

Socialist Outlook

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Socialist Fellowship issues a call to the Labour Movement for an Emergency Anti-War Conference

LONDON'S GREAT ANTI-WAR RALLY

17 London Labour Parties Say 'Withdraw Troops From Korea'

DETERMINATION not to allow the British Labour Movement to be dragged into war against the peoples of Asia was the keynote of the magnificent anti-war rally organised in London on Sunday, February 25th by the Socialist Fellowship.

The conference was opened, before some 400 delegates and visitors, by **Stephen Davies, M.P.**—or "S.O." as he is affectionately known among the miners of South Wales. He not only urged the delegates to support the anti-war resolution (see col. 2 this page) but appealed to them to "fight for it every day of your lives until it becomes the policy of our great party."

That the delegates fully realised their responsibilities in this matter was amply demonstrated when, later on in the meeting, they passed with acclamation a resolution calling for an Anti-War Emergency Conference of the party.

Michael Banda—a young socialist from Ceylon—with an impassioned plea for immediate freedom for the colonial peoples brought the revolutionary atmosphere of Asia right inside the Holborn Hall.

The main resolution was then moved by **John Lawrence**, the Editor of this paper. 13 delegates participated in the discussion which followed, all except two, speaking in favour.

Special mention should be made of **Alderman F. Brown**, delegate from Dagenham Labour Party which has the biggest Labour majority in the country—**Cllr. Edwards**, delegate from the London District Committee of the National Union of Vehicle Builders—and **R. C. Beadle**, delegate from London Federation of U.S.D.A.W., all of whom made sober, yet forthright condemnations of the Government's foreign policy.

The main opposing speech came from the N. Ilford L.P. delegate, **H. Hodgson**, who accused the conference of "ignoring the threat from Soviet Russia." He was admirably answered by John Lawrence who, in his summing-up, said that the Russian Revolution was the greatest event in human history and should be defended against capitalist attack. Not because the Soviet Union has no faults—it has plenty—but because "those who cannot defend past conquests will never make new ones."

Altogether it was an inspiring conference which showed that the Left Wing is rapidly gaining strength in the Party.

The conference will re-convene on Sunday, March 18th. A collection realised £11 10s. 10d.

SEND YOUR DELEGATES TO THE RE-CALL ON MARCH 18th

What Was Voted?

WITH only 6 votes against, the Conference carried the following resolution:—

"This conference of delegates from the London Labour movement, being convinced that the threatening war can be averted only by international socialist action, pledges itself to fight inside the movement for the ending of all war alliances with capitalist countries; the withdrawal of British forces from Korea; the granting of immediate independence to those colonial countries at present under British domination; and the concentration of the energies of the Labour Movement on securing the complete and utter defeat of capitalism and the Tory Party as our contribution to the building of a socialist world."

Then, to make it quite clear that the delegates were determined to FIGHT for this policy inside the movement, an emergency resolution was moved, seconded, and carried with acclamation. It reads as follows:

"Recognising that the present pro-war policy of the Labour government can lead to a defeat of the Labour Party at a General Election, this conference considers it necessary to establish without delay a representative committee of the London Labour movement which will organise a campaign inside the movement for the adoption of an anti-war and socialist policy by a special emergency conference of the Labour Party.

"The delegates pledge themselves in reporting back, to urge their organisations to participate in the formation of such a committee.

"This conference will convene on March 18th to appoint a committee and consider ways and means of conducting the campaign."

Who Was There?

292 credentials were issued to 105 Labour and Trades Union organisations. Of these, 231 delegates actually attended representing:

- 17 Borough and Constituency Labor Parties
- 18 Ward Labour Parties
- 14 Labour Party League of Youth Branches
- 6 Trades Councils
- 5 Trade Union District Committees
- 29 Trade Union Branches
- 1 Co-operative Party
- 8 Socialist Fellowships
- 3 Student and other organisations.



Let The People Decide!

WHAT conference of the Labour Party ever authorised the Government to embark upon this disastrous arms programme which is undermining Labour's support throughout the country? What section of organised Labour gave them leave to squander £4,700,000,000 on these socially useless war preparations? Who empowered Sir Hartley Shawcross to bring in legislation in relation to the Class Z call-up which, if passed, will make all socialist and anti-war propaganda a criminal offence? Who, indeed gave the Government permission to call up Class Z at all? No section of the Labour Movement authorised these things. On the contrary, they are being carried through in the face of opposition from a large and growing volume of workin-class opinion.

That is proved conclusively by the wonderful rally of London's Labour Movement to the anti-war conference organised by the Socialist Fellowship. The demand for an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party, which was so correctly raised by the Fellowship Conference, is absolutely justified. Not only are the present policies of the Government disastrous for the continued well-being of the Party but—they are policies which the great majority of the party members do not support and had no hand in formulating.

The argument that the Government received, from the last Labour Party Conference, endorsement for its present foreign policy does not bear examination. The "endorsement" was achieved with the aid of the

Editorial

block vote and against the majority of the Constituency Parties. However, even if we accept that as being genuine approval, much has happened since Margate to cause sharp changes of opinion inside the movement.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS?

The war drive—then only in its infancy—has now grown to full stature and its evil features are plainly visible to all. Possessed of an insatiable appetite, it has already started in to devour the major portion of the products of Labour—£4,700,000,000!—meanwhile casting a hungry eye towards Labour's pride and joy, the social services. As a consequence, the cost-of-living is soaring out of reach of most working people; food, clothing, and houses, are once more becoming difficult to obtain; living standards are taking a sharp downward plunge.

Everyone who is in touch with the base of the Labour Party knows that scores of Constituency Parties which could previously be relied upon to support official policy are now in more or less open revolt against it. Just glance again at the representation at the Fellowship Conference if you disbelieve that statement.

In the trade unions—always most sensitive to any deterioration in living standards—the discontent has boiled over into a wave of unofficial strikes among dockers, engineers, and railwaymen which has jolted the TUC out of its customary self-satisfied calm. They have felt obliged to complain to the Government about the ever-rising cost-of-living, and have even asked for a "re-examination" of Order 1305 under which trade unionists who take action to arrest the fall in real wages, themselves stand an even chance of being arrested.

The recent courageous statements of **G. D. H. Cole**, in which he declared his opposition to the war in Korea, and to any possible war with China, shows that the Fabians, too, have been affected by the rising wave of discontent.

In fact, it is easy enough to find tens of thousands who are against the foreign policy of the Government, the really difficult job is—to find even hundreds who are for it!

THE LEADERS FAIL

Under these conditions, when the Tories may succeed at any time now in forcing the Government into an early General Election, it was the clear duty of the National Executive Committee to take steps to remove any threat to the unity of the Labour Movement. Not by persecuting the Left Wing—which is the course they have actually chosen—but by organising an Emergency Conference of the Party, there facing the membership squarely and truthfully with its policies and—then letting the Conference decide for or against.

WHY THEY REFUSE

That is the simple and the democratic way to re-arm the Party and re-build the badly-shaken confidence of its members. But the N.E.C. have not taken the democratic course. On the contrary.

They have even rejected the demand for an Emergency Conference put forward by the 800,000 strong Amalgamated Engineering Union (*Daily Worker* report 1/3/51).

The conclusion follows inevitably: the N.E.C. refuses to bow to the popular demand for an Emergency Conference because it knows that at such a conference the Government's present policies would be defeated.

If the N.E.C. is allowed to continue on its present course of ignoring the demands of a significant section of the Movement, if, as a consequence, the Government is allowed to proceed, unchallenged, with its mad capitalist

(Continued page 4, column 3)

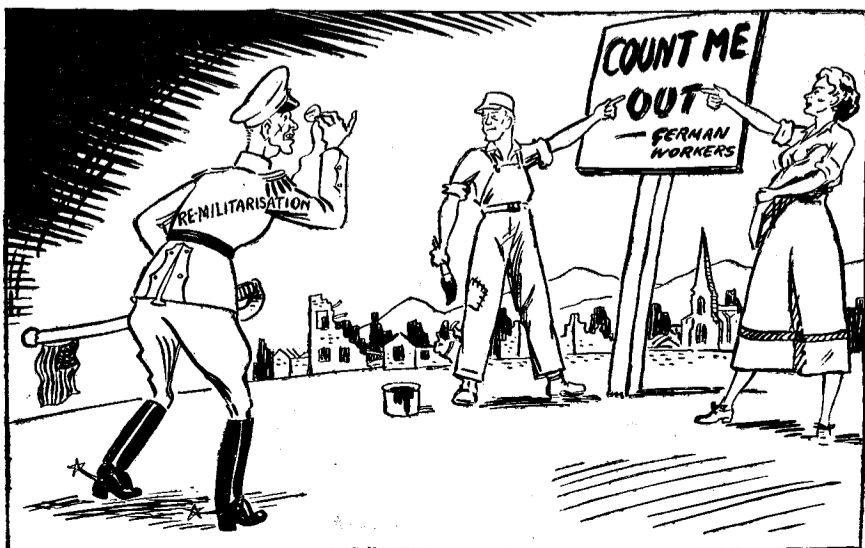
LINE UP! — OR STARVE!

"How tough America is prepared to get with nations she thinks are displaying the wrong attitude over China is shown by a Senate decision to delay sending 2,000,000 tons of wheat to India for famine relief.

This is an expression of acute displeasure over Mr. Nehru's role in the Chinese mix-up."

Daily Express (27/1/51).

EISENHOWER GETS HIS REPLY!



THE CIVIL WAR IN KOREA

EVERY word word in this article is an indictment of the United Nations war in Korea—and every word is taken from capitalist press sources. Out of their own mouths are they condemned. The evidence to prove that this war is a civil war in which British troops are being made to fight on the side of the reaction is overwhelming.

The Regime of the North

"There is no reason to believe that the Kim Ir Sung regime is anything but a Communist Party Dictatorship, but THERE WAS NO INFLATION, because of rigid controls, and according to all reports, NO MARKED SHORTAGE OF ESSENTIAL CONSUMER GOODS . . . Land reform was popular among the majority. The re-distribution of land among the peasants was made AT THE EXPENSE OF THE KULAK CLASS AS WELL AS THE LANDLORDS . . . the peasant had his land and it must be taken for granted that he was grateful."

(Times Special Correspondent 17/11/50).

"In the South at present there are nearly 2,000,000 Northerners — LANDLORDS, INDUSTRIALISTS, AND TRADERS — who fled when the communists took over. (Times Special Correspondent 19/11/50).

The Regime of the South

" . . . the record . . . of the benevolent autocracy of Dr. Syngman Rhee is not a happy one. CORRUPTION, INEFFICIENCY AND MISRULE led to chaotic conditions. Complete collapse of the economy was prevented only by a steady infusion of UNITED STATES DOLLARS . . . inflation was rampant." Among the first measures which his (Syngman Rhee's) Government proposed should be introduced in the North was a currency reform which would have divested him (the peasant) OF 90% OF HIS SAVINGS.

"Dr. Rhee said that THE LAND WOULD FIRST BE RETURNED TO THE PREVIOUS OWNERS.

" . . . already it (the Rhee Government) has despatched 3,000 POLICEMEN to the liberated areas."

(Times Correspondent 16/11/50).

The Korean Balance Sheet

Seoul, Dec. 29 — The entire nation — 30 million people — has been uprooted. — Jim Lucas, Scripps-Howard.

Tokyo, Jan. 6 (U.P.)—Literally millions of Koreans are stumbling south with the troops — uprooted, homeless and hungry.

"Kill Everything that Moves"

Maj. Gen. Robert B. McClure of the 2nd Division ordered his men in the Wonju area to "kill everything that moves." — The Voice of Korea, Jan. 19. (A South Korean paper).

" . . . The air force has been mounting a steady series of heavy strikes . . . an AERIAL SCORCHED-EARTH operation. And it has left the Korean countryside a mass of rubble and ruins . . . —Gordon Walker, Christian Science Monitor, Jan. 20.

Tokyo, Jan. 2 . . . Front line reports said United Nations troops had put a SCORCHED EARTH policy in effect as they fell back. All buildings in which the enemy might attempt to hide from Allied



air attacks were ordered burned . . . new columns of refugees . . . were plodding down all roads southward.—Lindsey Parrott, N.Y. Times.

The Lawyers Help Out

The U.N. convention against genocide—"acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group"—became international law yesterday. Former Assistant Secretary of State Adolph Berle and Dr. Raphael Lemkin, who played the foremost role in drafting the convention . . . held genocide would not apply to such military orders as that of the U.N. Command in Korea directing its planes to shoot all Korean males, in or out of uniform, who are north of U.N. lines . . . the "intent" would not be to exterminate a national group . . . —N.Y. Daily Compass, Jan. 14.

Hitler and MacArthur

For days, the United States Eighth Army (at Pyongyang) destroyed anything which would

have helped the enemy . . . In the fight against the soldiers of world revolution, all usual conceptions must be abandoned . . . The West put Germany Army leaders on trial after the last war because they had had to conduct the war in the East according to "scorched earth" methods. They were held responsible and convicted, for destruction similar to that now being carried out by U.N. troops. — Editorial in Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, a leading West German newspaper.

Liberation—By Firing Squad

Since the liberation of Seoul last September, South Korean firing squads have been busy liquidating "enemies of the state" . . . With savage indifference, the military executioners shot men, women and children . . . while U.S. and British troops voiced their loathing of the wholesale slaughter, three American clergymen . . . made a formal protest . . . they charged that many of the victims had no trials . . . Civilians sentenced to death are supposed to be hanged, added Ho (Major General Lee Ho, Vice Chief of South Korea's Martial Law Headquarters), "but we have found shooting by firing squad more convenient." — Time magazine, Dec. 25.

The Soldier's Opinion

One fight after another was full of frost-bite patients. It's not funny. Their hands and feet are all black. And it's such close fighting they get a lot of steel and lead in their stomachs . . . They all hate Korea. They're glad to get out even with lead tearing inside them. I never heard any of them say they'd like to get back . . . —Lt. Charlotte Cooley, as told to Sidney Field, N.Y. Daily Mirror, Jan. 24, 1951.

BILL TYLER

THE Editorial Board of the Socialist Outlook extends its deepest sympathy to the widow and two children of Bill Tyler, killed last week in Korea.

Bill was an active worker in the Preston Labour Party, the founder, and first secretary of the Preston Socialist Fellowship and a grand salesman of the Outlook.

At the recent Fellowship Anti-War Rally in London, John Lawrence paid this tribute to our comrade Tyler:

"Bill Tyler hated war. He was completely in sympathy with the struggles of the Korean people for freedom and independence. When he was called up he debated with himself a long, long time whether he should go or whether he should refuse. But Bill was a real socialist and he decided it was his duty to go—not to destroy the poor workers and farmers of Korea, but to keep on explaining to his fellow soldiers what the war was all about. And this he did like the courageous fighter he always was. And he wrote letters home to his comrades in Lancashire, and he urged them to keep up the fight against war and so prevent this shameful slaughter of the working class boys of all nations.

"Sir Hartley Shawcross would no doubt describe Bill's activities as "subversive"—but

you can't arrest him, Sir Hartley, because he is dead. He has been killed in Korea. And you killed him, Mr. Shawcross—you and all those who combined to send him out to Korea. He was a fine young socialist—he wanted only to spend his life in helping to rid Britain of all privilege and injustice. He would have made any sacrifice to free Britain from the Tories and their rotten capitalist system. But you wouldn't let him fight the Tories—instead you dragged him across nine thousand miles of ocean to shoot down his fellow Korean workers. And now he is dead and he leaves a widow and a young family.

"But he will not have died in vain if we in the Labour Movement pledge ourselves to fight all the time, and wherever we are, against this cruel, this savage, and reactionary war now being waged against a poor colonial people. That's what Bill Tyler did—and if we follow his example, although we shall never, unfortunately, be able to return Bill to his family, we shall at least ensure that thousands of other young socialists do not die in this tragic manner . . ."

The whole conference then rose to its feet as a mark of respect for our fallen comrade, Bill Tyler.

OPEN LETTER TO Mr. ATTLEE

Dear Sir,

I cannot address you as comrade after your recent nasty action towards the Labour candidate at Bristol. You more or less "threw him to the wolves," and in so doing practically invited the electors to vote Tory. There has always been room in the Labour Party for people like myself with pacifist views. You had Dr. Salter and George Lansbury and many others who really believed in socialism, which is more than I can say for some of the present party members and M.P.s—I would go so far as to say some of them do not even know the meaning of the word.

There are too many Tories and Liberals in the Party to-day; in fact a person like myself has only to breathe "Peace" and he is at once branded as a 'rebel', a Communist, a Trotskyite or a fellow-traveller. If you want to purge anybody, start work on the Tories in our ranks.

Having never tasted Communism I have no fear of the unknown, but I did, with millions of others, suffer under the Tories and Liberalism. We had our slave camps here like Belmont and Hallesey Bay, where my own father went. That is what I will struggle against, something that I do know about—that gave me misery and suffering.

You also expect the very people who suffered under the old system of capitalism to drill and take up arms again—AGAINST WHOM? Just tell me. Who is to be our next enemy? Have you decided it must be Russia—are we to take up Yankee arms against our recent Allies? If so I suggest you think again.

There are still a few of the "old-timers" left, and I have not just "come up". I joined the old I.L.P. and Bermondsey Labour Party nearly thirty years ago. Like many others in the movement who "don't count" yet do the constant door knocking, canvassing, selling football tickets, dance tickets or anything else—collecting subs. and delivering magazines—just one of the "mugs" who give our time and labour year in and year out, wet or fine. FREE GRATIS and for NOTHING—collecting a few grains of corn from the humble folks to pay the top boys or "big noises" a nice salary, so they can get enough wind in their bellies to call us "Reds"—we who work for nothing. I would be in clover with half the salary of an M.P. (and I know all about the expenses).

"The People's Flag is RED"
"Save the People"!

Yours with regret,

Bob Streetley,
Bermondsey Labour Party.

England was once a Korea

JOHN BALL, the leader of the English peasants' revolt in 1381, would have understood well the spirit which animates the peasants of China and Korea in 1951 nearly 600 years later. Here is an extract from one of his speeches which might very well have been made by any peasants' leader in Korea today.

"Things cannot go well in England, nor ever will, until all goods are held in common and until there will be neither serfs nor gentlemen, and we shall all be equal. For what reason have they, whom we call lords, got the best of us? How did they deserve it? Why do they keep us in bondage? If we all descended from one father and one mother, Adam and Eve, how can they assert or prove they are more masters than ourselves? Except perhaps that they make us work and produce for them to spend!"

"They are clothed in velvets and in coats garnished in ermine, while we wear coarse linen. They have wine, spices, and good bread, while we get rye-bread, offal, straw, and water. They have residences, handsome manors, and we the trouble and the work and must brave the rain and the wind in the fields. And it is from us and our labour that they get the means to support their pomp; yet we are called serfs and are promptly beaten if we fail to do their bidding."

There is surely no doubt about which side John Ball would be on in Korea!

The Weekly--Tom Braddock Appeals TO YOU

Dear Reader,

Since I wrote welcoming the Socialist Outlook over two years ago it has steadily increased its influence and its circulation. But a monthly paper in this fast-moving and dangerous world can never keep up with events.

WE MUST HAVE A SOCIALIST OUTLOOK EVERY WEEK. And we CAN have it, if YOU want it.

The Editorial Board have worked out the scheme and this is how we stand now.

We have a first-class editor in John Lawrence.

We have a first-class printing works.

We have the contributors.

We have 9-10,000 readers of the monthly.

What else do we need for a Socialist Outlook every week?

WE NEED MORE MONEY. And that we can get—if 5,000 readers will send us IN ADVANCE their money for the first 24 issues of the weekly Socialist Outlook.

All money received will be put in a special account where it cannot be used

for any other purpose than for the production of the Weekly, so, if by any chance the first issue is not out by September 30th next, your money will be returned.

On page 4 you will find an application form. FILL THIS IN AND SEND TO US TOGETHER WITH 6s. 6d. TO PAY FOR THE WEEKLY TO BE POSTED TO YOUR ADDRESS FOR 24 ISSUES. After that, pay as you get it.

AND GET THREE OR MORE OF YOUR FRIENDS TO DO THE SAME. You can put all the names and addresses on the same form.

Some of you are buying the paper in the wards, trade union branches, and in the factories, direct from the voluntary salesmen. Fill in the form just the same and then either hand it to the salesman or post direct to us. BUT FILL IT IN NOW.

Why do we want you to send the money IN ADVANCE? The short answer is BECAUSE IT IS A SOCIALIST PAPER.

We have run, successfully, the monthly Outlook with the voluntary work and spare money of a number of enthusiastic

socialists. We have been able to do this because we have had the help of dozens of socialists and trade unionists in the tasks of distribution.

But we can't deal with the paper EVERY WEEK in this way. The commercial distributors will not handle a new paper—especially a new SOCIALIST paper—and that is why we are asking you, as socialists, to do your part.

SEND US YOUR APPLICATION FORMS AND YOUR 6s. 6d.

The WEEKLY will give every week a socialist lead on all national and international events.

The WEEKLY will print four or five times as many articles from you as the monthly does.

This is your chance to strike a blow for Peace and Socialism but—DO IT NOW.

Your names and addresses, please, comrades!

Fraternally yours,

Tom Braddock,
Socialist Outlook Treasurer.



Railwaymen's Way To A Better Life

by BOB SHAW (N.U.R.)

THE Railway Executive, buttressed by our "Labour" Government, aims to assist the export (profits) drive and the war preparations by the lowering of railwaymen's living standards. They aim to keep transport costs low by exploiting us as cheap labour. For war purposes a submissive rank and file is needed and one which is prepared to work 60 and 70 hours a week. The Railway Executive and the Government do not intend that railwaymen shall be able to manage on a 44 hour wage. Hence they intend the overtime to stay. It goes along with low wages and it fits in with the war preparations.

That this is true is demonstrated by the publication of the latest "enquiry" by Government "experts" into railway wages. Only the top grade clerks, the small bureaucrats, were to benefit greatly by these recommendations. A top rate driver was worth a 10/6d. increase, his mate on the footplate only 5/9d. The platelayer would get 4/9d. and would still need to work 60 and 70 hours per week in order to live.

All this generosity in return for a few "adjustments" which would set railwaymen back 30 years in working conditions. Is there any wonder that the N.U.R. and the A.S.L.E. & F. immediately rejected the award?

This is the tail end of a conspiracy to gull railwaymen into accepting brass for pure gold. As before, the "enquiry" came down heavily on the side of the Railway Executive but threw in a 6d. here and a 1/- there. But the trick has been played too often and this time the railwaymen will not be gulled.

The attack on our standard of living which has been going on since the end of the war is now exposed as a means of keeping the shareholders happy and, more sinister, as

The Builder's "Tanner"

By REG. BROWN (A.U.B.T.W.)

(Federation Steward—Bankside Power Station).

THE demonstrations in London and Manchester of some thousands of building workers, and the half-day token strikes on many jobs, in support of the wages claim of 6d. per hour, were the most effective actions which building workers have engaged in since the mass demonstrations of 1945.

The indignation of building workers had been aroused by the miserable offer of 4d. per hour increase under the sliding scale cost-of-living agreement. One half-penny with which to face the rapidly-rising prices of all goods!

Contributing also to the building workers' indignation was the acceptance by the N.F.B.T.O. leadership of a new agreement on incentives payment which provides for the recognition of the age-long enemy—the sub-contractor for labour only — or the "piece-work master," as he is known in the industry. Hitherto this method of work has been resisted, and time and again the "piece work master" has been thrown off the job by strike action.

The signing of such an agreement before the achievement of the "tanner" must inevitably compromise the claim. Since basic tradition and principles were involved, the operatives in the industry had a right to a say in the acceptance or rejection of this agreement. No ballot vote was carried through on this question, and quite certainly no section of the Federation was consulted by meetings or in any other way. This represents a flagrant violation of union democracy.

As we write, we understand that a compromise settlement of 2½d. an hour has been reached—but it will not satisfy building workers, the vast majority of whom live on a poverty standard. The £6 8s. 0d. national average includes overtime, bonuses, travelling allowances, tool money, etc., and BEFORE insurance and tax stoppages.

What is needed is a rising scale of wages related to the REAL cost-of-living. Every union affiliated to the N.F.B.T.O. has gone on record for the "tanner." Because the leaders have failed to mobilise action around this demand but, instead, have shown a readiness to accept a lesser sum, don't blame the building workers if there is unofficial action. We've got to live, brothers!

LATE—BUT RIGHT!

THIS article was received before the final settlement of the railworker's wage claim, but the author's main point — that improvements will only be obtained if trade-unionists are prepared to strike—has surely now been fully substantiated. The increases obtained above the amount decided by the Court of Inquiry—small as they were—were certainly due to the strike action taken by thousands of railwaymen during the re-convened negotiations.

part of the preparations for a Third World War.

Brother Figgins of the N.U.R. recognised this in an article he wrote in the *Railway Review* of February 9th. The article squared up to the real meaning of the Labour Government's present course, and Jim Figgins drew the conclusion, which every socialist will endorse, that the Government is now heading for a lowering of our living standards, the re-imposition of the wage-freeze, cuts in housing and the social services, and, said Brother Figgins, there is a real danger of a dictatorship in Britain.

This is the writing on the wall and we, as workers, must fight against such a trend with all our might. We cannot now afford to drift further or we shall sink into disaster. We must stand now and defend our living standards.

Notwithstanding Order 1305, and the arrest of the 7 dockers, the Railway Executive must be forced to retreat by a national walk-out. Arbitration, enquiries, 1305—the Railway Executive has used them all to beat the railwaymen down. But one thing they fear is the unity of all railwaymen and the withdrawal of our labour. This unity can be achieved around a charter of demands which will make a fight worth while.

- £1 increase all round,
- Sick pay and pensions,
- Suspension of compensation payments to ex-shareholders,
- Workers' supervision of management.

Here is a programme which should be our minimum demands, a programme to inspire the rank and file. We are ready. The leaders should now take their courage in both hands and launch a campaign around this programme.

FIREMAN'S LOGIC

JOINING the Inverness-London express at Rugby at 6.45 a.m. on the morning that the Court of Inquiry had turned down the railwaymen's wage claims I found a seat in a carriage full of tired drivers and firemen returning to London. They were talking about the wage claim—and they were talking with a bitterness not heard among workers for a long, long time. If Mr. Allen, the ex-leader of the A.S.L.E.F. had wandered in during that conversation I really believe there would have been physical violence!

There certainly weren't any "reds" among these workers who were all just plain Labour men but—every single one of them was convinced that the only proper way to end the dispute, help the railwaymen and keep rail fares low was TO DRASTICALLY REDUCE THE HUGE SUMS NOW BEING PAID AS COMPENSATION TO THE EX-OWNERS.

As one fireman put it—"they get £32,000,000 a year for doing b . . . all! We have asked for £17,000,000 extra for our wages. If we took it out of their compensation, they'd still have £15,000,000 left to finance the Tories with."

J. L.

There are many lessons to be drawn from . . . The Piece-Work Struggle

By NORMAN DINNING

CONGRATULATIONS to Manchester engineers! They have given a lead to the whole rank and file of the trade union movement by taking direct action—the ban on piece-work—against a wage agreement which gave nothing to the vast majority of engineers.

The Arbitration Tribunal, upon whose recommendations this "increase" was based, is once more proved to be—as also in the case of the railwaymen—the breeding ground of unofficial action. But the Confederation leadership who also participated in this agreement, must likewise take their share of the responsibility.

Already a number of factory organisations have been successful in securing the 11/- irrespective of the conditions laid down in the agreement, a fact which surely proves that without arbitration the Unions are strong enough to secure the £1 demanded by the Confederation. Take note also that this ban in Manchester brought the Masters' Federation and the Union leaders together with a speed in sharp contrast to the normal procedure of the "Provisions for avoiding disputes"! A ban on piece-work is virtually a ban on profits—and that is the only kind of language the employers will ever understand and respect.

ADVANCE BACKWARDS

The leadership of the engineers—at least those of the A.E.U.—now tell us to take up this national wage dispute at factory level! This is nothing more or less than reducing the power of the unions to the strength of its weakest unit. If your factory organisation is good you may get an increase—if it is bad, you will get nothing. If we follow this treacherous advice we may very well



ask—why do we need a national leadership at all? However, although these leaders will blithely tell us to get what we can from our own endeavours on a local scale, they will fight like hell to maintain their positions as "national" leaders.

But engineers will not accept their cowardly advice. They will not abandon so lightly the gains of generations of struggle to build a national and centralised trade union movement. On the contrary, engineers will demand that the unions fight in the interest of the membership and use all their power nationally to advance the interests of the workers. But for this we shall need a different type of leader. We shall need workers who will be satisfied to do the job of leading at working mens' wage rates, and who, far from retreating to the "factory level" idea, will fight for the main aim of the working class—the control of industry in the interests of the community.

It is time to rid ourselves of these two great bugbears of trade unionism, brothers—National Arbitration, and union leaders who won't fight.

A Worker's Diary

by HARRY SHINDLER

THE Editor has asked me to keep a record of all those little things like press cuttings, branch resolutions, workshop items, etc.—which often picture the sort of problems we are faced with far more vividly than any amount of long articles. I think it is a good idea—but I won't be able to do it without your help, brothers. Having to work for a living I can only manage to read one daily paper, so if you want these lively press cuttings YOU'LL have to collect them. Send them in to the Editor at 177 Bermondsey Street, S.E.1 and he'll pass them on to me—and don't forget to send also the branch and workshop news.

Anyway, here goes for the first edition of the "Diary."

Austerity Again

Under that heading, I read the following in *Reynolds* on 21st January:

Official circles do not conceal the fact that it will mean a return to austerity, a halt in capital developments, reductions in consumer goods, and cuts in the social services.

Same paper, same day:

A small army of builders is at work—not on houses, or flats, or even offices. But on preparing, in Park Lane, what will become the flashiest and most expensive night club in Europe.

There will be illuminated fountains in the grounds. Inside will be the choicest foods, two bands, and a free underground cinema, planned to be built in what was a bomb crater.

In the interests of "Austerity," they'll no doubt cut down on a fountain or two. Hard lines on the customers tho'—only one fountain.

The Dockers

The *Outlook* has received the following good resolution from the **Camberwell Branch of the A.E.U.** I expect you all passed similar resolutions in your own branches—or did you? If you didn't—you should have done, anyway.

"This Camberwell Branch of the A.E.U. condemns the arrest of the 7 dockers as a direct attack on trade unionism. We call on our M.P.s to take up immediately the question of these arrests and the ending of the infamous Order 1305 which makes these things possible. If it had happened under a Tory Government the whole Labour movement would have been up in arms—that it should have happened under a Labour Government is shameful."

The Branch Secretary adds "we have also asked our A.E.U. M.P.s what actions they are taking to carry out National Committee policy to end this Order."

That's the stuff, brothers—keep pressing 'em.

Policemen in the Unions!

The **Birmingham Trades Council** is very rightly alarmed at the statement that a special detective force is to be set up "to investigate 'communist influence' in the unions." They therefore passed a resolution which

"strongly deploras this action taking the view that this may well be the beginning of a wholesale police intervention in all Trade Union affairs with persecution and intimidation of individual militant members following in its wake."

This Trades Council has decided to make representation to the appropriate Government Department "to make it known that we reject any such infringement of our trade union and democratic rights."

Every working class organisation in the country should be taking similar action against this police-spying in the unions.

A Shovel for Sir Jasper, please

National Provincial Bank Chairman, **The Hon. Sir Jasper Ridley, K.C.V.O., O.B.E.**, in his report for 8th February, tells us "that the destruction of war cannot be made good by fewer working hours; that not even the most brilliant thinkers can devise new economic laws which render obsolete the ancient rule that only by work, and more work, can men live and make good the waste of past wars."

Good old Sir Jasper; that's the spirit. The address of the nearest Labour Exchange is . . . well, maybe he didn't mean it.

There's Money in it!

Following items from *Daily Herald* (12/2/51).

"There's money in clay. English Clays, Lovering Pochin & Co. made £414,229 against £292,160 . . ."

"Record Tinplate Profits . . . Steel Co. of Wales Ltd. . . . has made its highest profit yet."

"Broom & Wade made £442,400 against £312,100."

"Carreras made £1,526,074 against £1,206,232 . . ."

Tin, tools, fags, clay—there's money in it all! The only thing that doesn't seem to pay is working for a living!

**Does Your Trade Union Branch
Take supplies of Socialist Outlook?**



★ Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

Church and War

Mrs. Simmonds asks why the Church speaks with two voices about Peace and says she will not go to church unless the parson is a Socialist.

Surely the answer to her question isn't difficult. Bishops and clergy, like 99 per cent. of other folk who don't read *Socialist Outlook*, get their news from the wireless and from millionaire-owned newspapers. Hence, though preaching Peace in a general way, most clergy believe war to be inevitable entirely through the faults of Russia and China. Of American aggression, they know nothing. They sincerely believe what they preach; far from staying away from their churches, we must preach to the preachers and show them that the real enemies of Religion are fascism, monopoly capitalism, race theories, national pride and, above all, a lying Press.

Staying away will only confirm their belief that Socialists can't be Christians.

G. W. Scott Blair.

From Canada

I have been studying the contents of the Socialist Fellowship pamphlet, "From Labour to Socialism." At first reading a good many points strike me as admirable and the keynote of your conclusion is something that many of us "left-wingers" have been stressing for a long time—"we are living in a world of rapid change." That's it! We haven't the TIME to dawdle along GRADUALLY! As your pamphlet says, "there is no alternative." I was arguing that very point in an open forum a few weeks ago. We must do something positive—even DRASTIC.

The pamphlet seems pretty good—but there are a few points where I am not sure I concur entirely. What are your "non-capitalist states"? Russia? China? The latter is still pretty well under feudalism still... but send me another dozen copies of the pamphlet please.

Vancouver. E. Smith.

From Australia

I am writing to thank you for the copies of your paper which you have been good enough to send me. Here in Australia working people are always very interested to know what is happening in England, but what news we do get is usually from anti-Labour sources.

I would like to take this opportunity of wishing your paper, and the Socialist Fellowship, every success and shall watch your struggle with interest. Those in Australia who know of the stand you are making for Socialist principles applaud your efforts. We realise how much the future of the working class movement in England depends upon them.

K. Kemshead, Brisbane.

Socialise the Press

It is my opinion that the greatest omission in the present policy of the Labour Party is the lack of positive proposals to socialise the press. It is therefore good to read in the *Outlook* that the **Society of Socialist Journalists** is facing up to this problem.

The fact that the great mass of the people can be conditioned to the opinions of a few capitalists is, to my mind, the most appalling and undemocratic aspect of Western and Eastern democracy.

The *Outlook* should give the Society of Socialist Journalists all the support it can muster in this most important work. Together we will make it Party policy.

Salford. A. Shaw.

Answer to the "Ban"

I heard about your paper last night at a lecture given by one of your "staff". He sounded sincere and I think he believed every word he uttered was true. The paper has been "banned" in Wandsworth (by the local Labour Party). Why? That is what I want to find out, and the only way I know of finding out is to read the paper myself. Then I can judge — and I have sufficient sense for that.

Balham. A. Sancto.

The Great Betrayal

The capitalists and their newspapers tell us that Britain is a Socialist country. They tell this lie with the intention of discrediting socialism because they are desperately afraid of the real thing.

The right wing of our Party repeat this lie—worse still, in the hunting down and hounding out of Socialists, they are out-Torying the Tories and causing good workers among the rank and file to give up in disgust.

No doubt Attlee and Co. would like to discourage all the left wing "subversive" elements in the party to such an extent that they will get out of it. That would really leave the right wing in control. Or would it? How long would our Party continue without its left wing rank and file?

Perhaps however, Attlee and Co. would like to see it smashed, because the Labour Government is treading the path of betrayal of the working class. They are heading for the same thing as befell the German Social Democrats who also betrayed the workers who had placed them in power.

They turned the military loose upon the workers with orders to shoot them down. They left the military, the civil service, and the judiciary in the hands of the old ruling class—and Labour has done the same in Britain.

All this no doubt seems very destructive, so here is something constructive. Break with American Imperialism, withdraw all British forces from the war against the Asiatic peoples, free the colonies, make huge cuts in the arms expenditure and increase the social services, root out the old reactionary ruling class from the police, armed forces, civil service and other institutions of control, and replace them with workers.

Bermondsey. L. Gordon.

250,000,000 CHILDREN STARVE!

by MICKIE SHAW

(Nottingham Labour Party)

THIS startling statement is made in a report compiled by Unesco, *War Handicapped Children*, published in 1950. Little publicity has been given to this report, the national press being too busy informing the general public of the latest developments in the preparations for the next war to bother about the scars of the last. Few English people can have any real knowledge of the grim picture which this report portrays.

"In 1946," says the report, "the number of children with no roof over their heads was:

- France 1,300,000.
- Germany 8,000,000.
- Italy 3,000,000.

"In the last-named country there were still, in 1947, 5,000 homeless children in one town of 120,000 inhabitants."

WHAT SORT OF FUTURE?

At the present time there is little hope of restoring these child-victims of war to a more normal existence in society. True there exist such children's communities as the Pestolozzi Children's Village in Switzerland where progress is being made to assist the children there to find a place for themselves in society. Such communities however provide for only a very small percentage of the children requiring assistance, and they are organised largely by voluntary effort with little governmental aid. Thousands of children are still in D.P. camps—awaiting a home—many with no knowledge of the country of their birth or of their national tongue.

DISEASE AND HUNGER

Malnutrition and undernourishment present enormous problems. Children are unable to carry on their normal education because of fatigue and lack

of stamina. Tuberculosis is prevalent, and on the increase—in Albania in 1948, 15% to 30% of the children had pulmonary infection, in Italy, 222,000 were suffering from trachoma. In Italy also, out of 18,000 children maimed, 10,500 were permanently mutilated.

U.N.E.S.C.O.'s report repeats this grim picture in country after country throughout Europe—yet it is not complete.

Little mention is made of China's homeless children, estimated at 65 millions, nor those of Korea which must now be added to this tragic list.

War's psychological effect on children in all countries is terrible. The sudden separation of young children from their parents; the witnessing of acts of brutal torture; being forced to flee from their own country often with no adult person whom they can trust; all this has left a scar on the minds of the children which no amount of sympathy and humanitarian action can erase.

These are just a few of the facts given in this U.N.E.S.C.O. report. All members of the Labour Party and Trades Unions, particularly the women members, should make these facts widely known. Yet, just to present the facts is not enough.

That alone will not alleviate the terrible sufferings of the war-scarred children—nor prevent the same thing happening again in World War 3. Without the combined, determined assistance of the Governments of the world this problem can never be solved. Every worker should demand now of the Labour Government that it cease its present re-armament drive and turn its attentions instead towards a real programme for peace which would prevent a repetition of this terrible crime.

THE FIGHTING FUND

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to our Fighting Fund for the development of the *Socialist Outlook* into a Weekly Paper.

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THE PEACE CALL-UP

"Soviet Army units are remaining at peace-time strength. No over-age classes are being called up. No extraordinary movements of troops or supplies have been detected. There is no drive in Russia to build bomb shelters, or restrict civilian consumption of critical materials. There is no shifting of labour away from peace-time to war-time industries. As U.S. and British military experts in Frankfurt see it, there is no sign of any build-up of Soviet forces in East Germany."

(Admiral Kirk, United States Ambassador in Moscow—"U.S. News and World Report" December 15th, 1950).

Call up the Z Reserves :
Spread wide War's dreadful net ;
Call up Skilled Artisans,
But not the Cabinet.

Call up the Z Reserves :
The Law of Peace fulfil;
With new Scientific Aid
Teach Youth more ways to kill.

Call up the Z Reserves :
Not M.P.s, Priests and Peers—
They must enforce the Peace
That thrives on blood and tears.

Call up the Z Reserves :
Youth must defend the Right,
And Church and State decree
This is a Holy Fight.

Call up the Z Reserves :
Our Armaments increase,
And with the Atom Bomb
Release the Dove of Peace.

Percy Allott.

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Meetings

HEAR K. ZILLIACUS on "The need for a Socialist Foreign Policy." Sunday, March 11th, at 3 p.m. Chorlton Town Hall, All Saints, Manchester.

Publications

LABOUR ISRAEL, Socialist Zionist monthly. For Jewish Independence, Socialism, and Peace. Price 3d. Subscription 4/- p.a. post free. From Mishmar Publications, Ltd., 8 York Place, Strand, London, W.C.2.

WORKERS' REVIEW, Jan.-Feb. Organ—Socialist Workers' Group. Contents include: Again the Russian Question, Entryism, Lessons of the Gas Workers Defeat—What does it mean? 4d. post free. S.W.G., c/o 58, Kyverdale Road, London, N.16.

LABOUR TO SOCIALISM—the policy of the Socialist Fellowship. Foreword by Tom Braddock, 3d. each—2/- a dozen. Order from Fred Emmett, 36, Gilbert Road, London, S.E.11. Issued for the consideration of the Labour Movement—against the war—freedom for the colonial peoples—for the defeat of the Tories at home.

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EDITORIAL (concluded)

Let The People Decide!

war-dance, the movement will face disaster should ever Churchill succeed in his pressure for an early General Election. That evil old man knows that he, and only he, will benefit from the demoralisation among Labour's supporters which results from these disastrous war policies.

WHO GETS BLAMED

They are Tory policies not Socialist policies; nevertheless, an exasperated electorate will not blame the Tories for the high cost-of-living, for the shortages of all the good things of life, for the call-up of Class Z—they will blame the Government, the LABOUR Government.

Mr. Churchill is no doubt already rubbing his hands in anticipation of the day he will

be able to wield Order 1305 and the Class Z legislation with real capitalist ruthlessness against the Labour Party itself. There is only one sure way to disappoint him; change the policy of the Labour Party.

THE FIGHT IS ON

Can it be done? Of course it can; provided only that every socialist in the Party campaigns for an Emergency Conference with all the energy demanded by the situation.

So, into the campaign, comrades. Full attendance at ward and trade union branch meetings! Bombard the N.E.C. with resolutions demanding an Emergency Conference! Campaign for it everywhere!