and Steel (including tubes)	88	290,600	378,000	500-1,000
Non-electrical engineering.	159	1,377,900	1,613,000	1,000-1,500
Electrical machinery and goods.	53	672,100	706,000	500-1,000
Motor vehicles and cycles.	116	508,300	747,000	1,500-2,000
Shipbuilding and marine engineering.	78	322,800	465,000	1,500-2,000
Aircraft.	33	270,100	292,000	1,000-1,500
Locomotives, carriages, trams etc.	22	116,200	120,000	500-1,000
Other metal goods.	54	211,500	239,000	250-500
Cotton, flax and man-made fibres.	7	800	3,000	10-20
Hosiery and other knitted goods.	9	1,800	17,000	100-250
All other textile industries.	15	6,600	10,000	20-50
Footwear	3	700	2,000	10-20
Bricks, fireclay and refractory goods.	8	1,000	3,000	20-50
Pottery.	3	1,100	1,000	10-20
Glass.	5	5,000	9,000	100-250
Cement, abrasives and building materials not elsewhere specified.	5	4,700	5,000	20-50
Furniture, bedding, upholstery.	11	3,100	10,000	50-100
Timber, wood and cork.	4	1,300	2,000	10-20
Paper and board, cartons, etc.	8	8,400	9,000	20-50
Other manufacturing industries.	34	44,400	100,000	250-500
Construction.	316	55,100	222,000	100-250
Railways.	8	238,700	239,000	500-1,000
Road passenger transport.	28	15,500	28,000	100-250
Road haulage contracting.	27	1,600	5,000	20-50
Sea transport.	3	1,100	3,000	10-20
Port and inland water transport.	66	49,800	147,000	1,000-1,500
Other transport and communication.	4	900	10,000	20-50
TOTAL	2,449	4,422,700	5,798,000XXX	250-500

XXX In Tobacco, Pharmaceutical preparations, and Banking, Insurance and finance there were no recorded industrial stoppages. In Agriculture, Forestry and Fishing, Mining (other than Coal), Grain Milling, Bread and Flour, Woollen and Worsted, the number of days lost were less than 500. In Oils, Paints, Soap, Polishes, adhesives, etc., Clothing other than footwear, Printing and Publishing, Gas, Electricity and water, Distributive Trades, Professional and Scientific Services, and Public Administration there were less than 10 days lost per thousand employees. Some workers, largely in the Engineering, shipbuilding and Motor Vehicles industries were involved in more than one stoppage during the year and are counted more than once in the year's total. The NET number of individuals involved in stoppages was approximately 2,426,000. For non-electrical engineering, electrical machinery, etc., shipbuilding, and motor vehicles, the NET totals were 682,000, 334,000, 152,000 and 234,000 respectively.