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**TODAY**

# Socialist Outlook

WEEKLY

No. 69  
[Registered at the G.P.O. as a Newspaper]

FRIDAY, MARCH 6, 1953

3d.

Lead with  
**LABOUR'S  
LEFT!**  
Demand NOW a  
General Election

## BIG MONEY IN AFRICA

IF you want to know what the fight on Central African Federation is all about you had better know a little about the Oppenheims. They've got a big stake in this issue.

Sir Ernest Oppenheimer has resigned his post as Permanent Director of the Anglo-American Corporation of South Africa! Don't let the news disturb you. He still remains chairman of this and twenty-three other companies (besides being an ordinary director of thirty-six others) in his African mining empire. The financial "rights" he is giving up conferred, in his own words, "relatively small benefits owing to income tax and estate duty."

In return for relinquishing this post, the Board of which he is chairman is recommending that he be paid £50,000 for 1952, and that his family holding company, E. Oppenheimer and Son Ltd., be issued with 200,000 shares of 10s. in the Corporation at 105s. each! Compared with today's market price of 135s., the net tax-free profit on this deal should be £300,000.

The wealth of the Oppenheims can be guessed by the fact that to purchase these shares they have to put down over one million pounds in cash in two annual instalments.

In May 1950, on the death of the other Permanent Director, Sir Ernest Oppenheimer did even better by exercising his right to acquire one-and-a-quarter per cent of the total capital at par. In this way he acquired approximately 80,000 ordinary shares at 10/- each, whose market value was the same as to-day, i.e., 135/-!

On this deal, the immediate tax-free increase in capital value was half-a-million pounds sterling!

By contrast, the average wage of the Africans in Sir Ernest's copper mines was, until last month, £3 a month.

This has now been increased after the recent strike by an Arbitrator's Award of 1/10d. a shift.

At the Arbitration Court, Sir Ernest and the other copper

magnates were represented by that well known defender of "suffering" fellow Knights, Sir Hartley Shawcross, who succeeded in cutting the demands of the N. Rhodesian African Mine Workers Trade Union by half!

The Anglo-American Corporation draws its profits from two of the four Rhodesian copper mining companies, and from gold and diamond mines such as de Beer's and the Diamond Corporation.

These profits will be safeguarded if federation is imposed on Central Africa, and if the non-European resistance movement in South Africa is crushed. Incidentally, the Bill introduced by Dr. Malan to permit savage reprisals against this resistance movement is being supported by the United Party, one of whose leaders is none other than Harry Oppenheimer, M.P., the "Son" in E. Oppenheimer and Son Ltd., himself a director of 47 companies!

### A BLOODY PUPPET



## In Defence of the Labour Party

ALL sorts of half-baked 'political columnists' are now gleefully speculating on the possibility of a split in the Labour Party following the last meeting of its National Executive Committee.

Of course they know nothing about it nor do they want to. Their sole purpose is to try and discredit our great Labour Movement—but they won't succeed. For even to these jaundiced gentlemen it will soon become clear that there is no split in the Labour Party.

What there is—and what they don't like one little bit—is a gathering triumph of the vast majority of the rank and file of the Party over those few lordly leaders who would drag the movement behind the tail of the Tories.

That is the real meaning of the last N.E.C. which publicly rebuked Sir William Lawther and the "Daily Herald". But to properly understand it requires also a little understanding of what has been happen-

ing in the Party since the Morecambe Conference.

### WHO SUPPORTS WHAT?

Like the Margate Trades Union Congress before it, Morecambe decided that Labour's future policy must be much more socialist. It decided, for example, that our next Election Programme must contain definite proposals for the nationalisation of "all the key and major industries in the country."

The Right-wing opposed these progressive decisions then—and they oppose them now. But instead of loyally co-operating with the supporters of the Morecambe decisions in formulating a programme based on the majority point of view, a small group of big trades union bosses have been doing their damndest to frustrate all efforts made in this direction.

The attacks started at Morecambe itself with the Lawther-Deakin threat to withhold the money of the unions if the Party took the socialist course it was so clearly bent on taking. For this they were howled down and utterly defeated.

Since then they have left the rank and file severely alone and

concentrated their efforts on pressuring the N.E.C. and the Parliamentary Labour Party into hampering and restricting the free play of discussion around the Conference decisions. A fire of abuse has been directed at "Tribune" because those associated with it were among the foremost in agitating

## Editorial

for the application of the Morecambe decisions.

Slandrous attacks have been launched on these comrades with the clear purpose of creating a scandalous diversion inside the Party to distract attention from the main issue which was to draft a policy based on the decisions made by the rank and file of both the trade unions and the Labour Party.

But despite all this reprehensible activity—and despite the powerful support they have received from the "Herald" as well as from the more open capitalist press—they have failed. They have been pushed back, repulsed and publicly rebuked by none other than the

National Executive Committee—the body they had obviously hoped would be the instrument for carrying through their anti-Party schemes.

### A NEW DEVELOPMENT

True enough the N.E.C. decided that the "Tribune" Brains Trusts "were contrary to the spirit and the intention of the recent decisions of the Parliamentary Labour Party"—but they were not banned. It remains, of course, a bad decision—an attack on the right of Constituency Parties to organise public meetings with whatever Labour speakers they want; a blow at socialist education; and an unwarranted interference with the traditional right of Labour newspapers to organise material support through the medium of public meetings.

For all these reasons the "Socialist Outlook" will continue to oppose these anti-"Tribune" resolutions of the N.E.C.

However, far more significant than this expected—almost one might say this customary attack—on the "Tribune", was the quite unexpected attack on Sir Will Lawther and the "Daily Herald".

# TO STRIKE UNTIL JUSTICE IS WON

## Austin strike of 2,000 is solid

AS the strike of 2,000 Vehicle Builders at the Austin Company for the reinstatement of their victimised Chief Shop Steward, John McHugh, enters its third week, there is evidence of growing sympathy and support from many thousands of trade unionists. Trade Union Branches have passed resolutions of support. The Executive of the Birmingham Trades Council has recommended to its General Meeting due on Saturday, March 7th, the full support of all

Trade Unions in Birmingham.

The Birmingham District Committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union has likewise decided on full support and is sending an Austin Shop Stewards Committee explanatory leaflet to all its factory shop stewards.

Collections have commenced for the strikers and for relief of workers rendered unemployed by the strike.

As reported in our last issue, about 10,000 other Austin workers have been made unemployed by the strike of the vehicle builders. A blow against these unemployed workers has been struck by the Ministry of Labour, who in dealing with "test" cases has made a decision that debars virtually 50 per cent of the men from drawing unemployment pay.

It has led to widespread anger and is felt by many trade unionists to be a deliberate attempt to drive a wedge between the strikers and the unemployed at Austins. A suggestion has been made that the Austin workers should march and demonstrate outside the Ministry for unemployment pay or National Assistance so that the people of Birmingham can be made aware that the Ministry, acting in true Tory tradition, is doing its best to cause hardship and division among workers.

### T. & G.W.U. PULL OUT

The decision of the Transport and General Workers Union Shop Stewards to withdraw from the Austin Shop Stewards Organisation is a blow against the unity of the workers tantamount almost to strike-breaking. In any case, it is a violation of the Confederation resolution "to do nothing to prejudice the strike of the N.U.V.B."

All trade unionists—and not only those in Austins—must condemn this action.

The vicious campaign against

the strikers by the Birmingham capitalist press continues. In order to combat this, the Austin Joint Stewards have done valiant service by printing and distributing leaflets giving the strikers' case. A series of factory gate meetings in Birmingham has also commenced.

Reported by  
**HARRY FINCH**  
(A.E.U. Shop Steward)

But it is felt by every worker that not only is more publicity on behalf of the strikers essential, but more forces will have to be brought into this battle if a swift and successful decision is to ensue.

The McHugh case is the case of all workers. Behind Austin's arrogant management stands the powerful Employers' Federation, and behind them again stands the Tory Government, eager and ready to smash the Trade Unions. Confronted with such powerful enemies the N.U.V.B. needs all the help it can get to win the day.

Cognisant of this fact, the Austin Joint Shop Stewards Organisation, at its meeting on Saturday, February 28, passed the following resolution:—

"That this body of Shop Stewards is of the opinion that the full weight of the trade union movement should be put behind this dispute to bring it to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion."

We agree with this 100 per cent. All trade unionists should, through their union branches, bombard their National Executives for national support for the N.U.V.B. strike.

Meanwhile, all active shop stewards are urged to collect as

### Strikers Lay 'Red Bogey'

In a meeting of nearly 2,000 vehicle builders on strike at Austins, only one vote was recorded against a decision to "continue the strike until justice is won".

George Evans, District Organiser, of the N.U.V.B., stated that the 'red bogey' trailed around by the capitalist press had no foundation whatsoever.

"This is a fight for trade union principles," he said, "and it will be won in spite of all the slanders and sabotage".

much money as possible to help the strikers and unemployed members in distress.

Money should be sent to:—

The Financial Secretary, F. Wilkins, 142, Wolverton Road, Rednal, Birmingham, 31, or to N.U.V.B. Offices, 41, George Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham, 15.

### Socialist Gains in Austrian Elections

AUSTRIA held a general election last week. For the first time since 1930, the Socialist Party emerged as the major party in the country, receiving 1,818,811 votes as against 1,781,969 for the Catholic People's Party, which had previously held the top position.

Although the two parties have formed a coalition government since 1945 (and are likely to continue the coalition) there was a bitter dispute between them over increasing government expenditure to meet growing unemployment. The showing of the Socialists is an indication that if they are prepared to take an independent political course, they can expect growing mass support.

The Communist party lost one of its five seats. The Neo-Nazis lost two. Both these parties, as well as the Catholics, lost heavily in the popular vote to the Socialists. The Neo-Nazis, while on the decline in the country as a whole, made their biggest gains in the Soviet-occupied zone.

### TRADE UNIONS AND THE LABOUR PARTY

A Special Feature on this vital question—by Phillip Williams—will appear in our next issue.

## No War On China!

A Rally of the Labour Movement

★ organised by 'Socialist Outlook' ★

HOLBORN HALL—SUN. MARCH 15th—2.30 p.m.

Sydney Silverman M.P. Dr. S. Jeger M.P.

Harold Davies M.P. John Lawrence

Admission 6d.

## DEMAND CLEMENCY FOR THE ROSENBERGS

OUR paper has many times protested against the proposed execution of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Here we re-print an editorial from the American socialist paper, "The Militant" and associate ourselves entirely with its

appeal for a world-wide protest to stay the hand of President Eisenhower. Our readers may like to know that "The Militant" is a paper produced by working class Socialist opponents of the Communist Party—a fact which gives their statement added weight.

EISENHOWER'S cold-blooded refusal of clemency to the Rosenbergs is the second demonstration by the administration of its brutal and callous plans. First came the "get tough" foreign policy which has already taken the preparatory steps for extending the war in the Far East. Now it shows its iron fist on the domestic front.

Eisenhower's dooming of Ethel and Julius Rosenberg is a calculated political act. Its purpose is to strike terror into the hearts of all present and potential opponents of the catastrophic war that is being planned. It is the ominous portent of the trend toward the establishment in this country of a police-state dominated by the millionaires' club in Washington and directed against labour.

Eisenhower's statement denying clemency contemptuously ignored the main points of those thousands of Americans who pleaded for mercy in this case. These were: (1) Never in American history has the crime attributed to the Rosenbergs been punished with death in peace-time; (2) The death sentence was the product of the political witch-hunt atmosphere and not the merits of the prosecutor's case; (3) The Rosenbergs were charged not with aiding a wartime enemy of the U.S. but its "gallant ally," as Eisenhower, Roosevelt, Truman et al called the USSR during the last war.

The protests over the death sentence have come from people of all shades of political opinion. They include America's two leading atomic scientists, liberal and labour spokesmen and thousands of clergymen and educators.

The truth is the Rosenbergs have been doomed for political reasons. Their execution will be a monstrous mis-carriage of justice and an ominous stride down the road to a Police State in America. Only a great world-wide protest can force Eisenhower to change his military mind.

—"The Militant," 16/2/53.

# Big Business Takes Over in America

**B**IG business has taken over full and direct charge of the American Government. President Eisenhower's cabinet consists of eight millionaires and one trade union official.

It all adds up to this: As the war drive of U.S. big business moves into the crucial stages, the captains of industry and finance have replaced their lieutenants in the government.

### PREPARING FOR WAR

The Eisenhower administration, even before taking office had indicated the lines of belligerent war policy it intends to follow.

Eisenhower's trip to Korea, promised as a "peace" move, turned

### DOLLARS GALORE . . . FOR GUNS ONLY!

The United States has spent 138,700,000,000 dollars on armaments since the "police action" in Korea began less than 3 years ago.

This is more than twice as much as the cost of all United States wars from the American Revolution up to and including the First World War!

out to be a military inspection tour, ending with thinly-veiled hints that the bloody fighting in the Far East will be extended in the near future.

The meaning of these threats has now been revealed by his decision to remove the American Seventh Fleet from Formosa and so release Chiang Kai-shek's American-trained and armed Nationalist troops for the invasion of the Chinese mainland.

If this is now followed by a total blockade of China a Third World War will not be long delayed.

Eisenhower has already turned his attention to the plans for a European imperialist army and

sent two chief members of his administration, John Foster Dulles, and Harold Stassen, to Europe immediately after his inauguration. The stated object of their trip was to counteract anti-war sentiment in Europe and to make sure that the war plans go ahead at full speed.

Before returning to America they made it clear to European governments that, unless they fall speedily into line, all further dollar aid will be cut off.

Truman's administration had already set in motion all the basic trends of the cold and hot wars: large-scale armament, H-bomb development, organisation of European capitalism for war, intervention in Korea, witch hunt against the American people and the rejection of all bids for negotiations by the other side. But these same policies will now be carried on more intensively.

The American people can expect a more severe drive against their living standards in order that the corporations may become even richer.

### WHO ARE THEY?

The composition of the new administration shows how completely the direction of the nation will be carried on by an oligarchy of great wealth.

John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State, is a senior partner in one of Wall Street's richest law firms, Sullivan & Cromwell, which handles Rockefeller and Morgan interests, and specialises in work for giant monopolies and international cartels from General Electric to I. G. Farben. Dulles is also a director of International Nickel and Babcock and Wilcox, and chairman of the Rockefeller Foundation.

Charles E. Wilson, Secretary of

Defence, is president of General Motors, the largest industrial corporation in the U.S.A., and controlled by the Dupont "merchants of death". During the last war, General Motors alone made 12 billion dollars worth of armaments. Secretary Wilson drew 626,300 dollars from the firm last year.

George M. Humphrey, Secretary of the Treasury, is a director of over 30 companies, including National Steel, Weirton Steel, and the National City Bank of Cleveland.

Winthrop W. Aldrich, newly-arrived Ambassador to Britain, is head of the principal Rockefeller (also Morgan-linked) bank, Chase National. A brother-in-law of John D. Rockefeller, junior, he is also director of many of the largest corporations in the country.

Joseph M. Dodge, Director of the Budget, is a Detroit banker and industrialist who was president of the American Bankers' Association.

Herbert Brownell, junior, Attorney-General, is a partner in Lord, Day and Lord, law firm close to

Rockefellers, and a director of several corporations.

Sinclair Weekes, Secretary of Commerce, is chairman of the board of the manufacturing corporation Reed & Barton, a director of the National Association of Manufacturers, and of several other corporations.

Arthur Summerfield, Postmaster-General, and Douglas McKay, Secretary of the Interior, are both dealers in General Motors.

Other important appointments include Sherman Adams, banker and industrialist; W. Walter Williams, insurance and investment magnate; Nelson Rockefeller; Henry Cabot Lodge, junior, who comes of a New England family long closely tied to Morgan banks; Harold E. Stevens, industrialist; Roger M. Keyes, vice-president of General Motors; Robert B. Anderson, an oil and radio executive, and Marion B. Folsom, Treasurer of Eastman Kodak.

Also included is W. Randolph Burges, chairman of the executive committee of the National City Bank and director of several banks and huge corporations.

The lone union official, Martin Durkin, as Secretary of Labour, will have the difficult task of explaining the policies of this pirate crew to the American workers.

## 'Fight Conscription' say British Soldiers

A LETTER FROM GERMANY

**M**UTINIES of Belgian and Danish conscripts against the length of National Service have focussed public attention in those countries upon the discontent of these young men, who are among the least fortunate victims of the present arms race.

Our own Tories have now produced a plan to make National Servicemen liable to immediate recall for 5 years after they have finished with the Territorial Army. This plan may not have

equal readiness in similar circumstances."

After hearing the Rt. Hon. Mr. Elephant's conclusive evidence the Commission called Mr. Hyena and other elders of the Jungle who all supported what Mr. Elephant had said.

They then called the man, who began to give his own account of the dispute.

But the Commission cut him short, saying: "My good man, please confine yourself to relevant issues. We have already heard the circumstances from various unbiased sources; all we wish you to tell us is whether the undeveloped space in your hut was occupied by any one else before Mr. Elephant assumed his position?"

The man began to say: "No, but—" But at this point the Commission declared that they had heard sufficient evidence from both sides and retired to consider their decision.

After enjoying a delicious meal at the expense of the Rt. Hon. Mr. Elephant, they reached their verdict, called the man, and declared as follows:

"In our opinion this dispute has arisen through a regrettable misunderstanding due to the backwardness of your ideas.

"We consider that Mr. Elephant has fulfilled your interests. As it is clearly for your good that the space should be put to its most economic use, and as you yourself have not yet reached the stage of expansion which would enable you to fill it, we consider it necessary to arrange a compromise to suit both parties.

"Mr. Elephant shall continue his occupation of your hut, but we give you permission to look for a site where you can build another hut more suited to your needs, and we will see that you are well protected."

# The Elephant and the Man

★ A Modern Fable ★

By JOMO KENYATTA

which, he says, illustrates relations between the Kikuyu people and the White settlers in Kenya.



A typical scene in Kenya today.

ONCE upon a time an elephant made a friendship with a man.

One day, a heavy thunderstorm broke out, the elephant went to his friend, who had a little hut at the edge of the forest and said to him: "my dear good man, will you please let me put my trunk inside your hut to keep it out of this torrential rain?"

The man seeing what situation his friend was in, replied: "My dear good elephant, my hut is very small, but there is room for your trunk and myself. Please put your trunk in gently."

The elephant thanked his friend saying: "You have done me a good deed and one day I will return your kindness."

But what followed? As soon as the elephant put his trunk inside the hut slowly he pushed his head inside, and finally flung the man out in the rain, and then lay down comfortably inside his friend's hut, saying: "My dear good friend, your skin is harder than mine, and as there is not enough room for both of us, you can afford to remain in the rain while I am protecting my delicate skin from the hailstorm."

The man, seeing what his friend had done to him, started to grumble; the animals in the nearby forest heard the noise, and came to see what was the matter.

All stood around listening to the heated argument between the man and his friend the elephant.

In this turmoil the lion came along roaring and said in a loud voice: "Don't you all know that I am King of the Jungle? How dare anyone disturb the peace of my Kingdom?"

On hearing this the elephant,

who was one of the high ministers in the Jungle Kingdom, replied in a soothing voice, and said: "My Lord, there is no disturbance of the peace in your Kingdom. I have only been having a little discussion with my friend here as to the possession of this little hut which your lordship sees me occupying."

The lion, who wanted to have "peace and tranquility" in his kingdom, replied in a noble voice, saying: "I command my Minister to appoint a Commission of Enquiry to go thoroughly into this matter and report accordingly."

He then turned to the man and said: "You have done well by establishing friendship with my people, especially with the elephant who is one of my honourable Ministers of State. Do not

grumble any more, your hut is not lost to you. Wait until the sitting of my Imperial Commission, and there you will be given plenty of opportunity to state your case. I'm sure that you will be pleased with the findings of the Commission."

The man was very pleased by these sweet words from the King of the Jungle, and innocently waited for his opportunity, in his belief that, naturally, the hut would be returned to him.

The elephant, obeying the command of his master, got busy with other ministers to appoint the Commission of Inquiry.

The following elders of the Jungle were appointed to sit in the Commission: Mr. Rhino-

ceros, Mr. Buffalo, Mr. Alligator, The Rt. Hon. Mr. Fox to act as Chairman; Mr. Leopard to act as Secretary to the Commission.

On seeing the personnel, the man protested and asked if it was not necessary to include in this Commission a member from his side. But he was told that it was impossible, since no one from his side was well enough educated to understand the intricacy of Jungle law.

Further, that there was nothing to fear, for the members of the Commission were all men of repute for their impartiality in justice,

Taken from "Facing Mount Kenya", by Jomo Kenyatta, and reprinted by permission of the publishers, Messrs Secker and Warburg.

and as they were gentlemen chosen by God to look after the interests of races less adequately endowed with teeth and claws, he might rest assured that they would investigate the matter with the greatest care and report impartially.

The Commission sat to take evidence. The Rt. Hon. Mr. Elephant was first called. He came along with a superior air, brushing his tusks with a sapling which Mrs. Elephant had provided, and in an authoritative voice, said:

"Gentlemen of the Jungle, there is no need for me to waste your valuable time in relating a story which I am sure you all know. I have always regarded it as my duty to protect the interests of my friends and this appears to have caused the misunderstanding between myself and my friend here.

"He invited me to save his hut from being blown away by a hurricane. As the hurricane had gained access owing to the unoccupied space in the hut, I considered it necessary, in my friend's own interests, to turn the undeveloped space to a more economic use by sitting in it myself; a duty which any of you would undoubtedly have performed with

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Editor: John Lawrence

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# This 'Property Owning Democracy'

Like Mr. Churchill I am a septuagenarian with over half a century's political experience. I am therefore not surprised at the latest piece of insincerity to come from the Tories—namely, the so-called 'buy - your - own - house' scheme.

If people can afford to buy houses there are plenty available. But to trap young people by offering to accept small municipal deposits (a 'spider to the fly' procedure) and flattering such innocents by calling them "property-owning democrats" is a flagrantly dishonest policy, but quite typical of Churchill and the Tory Party.

These 'gentlemen' know very well that only a fraction of such "buyers" will ever be able to complete the usurious payments demanded in order to receive the title deeds to their property.

Mr. Ernest Marples, Tory M.P. and late Wallacey builder, now the Secretary to the Ministry of Housing, stated recently: "Wallasey makes history and points the way to a real property-owning democracy with a lead that I shall encourage others to follow." The lead was described by the local Chairman as follows: "To buy a Council house, tenants can pay a minimum deposit of £25 plus legal costs. The minimum repayment on the present type costing about £2,000 is £13 10s. 0d. a month."

He could have added that this means £3 2s. 3d. a week—possibly plus ground rent, heavy rates, repairs and outside painting each four or five years! He might also have emphasised that in case of prolonged illness, few tenants would be able for long to meet these terrific charges. Eviction will be the inevitable outcome of this Tory "property - owning - democracy".

Southport. **Herbert Feilden.**

★ **Tom Braddock . . . Architect and Builder of Brave New World**

The very lucid and practical articles by Tom Braddock, F.R.I.B.A., on Rents and the Case for the Nationalisation of the Building Industry have aroused widespread interest, discussion and approval among all classes. They have proved that Britain could be re-built in 40 years and the evils of overcrowding abolished with profit to the community and the national health.

I should like to suggest that

# SCOTTISH YOUTH PUZZLED

TWO alarming facts came to light at the otherwise very quiet Scottish Conference of the Labour League of Youth recently held in Edinburgh.

The first concerned the European Youth Campaign which is an American-inspired and thoroughly reactionary organisation embracing even the Young Conservatives in its ranks.

The 1952 Annual Conference of the L.L.O.Y. compelled the Party to disaffiliate the Youth from this organisation—yet it was revealed by a Yugoslav delegate that all the junior sections of all political parties—except the Communist Party—were affiliated to E.Y.C.!

The second alarming fact was revealed by a Glasgow delegate who told of an invitation to a

*Our readers write—*

your Editorial Board considers publishing these articles in pamphlet form at the nominal price of 3d. or 6d. This would ensure them an even wider circulation among students of sociology and humanitarians of all classes and political creeds with a consequent benefit to the nation.

**P. Allott.**  
[We have every intention of doing as our reader suggests. It is purely a question of finding the money for printing, and we hope to overcome that obstacle very soon—(Editor).]

★ **C.P. and the Labour Party**

I should like to draw your readers attention to the present tactics of the Communist Party. They have been circulating copies of Harry Pollitt's "Policy for Labour" with no other effect than to cause a lot of unhappiness among members of the Labour Party who, being Left wingers, come under suspicion as being responsible for this activity. In some cases, even the families of these Left wing socialists have accused them of being "communists". Yet we are completely innocent of the whole business!

I would be grateful if you would print this warning to other Left wing Labour people. I suggest they do as I have done and throw these C.P. pamphlets on the fire.

**Exeter. A. J. Johnson.**

★ **Coronation and the Youth**

The press is making frantic efforts to popularise the Coronation. Every publicity stunt—from sentiment to sensation—is being used to create the idea in the minds of the general public that we are all united under the crown: Tory and Socialist, employer and worker, exploiter and exploited! It is a sickening spectacle.

The youthful age of the Queen has of course been played up to the limit. Here is a Queen, they tell us, who really sands for the

young men and women of the country. But is it so?

The Queen—a rich woman in her own right—has nothing in common with working class youth of this or any other country. She is the titular head of the employing class and has identified herself (willingly or unwillingly) with the wars that class is waging against the youth of Korea, Malaya and Kenya. And in these wars it is British youth who are expected to do the suffering and the dying while the owners of British wealth will do the profiting.

The time has surely come to expose the whole system of monarchy as most undemocratic and even reactionary.

Keir Hardie, the immortal pioneer of the Labour Party, had this to say in 1911 on the Coronation of George V: "Half a century ago republicanism was the creed of Radicalism and Nonconformity. But the corrupting influence of wealth and the debased newspaper press have eaten the soul out of the manhood of the nation. But Socialism has come to reawaken the people to a new life, to sweep away sham and re-establish realities."

"Kingscraft and Priestcraft are used by the cunning and unscrupulous to veil the truth from the eyes of men. . . . If we cannot set our heel upon the thing we can at least show our contempt for it and preserve our self respect by refusing to participate in any of the foolery connected with this Coronation."

Out of respect for our pioneers we should boycott the wasteful orgy of a coronation.

**G. H. Terry, South Lewisham L.L.O.Y.**

**TAKE YOUR SEATS, PLEASE!**

A "News of the World" report gives a few examples of Coronation seats for hire. Here is a choice one:

"Park Lane (Marble Arch), luxury flats on third floor with six full-length 5ft. windows. Small stands are being erected providing seating for some 15 persons per window. Price, 50 guineas per person, inclusive of television, breakfast, champagne buffet lunch, and every comfort and convenience."

**What! No Call Girls!**

laughter from the conference delegates. The rank and file of the L.O.Y. at least is not taken in by this American propaganda.

Apart from these incidents, the main topics discussed were the alarming decline in numbers and the need for more socialist education.

Only eight resolutions were considered and they dealt largely with education and closer liaison with trade unions in order to attract young trade unionists into the leagues.

**EDUCATION WANTED**

It was very apparent that the delegates considered education of primary and urgent importance, and also the necessity for free discussion and consideration of all views within the party so that members could form their own opinions.

Quite a number of delegates stressed the fact that socialist beliefs and principles were important—not leaders. Aberdeen L.O.Y. delegate told conference that they have begun to read socialist classics and to discuss and review them.

The conference ended with the singing of the Red Flag and the dispersal of the delegates—a bunch of puzzled young people still trying to find the truth and determined to educate themselves towards it even if it has to be in spite of bans, straying leaders, and an anti-socialist press.

**Helen Chalmers.**

**'SOCIALIST OUTLOOK' EVERY WEEK (Price 3d.) from your NEWSAGENT**

# The Story of a Brave People

ALTHOUGH the central figure in this very large book is of course Josip Broz Tito, it is really the story of a collective hero, the Yugoslav masses and their Communist Party.

The author is well qualified to write this story, having himself been a prominent maker of some of the history he records.

Tito's political life followed a pattern very familiar in Yugoslavia. Born in 1892, into a poor peasant family, he passed from cowherd and farmhand, by way of a locksmith's apprentice, to the status of an itinerant engineer and then a trade union organiser. He joined the Croatian Social Democratic Party in 1910, was drafted into the imbecile Hapsburg army in 1914 and taken prisoner on the Russian front. The 1917 February revolution released him and he later fought as a soldier in the Red Army and again fell prisoner, this time to Admiral Kolchak.

He remarks that during all his civil war experience in Russia he never once heard the name of Stalin mentioned. Lenin and Trotsky were the most popular names in Russia at that time.

Returning to post-war Yugoslavia he found it in revolutionary ferment. The newly-formed Socialist Workers' Party with a membership of 60,000 was the most powerful party in the country but its leaders proved to be quite unequal to the revolutionary task thrust upon them.

The next seven years is a record of bitter fighting against the Royalist reaction. The revolutionary leaders possessed little or no political orientation (at one stage acts of individual terrorism were common), yet they were undoubtedly fighters for their class who suffered as the class suffered. Tito, Kar-

**"Tito Speaks", by Vladimir Dedijer. Weidenfeld and Nicholson, 21/-.**

delj, Rankovitch, and Pijade all spent much time in the Royal jails, and this suffering was undoubtedly remembered during their future relations with the comfortable bureaucrats who were to visit them after the seizure of power following the end of the Second World War.

By 1929, the trade unions had been smashed, the Party made illegal, its militants either murdered or flung into jail.

The political crisis in the Comintern had its effect in Yugoslavia. Central Committees were "reorganised" and bureaucratic control hampered the effectiveness of the much persecuted organisation of the Yugoslav communists. For example, in the 1934 elections Moscow forbade the Party to participate as an independent Party. Again the C.C. was "reorganised" and this time Gorkic (later revealed as a police agent), was preferred to Tito as the General Secretary.

The book usefully reminds

readers of the Yugoslav insurrection which immediately followed Hitler's invasion of the country. There can be no doubt now that it was this insurrection, in which so prominent a part was played by the Communist Party, which sowed the seeds that were later to lead to Tito's final break with Stalin.

**OPPORTUNISTS**

As the rising grew in scope and importance so also grew the treachery of Moscow. Against the objections of Tito and other leaders on the spot, they recognised the Royalist-Mihailovitch Coalition; they hampered attempts to organise partisans in Macedonia; they objected to Communists being in leading positions in the National Liberation Movement: they objected to the setting up of the Anti-Fascist Council as the de facto government of Yugoslavia and they cynically disregarded appeals for material help for the hard-pressed partisans. Finally, they enforced the Yalta Agreement without any prior consultation with the Yugoslavs.

The Russians viewed the Yugoslavs as useful guerrillas and never as a revolutionary movement. Stalin—not for the first time in history—attempted to stop the revolutionary developments. The Yugoslav communists—albeit without a very clear perspective—tried to extend it. There was the basic conflict which finally led to the break.

Dedijer's book lacks a scientific presentation and the historical treatment is confused. There is no attempt to analyse political problems in a principled manner. Indeed, principles are lacking throughout.

**STALIN'S TREACHERY**

One is forced to the conclusion that the present leadership in Yugoslavia has nothing to offer the workers of the world in the field of political theory. They learned at the feet of the centrist and empiricist Stalin and today they imitate, in their own way, his opportunist balancing between the great class forces in the world. (This is, incidentally, particularly noticeable in the chapters dealing with their attitude towards the colonial revolution.)

Nevertheless, there is much in the book which is of great value to the British workers. There is the experiences with the Comintern (and Cominform). But above all there is the solid fact—which no amount of slander can remove—that the Yugoslav people, led by the workers, destroyed capitalism and established a workers' state based upon the armed power of the working class. That historical fact will enter into the consciousness of the Yugoslav working class—however much Tito may now pander, opportunistically, to Mr. Churchill and the leaders of World Imperialism.

**T.V.P.**

# HAROLD LASKI

**A Review of Kingsley Martin's Book\***

IN music and in art these phenomena occur; Mozarts and ~~Tuners arrive and in their teens are fully equipped, confident, inspired and with the technical ability to give expression to their apparently fully developed ego.~~

Of such was Harold Laski, but of a much rarer type; the economist, the theorist, and the inspired teacher, a teacher who could do as well as teach. Men of this class never stop work, their output is terrific.

So with Harold Laski, he never rested. Lectures, speeches, articles, letters, books, committees, reports, came with a steady never-ending flow, and all done in a way that was just about as good as it could be done in each particular field of activity or endeavour.

**BRILLIANT MAN**

Look at him at a political meeting, perfectly composed and confident; at a word from the Chairman, Laski stands up—no notes, no gestures, a perfectly modulated voice and a perfectly composed speech, every sentence rounded off and finished, correct in grammar and punctuation, just as ready for the printer as for the audience in front of him—and behind every statement a battery of support and information, all ready to be turned on complete with reference in the event of any doubt being expressed on any point.

A memory that retained all the stories and all the humour needed, but the story and the humour only used to drive home the point at issue. One example; at a meeting a woman school teacher asked what could be done about teachers' salaries, ending up with a statement that of course teachers could not strike. Laski's simple reply was "Have you tried?"

Another characteristic of these apparent favourites of the gods is their lack of self pride or assertiveness. They are so absorbed with the endless tasks facing them and the boundless means of expression their own nature gives them that they pay little regard to their own immediate or future position in this world; generally they have no use for the next.

This makes them peculiarly susceptible to being taken advantage of and ruthlessly used by those with whom they are in contact. They can do anything, they always seem to have time to do it, therefore work is piled on to them; it is

never refused, they are worked to death. So was Harold Laski by the movement to which he gave his whole life.

Kingsley Martin's book makes this clear. It also draws attention to another side of Laski's character, his confidence, too often misplaced, in those who should have been his comrades, those who took advantage of his will to work and ability to do it effectively. Laski was so certain of the rightness of his point of view that he relied solely on this to guarantee its acceptance. He did not fight back as a person, he stated his case and relied on the correctness of that case to win others to the point of view expressed.

When finally this confidence proved itself to be misplaced he did not fight back; he withdrew his name from nomination to the N.E.C. of the Party. He wrote on 13th February, 1949:

"Day by day I hear grim evidence of E.B.'s\* continuing malice. . . . The last phase has had a grim effect on me, so deep that I have refused to be re-nominated for the N.E.C. of the Party"

**OPINION OF LEADERS**

His opinion of our party leaders is perhaps worth noticing: "Attlee is not a great P.M., God knows he is timid, as well as shy, resentful about opposition, and more an admirable chairman than a leader. Bevin quite pathological in my own view—vain, disastrously ungenerous, quite definitely anti-Semitic in a brutal way. I put Morrison easily first; Cripps is superb at things, but no good, as always, at persons; Dalton a good Minister but without any deep conviction even with security of tenure. Nye Bevan is by far the most courageous and intelligent."

Finally, to show that Laski did not allow his traditions to overcome his judgment; "Even rich Jews risk Fascism in the hope of buying themselves off rather than strengthen the working class cause."

Altogether a book to buy if you can, to get out of the library anyway. Not only does it give a true picture of a great Comrade, Harold Laski, but also a valuable comment on recent history of the Labour Movement.

\*Harold Laski, by Kingsley Martin Gollancz, 21/-

\*Ernest Bevin. **T.B.**

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