

1502

THE BULLETIN

*An Information Service
for
Socialists*

VOLUME TWO. NUMBER 12 (NEW SERIES) 23rd March 1963.

4^D

CONTENTS

- Page 1. - - - Editorial Notes - Wilson - Unemployment demonstration
- The French miners.
- Page 2. - - - Y.S. Unemployment campaign.
Y.S. Periodicals.
Y.S. National committee members walks out.
- Page 3. - - - London C.D.
L.C.C.'s building programme cut.
London Labour Party resolutions - amendments.
- Page 4. - - - Destalinisation in Lithuania.) Did the Chinese celebrate
New Chinese journal.) Stalin's birthday?
Ecuadorian youth support "armed insurrection."
- Page 5. - - - Chinese publish more statements.
Khrushchov's tears at Stalin's funeral.
- Page 6. - - - Canadian General Election campaign.
Cuba beats U.S. Ban.
Raleigh Worker's success.
International School - speakers.
- Page 7. - - - The French miners - Algerian T.U.'s support
- International solidarity.
- Page 8. - - - Economic notes.

Letter to Readers.

Readers will be interested to learn that Michel Raptis (Pablo) visited England a week or so ago. He was the official Algerian observer at the "Towards a World Economic Conference" meeting held in London. He spoke in the discussion and his speech has been reproduced in the organisers' report of the conference. We hope to be having copies of this soon. Raptis also spoke at the Algeria meeting which we mentioned in our last issue. Unfortunately the report of this arrived too late for inclusion in this issue.

Copies of the Tripoli Programme have arrived from Canada and copies can be obtained from the 'Bookshop' (1/9d post free).

SUBSCRIPTION RATE - 12/6d FOR SIX MONTHS (Post free).

Published by :- The International Bookshop,
4, Dane St.,
Alfred St. Central,
Nottingham.

Produced
by
Voluntary labour.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WILSON ON TRAFALGAR SQUARE. 'Fings aint what they used to be', could one imagine Gaitskell speaking as Wilson did last Sunday? Wilson pledged (a) that arms sales to South Africa would be stopped by the Labour Government; (b) pressure would be put on other countries to do the same; (c) arms sales to Portugal would also cease; (d) Fenner Brockway's bill against racial discrimination would be passed and (e) that measures would be taken to educate people in racial tolerance. He also condemned racial discrimination by sections of the Labour movement. This represents a tremendous victory for the fight of the left for an alliance between the colonial revolution and the workers of the metropolitan countries. Whilst we know from experience that centrist leaders of the Wilson type are completely unreliable, the fact that the left line is now the official line is an enormous advantage.

Wilson's actions on this front confirm the assessment that he is seeking to shift the party's image to the left. This is a different strategy from that of Gaitskell's in that it seeks to expand Labour's support not by wooing the middle class but by mobilising working class support by slightly more radical policies. For those trying to build a firm left this is a very welcome development.

THE MARCH 26th. UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATION. There is every indication that there is to be one of the most important and largest demonstrations of its kind for a whole period. The main point to establish is the absolute necessity of a socialist solution to the problem of unemployment. Other measures to be supported must not have in mind making capitalism more efficient but of undermining it in essence. The problem of presenting these ideas to the mass of the participants in the demonstration will not be an easy one.

The necessity of a socialist solution presents itself at this stage in the form of fighting for a Labour Government pledged to the policies of clause four in its fullest sense. This should be the main slogan of the demonstration and other slogans - for work sharing, for a shorter working week, etc. - are subordinate to this overriding demand. The job of making sure a Labour Government is returned that will endeavour to apply clause four would be much facilitated if the mass of demonstrators would join the Labour Party and, take part in the fight to build a firm left. Certain journals (i.e. 'Union Voice' and 'Young Guard.') can be used for the latter purpose, we hope readers of the Bulletin will do all they can to see these journals have a wide sale.

THE FRENCH MINERS STRIKE. We have devoted a good deal of space to this subject in our present issue. It represents the first big fight between the workers and De Gaulle since the latter's rise to power. An undermining of the Gaullist regime in France would weaken all the reactionary forces in Europe. Aid for the striking French miners must be seen in this light. Moreover, for various factors a campaign of aid for the French miners will be very popular. The N.U.M. will soon be officially launching an appeal for funds, etc. We have just learned that the Derbyshire area of the N.U.M. has sent two delegates to France to confer with the striking miners. They will visit the Trade union centres and ask their French counterparts what assistance they require in the struggle. In our next issue we will carry reports of this visit and of other action in support of our French class brothers.

- **1505** A promising start to the "Youth Campaign Against Unemployment" took place on Sunday March 17th at the ACTT Hall in Soho Square (as announced in last week's Bulletin). Among the speakers were John Baird M.P. and Arthur Leane, Vice-President of the Chemical Workers' Union. An audience of Young Socialists from London and Middlesex listened attentively to the speakers introducing the Campaign. Some of the older comrades in the audience pledged support, and a resolution supporting the suggestion of a Youth Campaign leaflet - "Youth Unemployment, A Fighting Policy," and the March 26th lobby of Parliament was passed unanimously.

PROLIFERATION OF YOUNG SOCIALIST PERIODICALS.

Young Socialist periodicals in Britain breed like flies and following our report of the Putney "Young Left", we have received details of other YS papers and Bulletins. Readers might be interested in obtaining some of these and we give below the names of these periodicals and the addresses from which they may be obtained. These are simply papers whose existence has become known to us - we know nothing of their political bent. "Gloucester Rebel", Miss J. Biddell, 13, Stratton Road, Gloucester. "Stockport Federation Bulletin" from Mr. F. Quinn, 39, Buckingham Rd., Cheadle Humo, Cheshire. "Ayr Young Socialist" - the journal of the Ayr YS Branch - 20, New Bridge Street, Ayr, Scotland. "Norwich Liberty" - Norwich LP H.Q. 59, Bethel Street, Norwich. "Edmonton Forward", Secretary, H. Tarling, 205 Fore Street, W. 18. "Gravesend Signpost" 24, Overcliff, Gravesend. "Enfield Opinion" Secretary, 3 River Front, Enfield.

Whilst the content of many of these journals is probably rather provincial and local, it is one way of informing oneself of trends in the YS movement by subscribing to one or two of them.

YOUNG SOCIALISTS NATIONAL COMMITTEE MEMBER WALKS OUT. From a London Correspondent.

Shortly after the beginning of last weekend's YS National Committee, the delegate for the East Midlands, Dave Ablitt, walked out. This followed a resolution moved by Mr. Ablitt. It failed to gain a seconder because the Acting Chairman, Miss J. Dugdale, who supported the resolution was unable to second it, being in the Chair. The resolution called for the indefinite adjournment of the meeting because of its unrepresentative composition. Since its election last Easter, the YS National Committee has not held a fully representative meeting, due to the suspension and subsequent expulsion of several elected members.

At a recent meeting, the Labour Party's National Executive decided to replace the resigned and expelled members with the defeated candidates in the original elections. The situation now exists where some four of the "members" co-opted on to the Committee by the N.E.C. to represent 256 branches, received only 15 votes.

Readers of Tribune should note the existence of several important errors of fact in this week's issue. Flavius is wrong to report Dave Ablitt as having resigned. In fact he has not tendered his resignation but for the second time has withdrawn from National Committee meetings because of their composition, and is refraining from participating in their affairs until this position is rectified. Furthermore it is not true that Janet Dugdale is the sole remaining member of the NC who was elected at the YS Annual Conference. Besides Dave Ablitt there are the two original right-wingers (the only two to be elected) who have been supplemented by the coopted members. By this means, Transport House has converted a 9 - 2 left-wing majority into a 9 - 2 right-wing majority.

1506

On Saturday, the London Civil Defence Region organized a special elected members course at the Guildhall Livery Hall. The object of the exercise was to convince councillors in the Greater London area that Civil Defence was a practical proposition. High powered speakers ranging from A.C.W. Drew, the Civil Defence chief of the Home Office, to D. Scott-Wilson, M.B.E., A.R.I.C., (regional training officer) attempted to convince an assortment of Labour and Conservative councillors that effective preparations had in fact been made to "protect Britain from a nuclear attack".

There were at least 300 delegates to this conference, and the time allowed for discussion was sufficient for a number of pointed questions to be asked which punctured the balloon of deception and self-deception that has been woven around the Civil Defence recruiting campaign.

The principal line pursued by the more vocal critics of Civil Defence was that :- 1. the name Civil Defence is a misnomer, it should be Civil Rescue or Civil Emergency Corps, and-
2. that the basic concept of Civil Defence was an elaborate deception perpetuated on a gullible public.

GOVERNMENT AXES L.C.C. SCHOOL BUILDING PROGRAMME.

The London County Council, along with many other local authorities throughout Britain has had its education estimates cut by the Tory Minister of Education. The L.C.C. planned twenty-five school building projects in London for the last year of its 1960-65 programme, costing about £3 millions. Only two of the projects have been approved by the minister, which with the balance of the previous programme adds up to only £816,500.

AMENDMENTS TO LONDON LABOUR PARTY RESOLUTIONS.

There are two key amendments to the London Labour Party Conference resolutions. The conference takes place at the end of this month, on March 30th and 31st. Hackney Central Labour Party has amended the Executive Committee resolution which "views with deep concern the acute shortage of houses and flats for letting in London and Middlesex, the poor standard of amenity in a high proportion of the privately let dwellings, and the growing number of homeless families in London caused by the creeping 'de-control' provisions of the Rent Act" and goes on to advance six detailed items of policy for the treatment of old houses. Hackney's amendment is as follows: "This conference also calls upon local Housing Authorities in the London area to pool their resources for the purpose of prefabricating housing parts by means of direct labour. We consider that such amalgamation could accelerate building programmes, reduce costs and enable there to be greater variety in design and materials."

To the North Paddington Labour Party resolution which reads "we call on the London Labour Party to call a special conference of Housing Committees of Labour Groups of Local Authorities in the London area, to prepare a three year plan for raising housing production in co-operation with the Building Trades Union for extension of Direct Labour schemes..... Norwood Labour Party has added: "..... with the formation of London local authorities into a consortium to undertake research, design, construction and co-ordination of direct labour schemes."

"DESTALINISATION" IN LITHUANIA.

From a London Correspondent.

The following extract from the Socialist International Information Bulletin of 2nd March, written by a leader of the exiled Lithuanian Social Democrat Party, is an interesting comment on the process of de-stalinisation. It is all the more worth noting because of the extreme anti-Soviet positions adopted by the above party.

"..... some relief to the reign of terror is slowly descending on the Soviet Union and, to some degree on Lithuania. A little freedom of expression is allowed to Communists. Thus Lithuanian Deputies to the Supreme Soviet are allowed to criticise the work of the Planning Commission, and to ask for increased funds for industrial development. Deputy Dirzinskaite has even asked for the allocation of more money for the school building programme. New works of art and literature, although sometimes severely criticised by the ideologists for not conforming to the rules of 'socialist realism', are appearing and their authors are not sent to Siberia. Nothing so far has been written by Lithuanian writers about the Siberian slave labour camps, of which some of them had personal experience, but translated extracts from Solzhenitsyn's "One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch" were printed in the Lithuanian press. The chapters mentioning Estonians and Latvians in the labour camps were omitted...."

CHINESE TO START NEW THEORETICAL JOURNAL ?

from Weekly Review

China, Albania and North Korea will soon commence to publish a monthly journal called "Voice of the International Workers' Movement", to counter the impact of the Soviet controlled magazine "Problems of Peace and Socialism" (in English, the "Marxist Review"), issued by the European Communist parties to air the Soviet views on Marxism-Leninism. The "Voice of the International Workers' Movement" will be published in English, French, German, Spanish, Arabic, and other languages.

DID THE CHINESE CELEBRATE STALIN'S BIRTHDAY ?

For all who did not mark their calendars, March 8th was the anniversary of the death of Stalin. The British press has carried reports of celebrations in Albania, of the complete neglect of Stalin's grave apart from an anonymous mimosa spray, but did not carry any reports of the Chinese commemorations of Stalin's death, or did Mao simply forget the date? Or thirdly, could the Chinese not be so worried about Stalin as some would suppose?

ECUADORIAN YOUTH SUPPORT ARMED STRUGGLE.

Armed insurrection is the only means that can radically transform Ecuador. This was stated in an article in the March 12th issue of the Paper of Insurgent Youth, organ of the Ecuadorian Union of Communist Youth. The article said that this conclusion had been reached because the ruling class was becoming more violent in its attacks on the people to stem the rising revolutionary struggle and there was the constant danger of the establishment of a bloody military dictatorship in Ecuador, backed by U.S. imperialism and national oligarchic forces. Stressing the need for the broad masses to take part in the struggle the article said that they would use new methods to stop the attacks of the reactionary rule and they would hasten the birth of the revolution for National Liberation. (Reprinted from Hsinhua News Agency).

1508

The Peoples' Daily of the 21st March 1963 devoted nearly two full pages to "statements of fraternal parties attacking the Chinese Communist Party". An Editor's note in the Peoples' Daily said: "Since November 1962 42, fraternal parties have successively attacked the Chinese CP either by issuing Central Committee statements, resolutions or addresses to their party members, or by speeches at their congresses or at the congresses of other parties, or by publishing articles in newspapers and other publications, or in other forms. They charge the Chinese CP with having committed many errors and stick a great number of labels on us, such as 'dogmatists', 'left opportunism', 'adventurism', 'Trotskyite', 'nationalist', 'sectarian', 'splitters', 'militaristic', 'pseudo-left', 'pseudo-revolutionary', 'warlike', 'aggressive', 'opposing peaceful co-existence', 'opposing all negotiations', 'advocating wars between countries in order to push forward socialism', 'pursuing a policy of thermonuclear war' and so on and so forth. Since December 1962 this paper has successively published statements by many fraternal parties attacking us. We have decided to publish, starting from today, statements of some fraternal parties attacking us which we have not yet published. Since these statements of fraternal parties attacking the Chinese CP have been publicised all over the world, we are in duty bound to make them known to our readers and let them see how these fraternal parties have attacked us and whether or not the Chinese CP has committed the errors they allege."

KHRUSHCHEV'S TEARS AT STALIN'S FUNERAL.

By a special correspondent.

Readers will have remembered press references to a major speech made by Khrushchov at a meeting of party and government leaders with writers and artists held in the Kremlin on March 8th. The full text of this speech has just become available and whilst it is too long to comment on fully, there are some passages worth noting. K's main purpose seemed to be that of arguing against the idea that artists were now free because of de-stalinisation. He went over the question of Stalin's role again and praised that gentleman for his devotion in upholding "Leninist positions in the struggle against the Trotskyists, Zinovievists, Bukharinites and bourgeois nationalists....." Going on to say that Stalin had made many political and theoretical mistakes, K. said: "At Stalin's funeral many, including myself, were in tears. Although we knew about some of Stalin's shortcomings, we believed in him."

We are all aware of K.'s role as Stalin's hatchet man in the Ukraine in the 30's. We wonder if this is why K. related the following tale? "Stalin intended to destroy a considerable part of the artistic intelligentsia of Soviet Ukraine. Evidently on the instigation of Beria and Kaganovich he suspected that some kind of nationalist tendencies..... were developing.... If the Ukrainian Bolsheviks at that time had given in to Stalin's wishes... ..the Ukrainian intelligentsia evidently would have suffered great losses.. .." K. went on to praise Sholokhov for having the courage to write to Stalin criticising excesses in the forced collectivisation. Then came an interesting part of his speech devoted to attacking ".....Beria, this loathsome person, who did not conceal his joy at Stalin's coffin....." and who was "..... frantically reaching out for power....." K. made it clear that Beria almost took over. Together with Malenkov he came out with a proposal to "eliminate the German Democratic Republic as a Socialist state"

N.B. For reasons of space we can produce only half of this article. In view of the importance of references to Yevtushenko and other contemporary artists, etc. we shall devote more space to it in our next issue.

1509

The Canadian General Election campaign is warming up, and the "Workers Vanguard", a militant socialist paper doing educational work in the New Democratic Party is being published on a ten-day basis instead of as the usual monthly. In Canada, the grotesque situation exists wherein the Conservatives for their own reasons are opposed to Canada's nuclear defence, whereas the Liberals are in favour of it. In the "Workers Vanguard" a consistent demand is being put up for a referendum on the issue of nuclear warheads for Canada.

CUBA DEFEATS UNITED STATES SHIPPING BAN. (By a Birmingham Correspondent.)

Last month, President Kennedy put a ban on ships trading with the Island of Cuba. Port facilities were to be refused to any ship that had carried cargoes from Cuba since Jan. 1st. It seem that this embargo is having no effect at all. Two reasons account for this. First, freight traffic is so poor generally that many ship owners are willing to take the risk so long as they can keep their vessels carrying cargo and so bringing in a profit. As the saying goes, "business is business", especially when times are hard.

The second reason for the failure of the ban is that the USSR is also a large enough cargo fleet to cope with this situation. Because of their increase of trade with other countries, the USSR is also increasing its merchant fleet. It has been reported that recently several Liberty ships built during the last war, and for some time laid up for lack of work, have been bought by the USSR to help cope with the growing demand on its shipping. All in all, this is a significant development, because it demonstrates that US imperialism is unable to throttle Cuba's revolution by economic means, and is a good pointer for future situations of a similar kind. Although this does not, of course, mean that the boycott is not inflicting harm on Cuba, it does mean that it is far from having the fatal consequences that were intended.

SUCCESSFUL STRIKE AT RALEIGH CYCLES. (By a Nottingham Trade Unionist.)

More than 2,000 workers at Nottingham Raleigh factories were sent home on Tuesday, March 19th., because of the strike of 74 men from the polishing, bending and pressing sections. They struck in protest against the transfer of highly skilled men to another part of the factory with subsequent loss of wages. Four weeks before the strike two men had been transferred from polishing to the frame shop with a loss of £4 per week. Further transfers were in the offing and when the management announced that one of the polishers was to move the men struck. The officials of both unions concerned, the Metal Mechanics and the T.G.W.U., were in favour of making the strike official. After receiving an assurance from the management that the man would be reinstated in his original job the men went back. Raleigh has recently become part of the Tube Investments combine and many changes in management have taken place. It is clear that with T.I.'s policy of rationalisation there is a potentiality of a Fords' in miniature, especially in view of the determination both of the strong shop stewards committee and the unions to defend Raleigh workers conditions.

SPEAKERS LIST FOR INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL. The organisers of the European Socialist Discussion School have had some success. Ernest Mandel (see last week's editorial) Ralph Miliband, Deutscher and E.P. Thompson (founder of the New Reasoner) have already agreed to speak and other speakers of a similar stature are being approached. Details from Julian Atkinson, 54, Park Rd., Lenton, Nottingham.

REACTION OF THE FRENCH MINERS TO POMPIDOU'S APPEAL.

1510 In order to give an indication of the feeling of the French miners in the current crisis, we are quoting from one or two French papers. It should be noted that these aren't left-wing, but high circulation papers of the Express variety. The first is a report from Le Monde, concerning the Lorraine Basin area. "Does this mean that the oration of the Prime Minister had no effect whatever", the report reads, "Quite visibly in this city of Chenes where some 4,500 persons of miners' families live, and where television sets are numerous, the oration - the 'sermon', some miners would say -- aroused neither a warm nor chill response..... In one of the clean neat little homes where I found myself in the company of six people (four underground miners and two women), the reactions, as M. Pompidou's explanations went along, were rather ironic and bitter. There was little or no growling, just wry smiles." Le Figaro carried the following report of the reaction of a miner's family to the Pompidou speech. "What we're interested in is getting what we're asking forThey take us for kids -- we don't want any promises because they don't stand up....We want action.... We want immediate talks with all our unions together and we're not going back to work till that condition is met if we have to live on bread and water while we are waiting.... The miners have firmly decided to keep up the struggle till the end for immediate results and not for the month of September." (One of the Government's promises is to "review" the situation next September if the miners go back now.)

ALGERIAN TRADE UNIONISTS SUPPORT FRENCH MINERS.

Among the many actions taken by the Algerian Trade Unionists in solidarity with the striking French miners was a telegram sent by the Algerian Building Workers. The telegram, addressed to the French miners, said: "We warmly support and salute the unity of the French miners against requisition." The Federation of Building Workers branded the "requisition" order of the French government, used to deprive the French workers of their right to strike as "scoffing at T.U. liberty and social rights."

INTERNATIONAL SOLIDARITY WITH FRENCH MINERS.

Telegrams of solidarity with the French miners as well as promises of financial support have been sent by a number of Trade Union organisations all over the world. Walter P. Reuther, President of the United Automobile Workers of America has presented to Robert Botherau, General Secretary of the French trade union federation Force Ouvriere a cheque for \$5,000 as a token contribution of solidarity which American workers feel with the striking miners of France. As a sign of solidarity with the French miners and in protest against a requisition order on the thousands of miners made by the French government, the Belgian Federation of Labour FGTB has contributed 200,000 Belgian francs (\$4,000), which was sent to the aid fund set up by the Force Ouvriere. Heinrich Gutermuth, President of the German mineworkers union, contributed 100,000 marks (\$22,500) from his organisation.

Organisations which have already sent messages of support include the Belgian mineworkers union, the British mineworkers union, the Italian mineworkers union, the Belgian general workers union, as well as the Executive of the of the European Trade Union secretariat grouping the free trade organisations of the six EEC countries and the liaison trade union secretariat of the miners and metal workers with the European Coal and Steel Community in Luxembourg.

1511

We referred in our 'letter to readers' last week to the survey carried out by the Institute of Directors. This involved sending a questionnaire to 325 large firms, each with assets of over £2,500,000. More than half the firms replied and their conclusions were reported in the Financial Times, of March 15th:

"The first two questions concerned the abilities of companies to expand production without extra labour or with more than 2% of increased labour. Of the 167 replies received, about 100 said that output could rise by up to 10% without more men. These were mainly engaged in textiles, engineering, paper, printing and publishing, rubber, plastics, toys and linoleum. Over 30 more companies - mainly in the chemical and allied industries, metals, timber and furniture - suggested that output could go up by more than 10%. Nine out of the ten suggested that if they took on 2% more labour, production would 'bound ahead'. Nearly half of the companies replying said they could increase output by 10% or more, with 2% more workers. The third question was whether higher production would mean importing more raw materials. Of the 166 companies answering, this point, 101 forecast no increase, or only a slight increase, if output went up by 10% or under. The remaining 65 said consumption of raw materials would rise by more than 5 per cent."

CATASTROPHIC DECLINE IN PRODUCTION IN JANUARY

Figures released by the Central Statistical Office during the week show the heavy drop in production which took place during January. The drop was most marked for all industry (10 points below November - comparison with December is not useful because of the holidays - seasonally adjusted), a large amount of which is accounted for by the decline in construction. However, manufacturing went down 6 points too and the fact that the weather could have had such an effect is only because the economy is very sick. The following table illustrates the process:

INDUSTRIAL PRODUCTION INDEX (1958 equals 100)

	All industries		Manufacturing	
	Un-adjusted	Seasonally adjusted	Un-adjusted	Seasonally adjusted
Jan 1962	111	111	110	111
Oct "	121	115	121	114
Nov "	121	115	122	115
Dec "	110	111	110	113
Jan 1963	105	105	108	109

HARDCORE UNEMPLOYMENT STILL INCREASING.

In an almost pathetic attempt to reverse the trend against them the Tories are trying to present the decrease in the number of unemployed persons as a triumph for their policies. Even the popular capitalist press has had to point out the contrary. On the other hand, the serious bourgeois press is alarmed; the Financial Times headlined "..... underlying trend is still upward." The Guardian said: "there is little real comfort in these figures," and remarked that unless the May figures revealed a reversal of trend far more vigorous measures would have to be taken. Sorting out the figures is extremely difficult, but the number of wholly unemployed has dropped by 19,000, which is the normal seasonal average but if the weather has been the factor it has been made out to be, the figure must be considerably reduced to conform with this explanation.