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TODAY

Socialist Outlook

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3d.

**Glasgow's
Great Rent
Strike**
(See page 2)

GREECE TO-DAY Where Royalty Rules by Terror



THE WOMAN WHO WAS ASHAMED

Draw this picture in Athens in August 1952, the woman who was driven to beg in the streets to get bread for her children.

● For Full Story Turn to Page 4 ●

Unions Demand Sack For Steel Board Trio Don't Want 'Macdonaldism'

IT is a big mistake to judge the Labour Movement by the words and actions of its leaders. When Sir Lincoln Evans and two other members of the T.U.C. General Council accepted well-paid seats on the Tory Steel Board it might have been thought that the Movement had abandoned the fight against the de-nationalisation of the Steel Industry. But the storm of protest which these appointments have aroused have made it crystal clear that, whatever certain beknighted leaders may desire, the British working class is solidly determined to continue the fight against all Tory efforts to wreck the work of the last Labour Government.

The protests have been so deep and angry that one of the trio of would-be Steel Chiefs (Mr. Wilfrid Beard) was forced to resign his post even before he could take it up! His Union—the Pattern-makers—pulled him off it.

Another of the trio—John Owen, General Secretary of the Blastfurnacemen—is still arguing the matter out with his Executive. As for Sir Andrew Naesmith, General Secretary of the Amalgamated Weavers, who took Beard's place on the Board, he has lamely stated that his union has "not condemned me, nor have they applauded me." Such an

apparently tolerant attitude by the Union is not hard to understand—for Sir Andrew retires from his union post next August anyway!

VOICE OF LABOUR

Meanwhile, the Foundry Workers at their recent Conference condemned this worthy steel trio, declaring their actions to be "incompatible with the policies of the Trade Union Movement and the Labour Party."

The Association of Supervisory Staffs and Engineering Technicians, also at their annual conference, resolved that these three

Editorial

gentlemen should resign "because they have joined a Board set up to pursue policies in conflict with those of the Labour Party and the Trade Union Movement."

The National Union of Mineworkers (Scottish Area) has congratulated the Patternmakers for withdrawing their General Secretary from the Board and called upon the General Council of the T.U.C. to demand the resignation by General Council members in this Board, and to remove from office immediately the three Council members who have accepted appointments."

Other unions who have publicly protested are the Boilermakers, the Fire Brigade Union, and the A.E.U.

in an article by its General Secretary in the Union Journal, and the South Wales Miners Executive.

The General Secretary of the National Union of Railwaymen has publicly associated himself with an article in his union's journal, "Railway Review", which says: "What are we to think of the three who have so readily plunged into active participation with our political opponents? Their decisions cannot mean anything else but that they do not believe in the nationalisation of the (steel) industry, that they wish to operate with those who have fought the Labour Movement viciously and determinedly, and that they have scant hope for the future political prospects of the Labour Party. Happily, few in the Labour and Trade Union ranks agree with them."

IN C.L.P.'s, TOO!

Few indeed! In Labour's ranks—in the Trade Union Branches and Ward and Constituency Labour Parties—the disgust with Evans and his friends is overwhelming and universal. Typical of this reaction is the sharp demand tabled by Holborn and South St. Pancras Labour Party which calls on the National Executive to "publicly repudiate" the actions of the Steel Board trio.

Finally, in condemning these appointments it can be safely assumed that "Tribune" is expressing the opinion of the six members of the National Executive Committee who represent the Constituency Parties and are generally associated with "Tribune" and Aneurin Bevan.

WHAT OF THE LEADERS

Yet despite all this protest, the General Council of the T.U.C.—which is supposed to give leadership to the trade union movement has met and declared... nothing! The huge volume of protest from trade unionists has been ignored. Indeed, when Bob Willis, the General Secretary of the London Society of Compositors and a member of the General Council, voiced the general feeling of disgust, he was attacked by Arthur Deakin as a "braying ass!"

But the matter cannot be left there. The movement is in no mood to see its leaders desert the cause and continue to call themselves Labour men. The militancy expressed at last year's Trade Union Congress and Labour Party Conference is still very much alive. Those who ignore and flout the wishes of the membership are riding for a fall. Macdonaldism won't flourish today and those who think it will had better abandon such ideas or... get ready to be removed from all positions of leadership in the Labour and Trade Union Movement.

● Continued on page 2

The Korean Peace Proposals

FOR three long years the people of Korea have suffered—their towns and villages destroyed, their countryside laid waste and casualties approaching three millions. Every decent man and woman will rejoice at the prospect of a truce being signed in this bloodiest of all wars—a war which, it is now officially admitted, would have ended in one month had the Koreans been left to settle their own internal affairs without the intervention of the United Nations on the side of America's puppet, Syngman Rhee.

As the American rulers have used every conceivable trick to delay signing the truce, it is safe to assume that a cease-fire is not to their liking and constitutes a definite set-back to their plans for a global war. To whom belongs the credit for achieving this set-back?

Not to Churchill, or to Nehru, or to Malenkov—but to the thousands of nameless workers and poor farmers of North Korea and China who have willingly given their lives to stop the armies of imperialism, re-installing dictator Rhee as the supreme ruler over all Korea.

They have fought to a standstill the armed might of the most powerful capitalist country in the world and compelled it to negotiate.

But it would be the worst kind of foolishness to imagine that the signing of a truce in Korea automatically heralds the dawn of a

new era of peace in the Far East—leave alone in the rest of the world!

The capitalist rulers of America and Britain will never willingly make peace with the non-capitalist world or with the liberation movements in the colonial empires. The latest piece of savagery against the Kenya Africans is proof of that—if proof is still needed.

Churchill and Eisenhower represent a group of imperialists who are only too painfully aware that without wars, and without the gigantic armaments programmes

which prepare those wars, an economic slump of catastrophic proportions will rapidly descend on their blighted profit-making system.

The supreme objective of the Grand Alliance of the counter-revolution remains, therefore, war against the non-capitalist world in a desperate attempt to avert the oncoming crisis and smash the international workers' movements at one and the same time. This is basic—and socialists would do well never to forget it.

Nevertheless, between the objective and its fulfillment lie many difficulties. In the first place, those marked down for annihilation dare to resist. Korea! Malaya! China! Viet Nam! Kenya!

Then the strain of permanent war preparations overburdens the weaker partners in the Alliance and leads to dissension within the war camp itself.

Finally, the war weariness of

the common people continues to grow and compels even an Eisenhower to tread warily his chosen path to World War Three.

For all these reasons the rulers of the capitalist world must perforce retreat a little, adjust their policies to meet a new situation, calm their bankrupted allies with more dollars and... don the mantle of peace in order the more safely to prepare the war.

This is the meaning of the almost concluded talks at Panmunjom. It is definite victory for the camp of the workers—but a tremendous independent class activity must now be undertaken by the Labour Movements of the world if it is to lead on to a real and lasting peace.

As matters stand at present, the situation bristles with opportunities for the imperialists to use as an excuse—when they are ready and at the appropriate moment—to restart the war.

There is the question of the future of Formosa and the fate of its illegal "emperor" Chiang Kai Shek: the question of the recognition of the New China: the wars in Malaya and Viet Nam: and, finally, the threat of the puppet, Syngman Rhee, to "go it alone" if American troops are withdrawn. (Incidentally, one shrewd capitalist journal, the "Economist", has observed that if Rhee carried out his threat the United Nations would be duty bound to "come to his rescue!")

Under these circumstances it is madness for the Labour Movement to grant any political confidence to Churchill in the "peace" talks which are now opening up. Such an attitude will permit the warmongers to prepare their next steps in safety and in secret and in the



knowledge that the workers have been lulled into a sense of false security by their leaders.

Yet blind acceptance of Churchill's leadership in the struggle against war is now the keynote policy of all sorts of political tendencies in the Labour Movement. Almost alone the "Socialist Outlook" continues to preach no trust

● Continued on page 2

STAND BY KENYA AFRICANS

AS we go to press, news comes through that the Government has proscribed the 100,000 strong Kenya African Union, the Colony's only African political organisation.

This means that the people of Kenya now have no "legal" organisation through which they can express their just demands. (The East Africa Trade Union Congress was banned last year.)

The decision was taken by the Governor's Executive Council, a white settler-dominated body. It

exposes quite clearly the real motive behind Tory policy in Kenya—to deprive the Africans of their few remaining political rights and to strengthen the position of the race-hating white minority.

In a broadcast statement on June 8, Mr. Windley, Chief Native Commissioner said: "The Kenya Government can never again allow such an organisation as the Kenya African Union. Moreover, the Government cannot permit the formation of any African political society on the same lines as the Kenya African Union while there is such trouble in this country."

as long as the Africans are deprived of their land and subjected to the oppressive rule of white settlers, this amounts to a permanent ban on the African right to organise.

This reign of terror in Kenya being backed by heavy reinforcements of British troops, under command of newly-appointed General Sir George Erskine. Kenya is another Malaya.

Stand by the African people. Frustrate these horrible Tory plots to persecute a whole people. Withdraw all British troops from Kenya!

Stop This Legal Murder

FACING death in the electric chair in a week's time Julius and Ethel Rosenberg have refused to do a deal with the American Government which would save their lives.

IN THE FINEST LABOUR TRADITION

In a statement issued in New York on June 3, they declared "Yesterday we were offered a deal by the Attorney-General of the United States. We were told that if we co-operated with the Government, our lives would be spared."

"By asking us to repudiate the truth of our innocence the Government admits its doubts concerning our guilt. We will not help purify the foul record of a fraudulent conviction and a barbaric sentence. We solemnly declare, and for evermore that we will be coerced even under pain of death to bear false witness and yield up to tyranny our rights as free Americans."

"Our respect for trust, science, and human dignity is for sale. Justice is not so saleable to be sold to the highest bidder. If we are executed it will be the murder of innocent people and the shame will be on the Government of the United States. History will record—whether we live or not—that we were victims of the most monstrous frame-up in the history of our country."

Nobody reading these words can fail to be convinced of the integrity and courage of this young couple. This brutal and criminal offer by the American administration, coming as it does after the terrible two-year ordeal in Sing Sing, is calculated, if anything could, to utterly break the morale, force them to "confess" anything.

They have flung this filthy cloak back in the teeth of their mentors. We salute them, urge every reader of the "Outlook" to act now, TODAY. Get action on this case at once in every possible way, through your Labour Party, trade union, your fact-finding committee. Unless the force of our protest stay the hand of the American authorities, the Rosenbergs will die when our next issue comes out. The terror against the American workers will have gained a victory.

Send your protests at once to The American Ambassador, Grosvenor Square, London, W.1.

Korean Peace Proposal

From page one

in Sir Winston Churchill the Tory leader.

Typical of the sort of attitude we are trying to warn against is this letter recently received from a reader in Edinburgh who, we are not surprised to learn, is a member of the Communist Party. He writes: "What you are not in a position to win on the battlefield you will not be able to win at the conference table. This means no 'revolutionary' conditions for talks. Negotiation implies compromise. . . . What the Labour Movement must press for is that Churchill's original proposal should stand and that Bermuda should not be allowed to make any difference to it. Demands going far beyond this would not at present command majority support in this country."

This is terrible. If the Labour Movement is not to make demands which go beyond Churchill's proposal—that is, demands which Churchill won't support—why don't we join the Tory Party right away and cease to pretend to be an independent party of the working class?

What are these "revolutionary demands" we have posed in our paper? That no peace is possible while the colonial peoples are in

chains—that all foreign troops should be withdrawn from overseas. Naturally Churchill won't support such demands—yet until these demands are realised the only "peace" that can be arranged "round the conference table" is one which envisages the continued oppression of millions of peoples in Africa and Asia.

Is our Communist reader prepared to accept such a "peace"? Is he prepared to trade bombs on Malaya, Indo-China and Kenya for a very temporary freedom from bombs on Britain, America and Russia? Certainly we aren't—and neither are the colonial people. That is why we shall continue to urge the Labour Movement to give no political confidence to Churchill whatever.

By presenting our own, independent demands for peace we shall not harm the cause of the non-capitalist world. On the contrary, by organising the powerful desire for peace which exists in the working class we shall be able to turn it into a weapon with which to strike at the basic cause of war—the continued existence of a marauding and footloose system of imperialist oppression. In no conceivable way can that harm the

cause of the workers in the non-capitalist world.

And we are not at all sure that such demands will command no majority support in this country. One section of the people at least will support them—the soldiers in the front line of the hot wars and the mothers and wives they have been forced to leave at home! More significant by far than all the talk of Big Power Conferences is this little item reported from Korea by the "Daily Herald's" correspondent in describing the attitude of the soldiers to a possible cease-fire: "Some American soldiers", he wrote, "danced with joy at the idea of going home."

There is the key to a peace programme for the Labour Movement: **Bring the soldiers home! Let the peoples of the world settle their own internal affairs!**

Churchill won't like such agitation by the Labour Movement—but the soldiers will, especially when they find that they are only swapping Korea for some other theatre of war! Let those who want to stick with Churchill, do so. The "Socialist Outlook" will stick with the war weary soldiers, for they, in the last analysis, will decide the question of war or peace.

Another Racket Exposed

A POWERFUL group of capitalists wants the Company Law changed so that they can issue shares of no par value. That is to say, instead of these shares having a face value of say one shilling, five shillings, or a pound, they will have no face value at all.

In its evidence before a Government Committee which is examining the question of the issue of Shares of "No Par" Value, the T.U.C. General Council exposes this move for the racket it is—nothing else than a device to hide what is happening inside public companies and to camouflage the payment of excessive dividends.

The T.U.C., quoting the evidence given by the Chief Registrar of Companies before the 1944 Cohen Committee on Company Law Amendment, points out that if a company fears trouble from its workers resulting from its declared dividend, all it has to do is to subdivide its shares, say each into two.

The dividend will then appear to be halved but in actual fact each shareholder will receive exactly the same sum.

Round the Empire on C-Day

In Westminster Abbey with the other Commonwealth Ministers sat Dr. Malan and Sir Godfrey Huggins, representatives of the small white minority who tyrannise it over the millions of Africans in the Union of South Africa and Southern Rhodesia. They have been feasted and generally made a fuss of by the Royal Family and the British Government. But back home in Africa, and in other parts of the colonial Empire, as the following news items show, the people looked upon Coronation Day as a day to be dedicated to the struggle for liberation from imperialist rule. While London, the heart of the Empire, junketed in the streets, the colonial people flexed their muscles for the trial of strength which lies ahead.

ACCORDING to a Reuter dispatch of June 3, at the height of the Coronation celebrations in Nicosia, Cyprus, the lights of the town were cut off for more than an hour "by an act of sabotage".

The T.U.C. demands detailed legislation which would act as a safeguard against such abuses. But the only way the workers can be sure that they are not being tricked by the bosses is for accredited representatives of the trade unions to have full access to all the books of the companies. In this way they will get to know all the knavery that is constantly going on behind the closed doors of the Board Rooms.

Other anti-Coronation demonstrations included clashes between students and police at Paphos, West Cyprus, and the tearing down of the Union Jack outside the Commissioner's house.

WORKERS FIGHT TO END COLOUR BAR

IN Kitwe, Northern Rhodesia, the African workers of the Copper Belt turned Coronation Day into a determined demonstration against the colour bar.

A group of 20 Africans entered the Nkana Mine Club—a "Whites Only" preserve. They were approached by Europeans, who adopted a threatening attitude. Under instructions from their leaders to avoid violence, the Africans left.

The demonstrators then proceeded to Kitwe township where they tried to enter an hotel bar (also reserved for "Europeans Only"). Although the entrance was blocked by a group of whites, including policemen, two Africans managed to enter the bar. They were forcibly ejected while the police looked on.

There were several other incidents throughout the day and the authorities had to call out the Police Reserve. The Africans determinedly stuck to their resolution to preserve "non-violence", but several of the white "Herrenvolk" had to be summoned to the police stations and warned of the consequences of taking the law into their own hands.

At Broken Hill, the official march-past in the morning and a sportsmeeting in the afternoon were boycotted by the Africans, in response to the campaign launched by the African Congress against the proposed Central African Federation. The sports meeting had to be abandoned.

HE NEVER CAME

CHIEF Mwase, who was chosen to attend the Coronation as the Africans' representative from Nyasaland, has declined to go. This is in keeping with the decision of the African Supreme Council, which has ordered a boycott of the Coronation as part of the campaign of non-co-operation launched in protest against federation in Central Africa.

("Observer" 24/5/53.)

HOW THE NEWS REACHES PAPUA

When news of the coronation of King George VI reached North-West Papua, in New Guinea, it fell to a village councillor to translate all the mumbo-jumbo describing the Abbey ceremony into language which the local inhabitants could understand. This was the result:

"King George he dead. Number one son, Edward, he no want him clothes. Number two son he like. Bishop he make plenty talk along new King.

"He say 'You savvy? You look out good along all people?' King he talk: 'Yes'.

"Then Bishop and plenty Government taubaudas (bosses) and storekeeper, and soldier, and bank manager, and policeman all he stand up and sing and blow him trumpet.

"Finish."

Which seems a fairly competent summary of many columns in the newspapers.

("Manchester Guardian" 21/5/53.)

Nicholson capitulated and agreed to the cases being withdrawn.

The industrial action to back the rent strike was successful.

The landlords, in the person of David Nicholson, capitulated to it; the Law, in the person of Sheriff Lee, capitulated to it. It only remained for the Government to follow suit, which it did on November 26, 1915, when Parliament passed a Bill to control rents at their 1914 level.

Labour's History

The Fight Which Won Rent Control

THE Glasgow Rent Strike of 1915 was one of the decisive victories of the working class. It achieved its purpose: rent control and the curbing of the power of the landlords.

Prior to 1915 the landlords had a virtual monopoly. They owned all dwelling houses available for rent. There were no Municipal Housing Estates and, when the circumstances favoured them as in the first world war, they were able to charge monopoly prices. They would raise rents as they pleased, untrammelled only by the fear of public opinion.

The Labour Movement in Glasgow ended all that and it did so by mobilising the mass power of the working class in open conflict with authority—the courts as well as Parliament and the written laws of the land. And here is how it did it:

THE LABOUR PARTY HOUSING COMMITTEE

Glasgow, like many northern cities, owned its own gas and transport industries the profits of which were to be spent in the interests of the citizens. In 1913, the Labour Party decided that interest-free loans to build houses could be one useful way of using this money and it fought elections on this issue.

It also organised the Labour Party Housing Committee to propagate the idea. John Wheatley, the future Labour Cabinet Minister and Pat Dolan, now Sir Pat Dolan, the future Labour Lord Provost of Glasgow, the most respectable leaders of the movement, were behind it. So were John McLean and Willie Blaxter, the not so respectable leaders. Its secretary was Andrew McBride.

The Housing Committee failed in its purpose but it organised and led the rent strike.

In February, 1915 a 6 per cent. increase in rent was imposed by the landlords, the well-organised tenants of the landlords in Glasgow. Immediately, Andrew McBride got busy. He organised propaganda meetings in all parts of Glasgow and in the Govan area he got the housewives together in the Glasgow Women's Housing Association, with Mrs. McBride, an ordinary housewife, as chairman.

In September the strike started in a few families in Govan but

it rapidly swept through the City. By October 2, there were 5,000 strikers; by October 23, 10,000; by October 30, 15,000 and when it reached its culmination on November 17, there were more than 25,000 rent strikers.

From Glasgow it spread to Dundee, Aberdeen, Rutherglen, Paisley and Ayr.

DIRECT ACTION!

The Housewives' Committee dealt with attempts at eviction or intimidation by the agents of the landlords. They plastered the Sheriff Officers, the factors and their clerks with peace meal and drove them out of the districts.

Empty houses were picketed against tenants who had agreed to pay increased rents. Such tenants were not permitted to take up possession.

In Partick, across the Clyde from Govan, another hot spot, they compelled one factor, who had called to collect his rents, to go to each house and cancel the entries of arrears written into the rent books to cover the unpaid

By

Cllr. Tom Mercer

rent increases. He was in a sorry state by the time he got away!

While these "shock troops" were operating under Mrs. Barbour's leadership, Andrew McBride was organising publicity.

At a huge demonstration of rent strikers in October 1915, the following slogans were carried by the women and the children:

"While my Father is a Prisoner in Germany, the Landlords are Attacking my Home."

"We Are Not Removing."

"My Father is fighting in France while we are Fighting Huns at Home."

WORKERS JOIN IN

The factory workers and the recently organised Shop Stewards movement was also enlisted. David Kirkwood (now Lord Kirkwood!) Convenor of Shop Stewards in Parkhead, wrote to the Glasgow Town Clerk:

"I have been instructed by the Shop Stewards of the Ordnance Department of Parkhead Forge . . . to draw the attention of the Corporation . . . to the housing conditions in the eastern district of Glasgow . . . national demands in Parkhead Forge have added thousands to the number of workers with a consequent increase in domestic overcrowding . . . Property owners taking advantage of these conditions have been increasing rents and the tenants have no means of preventing this unless by organised refusal to pay the



It was from Glasgow tenements like these that the workers poured into the streets to defeat the landlords in 1915.

increase. As this might lead to the eviction of one or more families the men here wish to make it perfectly clear that they would regard this as an attack on the working class. . . .

Yours faithfully,

David Kirkwood"

(Quoted from "Forward" 9/10/15)

The Government also recognised the seriousness of the situation in Glasgow. The "Forward" of 16/10/15 wrote:

" . . . conference took place on Monday evening. There being present T. McKinnan Wood, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland, Mr. Robert Miners, M.P., Lord Advocate, on the one side and Baillie James Stewart and Mr. Andrew McBride, Chairman and Secretary respectively of the Glasgow Labour Party Housing Committee as representing the tenants on the other. The Conference lasted over an hour . . . the case

NEXT WEEK
REG GROVES
well-known Labour writer and propagandist, writes on
THE CHARTIST STRUGGLES

put over by the tenants' representatives explained that the agitation against increased rents was universal and that thousands of munition workers were involved. If the Government did not deal with the situation as requested, the tenants would continue the strike . . . and if any tenants were evicted . . . then it was almost certain industrial strikes would follow. It was well that the Government should know the facts as they were known by the tenants and act accordingly . . ."

THE LAST ACT

The strike culminated at the Glasgow Sheriff Court on November 17. David Nicholson, a factor in the Govan area, took 18 strikers, mostly munition workers, to court . . . to shew cause why they should not be evicted for refusal to pay increased rent . . ." ("Forward" 20/11/15).

Andrew McBride did his work well.

The housewives were mobilised and deputations from some of the factories were in attendance at the court. They marched from Govan and other areas gathering up workers on their way. For example: The "Albion", a huge factory in which Gallagher was a

Shop Steward, came out solidly, both day and night shift, and joined the demonstration.

COURTROOM SURROUNDED

The streets surrounding the County Buildings in which the rent court was situated were jammed with demonstrators.

"John McLean, who had left his school, was standing on a shutter of some sort, held up by strong arms, addressing the crowd" ("Forward" 21/11/15). Inside the court, representatives of the working class were dictating to the authorities the terms of peace.

After the Court opened, Sheriff Lee was asked by a strike leader to see a deputation before dealing with the cases. He agreed to do so and retired with members of the deputation to his chambers.

The first spokesman said that he was one of the deputation from Dalmuir Shipyard where over 8,000 workers were employed and when the men were aware that these cases were coming on they were on the point of stopping work.

He further said that the nation could do without the factors but it could not do without these workers! ("Forward" 27/11/15).

So it went on for over two hours, speaker after speaker urging the Sheriff to dismiss the cases and threatening strike action if he refused.

The Sheriff argued that he could not do so. The law was clear and he had to administer it. He offered to continue the cases until the Government had time to introduce legislation. But the strikers would not consider any compromise.

They insisted that either he dismiss the cases or they would bring the whole Clyde out on strike. The masses of workers outside in the streets gave point to their argument.

LANDLORDS DEFEATED

Back in the Court Room, the factor's lawyer demanded decree to evict. The Sheriff agreed that according to law he was entitled to get it but urged him, on patriotic grounds, to agree to the cases being dismissed. The lawyer offered to agree to their being continued pending legislation but the Sheriff pointed out that he had already made that offer and it had been turned down. The rent strikers in the court assured both Nicholson and his lawyer that the Sheriff was right.

Badgered from all sides—by the Sheriff; by his own lawyer who, by this time, was scared of the responsibility of a mass strike of munition workers as was the Sheriff; by the strikers in the court, who were permitted an unheard of licence; and by the tumultuous mass of strikers and demonstrators outside—David

Spades are Trumps!

WELL all right! Shovels if you like. Here we are struggling for our place in the world and 95 tons of coal out of every 100 that we sell abroad or use at home are produced by the sweat of a collier's brow when he uses his shiny shovel.

As Lamb showed us, Mrs. Battle's opinions on Whist were much more intelligent than the majority of the Tory commentators on the problems facing our Coal Board today. Power loading which does away with the shovelling of coal by hand is in use today for only 5 per cent. of our production.

To read some of the criticisms of the miners' efforts one would think that you could run a coal-pit with the slick chromium plated zip of a milk bar. Pits that were sunk generations ago are such that their main haulage ways, in a majority of cases, are unable to cope with rapid and safe transport to the surface of the coal that is won.

All this means capital investment and development, but we find that despite the fact that the N.C.B. estimated £520 millions (at 1949 prices) would be needed to be spent on our pits in the next 15 years, in the past two years less than two-thirds of the amount envisaged was spent.

It is not a mathematical fact that the more men you shove underground the greater your output. "Green" labour, as the Report shows, slows down productivity until it is trained. While there has been a slight fall in the output per man-shift, it is still 11 per cent. above that of 1947. There is no doubt that if the Coal Board could re-equip the pits at the rate it originally expected the slight fall in output would have given place to a further rise.

THE KEY QUESTION

In a pit, distribution is the key to pit head figures of output. Plenty of "elbow-room" and ease of movement is the great aim of the Development Plan. Without that a pit can be like the man who was completely bald but possessed a beard that reached to his toes. Production was there in plenty but distribution was sadly lacking.

As the Board says: "Most of the collieries are old and have worked the most accessible and easily won coal; improvements have to be made year by year merely to offset the increasing costs of working at greater distances from the shafts and in more difficult conditions."

A sane Government would give coal production priority over armaments production.

COAL COMPENSATION

The information published by the National Union of Mineworkers last March drew our attention to the extra burden put on the Coal Industry by the delay in the payment of compensation to the former owners.

The Bulletin quotes the "Financial Times" of January 6. "The National Coal Board must be extremely unhappy that it does not yet know what it will have to hold up in its books as the capital cost of the assets it acquired. The taxpayer, who owes to posterity the National Debt, has had an unnecessary burden put on his shoulders

SHORTEN WORKING WEEK An Explanation

I notice you had to cut my article "Shorten the Working Week". It is unfortunate you cut out the paragraph you did. Without it the example I gave on a rate of 2s. 9d. could give a wrong impression.

The point I was making, for the benefit of men in other industries, was that the pieceworker gets a relatively lower rate for overtime than would appear at first sight. The paragraph printed shows how this works in general principle, but the paragraph you omitted showed how this principle is modified each way by our agreement with the employers to pay overtime on the "time-workers" rate, and by increasing piece work earnings.

Tottenham. N. Dinning.
Editor's Note:

We are sorry if we cut an important paragraph. In view of what Norman Dinning says, we

SOME PERTINENT REMARKS ON THE MINES

by Harold Davies, M.P.



and, in addition, has to pay a higher price for coal because of the delay in the settlement of compensation."

In 1947, interest rate was at 2½ per cent. and from January 1948 to June 1949 it was 3 per cent. It then went up to 3½ per cent. for the next two years, then 4 per cent. for the second half of 1951 and 4½ per cent. was the rate for 1952. "The total cost in interest since January 1, 1941, is well in excess of £42 millions.

This trick of the perpetuity of interest must be tackled one day by the Socialist Movement. It is a mischief by means of which those in the tomb can enslave the living.

There has been an operating profit every year since the mines were nationalised. In fact nearly £103 millions in total since 1947 yet the Board's accounts show a deficit of £14 million since vesting day and by far the biggest factor in this is heavy interest on compensation to former mineowners and royalty owners giving a total

of nearly £87½ millions over the past six years.

It should be remembered too that we lost £8.7 millions on the coal imported at high prices from America.

Did we pay too much compensation? Last year 104 collieries each made a loss of over £1 on each ton of coal they produced. These uneconomic pits turned up trumps for the owners after all. In the defence of Britain a polished shovel at the coal-face is much more important than a polished bayonet... Yes... Spades are Trumps!

Miners Warn the Tories

ON March 12, the N.E.C. of the National Union of Mineworkers passed the following resolution on Coal Nationalisation:

"The National Executive Committee of the National Union of Mineworkers resents the subtle attempt of the Tory Party to destroy nationalisation, consciously creating bitterness within the mining industry, to weaken co-operation between the Union and the National Coal Board.

The joint efforts now being made by the National Coal Board and the National Union of Mineworkers to increase production,

to improve efficiency, to strengthen co-operation, to work additional voluntary shifts on Saturdays, will be undermined by this new attempt of the Tories to deny nationalisation, and will weaken the efforts being made to build up our national economy.

Any attempt by the Tory Government to interfere with the national structure of the industry by decentralisation on a district basis, with all the pre-war disruption of our coal economy, will be resisted by the National Union of Mineworkers with every legitimate means at its disposal.

Norman Dinning poses Questions and Answers on... WAGES, HOURS & UNEMPLOYMENT

My recent articles on the Engineering Confederation's Wage Claim and the 40-hour week have brought many questions from my Union colleagues. The subject is so vital, not only to Confederation union members, but to the whole Movement, that I have recorded the questions, and am attaching what, in my opinion, are the answers.

Q. Why does the Press say that by a wage increase, Britain will be priced out of export markets?

A. Because it is an employer's Press. British goods are already being priced out of the world market. This is international competition. It leads to slump and mass unemployment—however low our wages. Trade Unionists must demand co-operation—not competition. But this in turn means a fight for Socialism on a world scale.

Q. Wouldn't increased productivity improve the trade balance so we could import more food, etc.?

A. The object of the employer's demand for a greater engineering production is to increase exports and profits. The cost-of-living is determined today by the high prices of food, due, basically to the arms production. Increased productivity in engineering will not lower food prices.

Productivity has increased more than 50 per cent. since 1946 but Mr. Butler has CUT food imports to pay for rearmament which is itself inflationary. It restricts

print herewith the paragraph to which he refers.

"This principle is modified in two ways. First in the workers' favour by calculating the overtime payment on the "day rate" or the rate of "non-piece workers". As this rate is 5d. per hour higher, a small part of the loss is regained.

"Secondly, in the employers' favour by any increase in 'piece work' earnings. Earn another 2d. per hour on piece work, and you have more than wiped out this gain."

consumer goods production and forces up these prices. If armaments were cut, increased productivity and production of agricultural machinery could reduce the price of tractors, etc. With such machinery, backward areas could increase food production and import prices would be reduced. The employers merely use increased productivity to get a bigger share of the market at available prices and thus more profits. Rather than pay increased wages out of profits they prefer to declare redundancy and wait till the market recovers.

Q. In face of this wouldn't an Arbitration Tribunal decide in our favour?

A. Arbitration Tribunals are supposed to be unbiased. Decisions are related to "accepted facts". Profit is an accepted fact to them. That makes them biased. The same bias is shown in rejecting claims "in the interest of the nation" because this safeguards the "accepted fact" of the bosses' profit. A while ago the Tribunal misinterpreted "the nation's interests" and granted an increase to the Distributive workers. Mr. Butler stepped in to correct the error and, even though finally agreeing, he called the tune for future Tribunals. Arbitration in the words of the "Economist" is "the Administrative Apparatus of Delay". It diverts the workers and spreads ultimate disillusionment.

Q. In view of 1950 successes in the North and Midlands, wouldn't a piecework ban secure the wage increase?

A. The answer is actually expressed in the question. Two militant areas are separated from the rest of the Confederation membership. Even in those areas, it wasn't universal, it came down finally to individual factories, whose solidarity was maintained. In others, due to isolation, the weaker elements broke the ban and it collapsed. A rumour that "so-and-so" is booking bonus can start the rot.

Labour Youth Want No Queens

ANOTHER interesting and striking example of resistance on the part of the working class to the Coronation ballyhoo was recently provided by the Labour Group of the Wimbledon Youth Parliament. The Parliament, organised along the lines of the House of Commons, discussed a Bill, moved by the Labour Government, condemning the wasteful expenditure on the coronation and calling for the abolition of the Monarchy which, however, was defeated by 51-33, the Tory Opposition turning up in force for the occasion!

This evoked a widespread stream of protest from the local Press, which rose to a crescendo of abuse, the theme of which was that the Bill was an affront to our "Gallant Young Queen", and that if these were the future representatives of the Labour Party, there

By Peter Evans

was very little hope for Britain. In the course of the debate, the Tory Group of the Parliament produced the theatrical outbursts that one would have expected of them, and the discussion of the motion, during which Labour members distinguished themselves, culminated in the Tories' rising as a body to sing "God Save the Queen", and in the enthusiastic singing of the "Red Flag" by the League of Youth and Y.C.L. members.

The mud-slinging by local newspapers has continued week by week, the "Sutton and Cheam Times" being particularly virulent, whilst the "Wimbledon Borough News" has, by comparison, been more moderate, although equally reactionary. The climax has been reached with a challenge, by the local Tory agent to Tom Braddock, Chairman of the Wimbledon Local Labour Party and former M.P. for Mitcham, and to Charles Ford, parliamentary candidate, to state whether or not they agreed with the views expressed. Although at the time of writing no reply has

At the wheel with Charlie Minns A Transport Worker's Diary The Lappin Case

THE Road Haulage Executive have refused to reinstate Jack Lappin of Leicester, thus confirming the view taken from the start by the Leicester men, by the T. & G.W.U. and by myself and other London stewards that Jack Lappin had been victimised.

Jack's own depot were on strike, and other depots were threatening to strike in sympathy, when the T. & G.W.U. reopened the case at top level. The strike was called off pending these negotiations. Now that they have ended unsatisfactorily we should decide what we are to do.

Every lorry driver in the country will agree that the "punishment" meted out to Bro. Lappin is so severe for the alleged "crime" committed, that it is a clear case of victimisation. Here is what happened.

THE CASE HISTORY

Bro. Lappin lives at Hinckley, 14 miles from his depot at Blaby. A depot agreement says that any man "parked up" for the night within 15 miles radius of the depot is entitled to one hour's travelling

time each way and 3s. expenses. Bro. Lappin has been told that he is parked up at Hinckley and applies to him just as to any other man, as it is no concern of employer where he lives.

On Saturday, March 21, Bro. Lappin left Warrington, 85 miles away, with instructions to "park up" at Hinckley for the night. He arrived in Hinckley at 4 p.m., to make his logsheet "legal" booked his arrival time as 6 p.m. and booked off at 7 p.m. He did not book down his travelling time to which he was entitled, simply his 11 hours for the day.

A fortnight later, on April 3, Depot Manager asked Lappin his log sheet was a correct record for that day. Jack replied that it was as correct as any he got. The manager thereupon accused Lappin of being in a cafe pull-in at Hinckley at 4 p.m. Jack admitted this was so, but pointed out that he had not left the cafe at 6 p.m., with his travelling time which he was entitled to make his time up to 7 p.m.

He was not charged with anything then, but a further enquiry was held on April 13 at which full time T. & G.W.U. official present, Bro. C. W. Kempson. This enquiry Bro. Lappin accused the Depot Manager of victimisation and reprisals because Bro. Lappin had reported the manager to the local Joint Committee falsifying the weights on a crane transformer some time previously.

Bro. Kempson also gave opinion that Bro. Lappin was being victimised.

Nevertheless Bro. Lappin was "suspended forthwith". The case then went to London on April 14 and the T. & G.W.U. claimed that Pickfords had acted wrongly on the disciplinary procedure, that Bro. Lappin should be reinstated forthwith.

'YOU ARE THE ONE'

Mr. Drummond for the Road Haulage Executive told Bro. Lappin that "This case would never have come here if it had been anyone else but you, Lappin. You are the important one, one all the men come to advice. We can't let you get away with this." So he decided to remove Bro. Lappin from the service. And now the appeal against this decision has been turned down.

A MILITANT RECORD

Jack Lappin has been in Road Transport since 1928 when started as a driver's mate in Liverpool. Those were the days of lamps, solid tyres and no recognised hours.

He was a member of the Liverpool and District Carters and Motormen's Union, and of Liverpool Labour Party. Present he is Chairman of Hinckley Labour Party.

When in 1947, the London B.R.S. men started the strike for the 44-hour week he took the lead in Leicester and was elected Chairman of the area strike committee.

In 1952 when the Tories issued their denationalisation plans Bro. Lappin and the other stewards of the Midlands convened the national conference at the De Montfort Hall in Leicester.

Every one of us in British Road Services must ask ourselves "Are we going to let the Road Haulage Executive get away with their attack on one of our most active shop stewards?" For if we do we can be sure that they will follow it up with other attacks.

READ

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The end of the sellers market has united the bosses, they would benefit from piecemeal actions. In any event pieceworker and time-worker must share the common struggle. Real struggles demand 100 per cent. solidarity.

Q. Would a ban on overtime be effective?

A. This has the same weaknesses as the piecework ban. It is just as difficult to enforce. It merely lengthens the struggle—while production continues the bosses can carry on indefinitely, certainly until the inherent weaknesses finally break the workers' resistance. The cost-of-living makes many workers look for overtime. Particularly does this apply to "family men" who use Saturday morning's overtime as a means of increasing wages to cope with living costs. To these workers, and in fact the T.U. movement, a 5-day week, which really means a 40-hour week, has lost its original objective.

Q. What was the original objective of the 40-hour week?

A. More Leisure. The lust for

profits of the factory owners in the Industrial Revolution actually worked children to death, whilst women and men worked 12 and 14 hours a day. The eight-hour day was a demand for the right to a humane existence, leisure for culture, education, and enjoyment. The T.U. Movement now brings it forward to counter redundancy—it has turned 180 degrees to secure the right to work. It is now a necessity.

Q. Will the 40-hour week solve the redundancy problem?

A. No. But it is a first step and cannot be separated from the wages question. A real 40-hour week means that wages for 40 hours must make overtime unnecessary. This would be an immediate contribution to reduce redundancy.

Q. If we won a 40-hour week, could it be really applied.

A. Yes, if the managerial function of overtime up to 30 hours a month in the Overtime Agreement is seriously challenged officially. The right to decide overtime must be the function of Shop Stewards Committees. The boss must ask the Committee, not tell the individual worker.

Q. Why would it be just a contribution to reduction of redundancy?

A. Because redundancies are merely evidence of the first stages of a contracting capitalist market hidden by armament contracts. Under continuing capitalism we have a major slump as the only alternative to war. Both of these can only be averted by a planned economy which can only be implemented by the return of a Labour Government with a Socialist programme. Our industrial strategy must bring down the Tory Government. Redundancy demands a serious fight for Shop Steward control, by keeping workers on the books at full pay until alternative work at suitable rates is available. These things demand militant action. If we are serious we must prepare now.

Coronation Among Conscripts

TS hard luck on you being in London just now. The atmosphere must be horrible. It isn't bad here for, although the press and radio tend to drive you crazy, its very encouraging when the same symptoms are apparent in other blokes. The official propagandists have overdone it as these boys are concerned. The fellow in the next bed is a Tory but he yells abuse with rest whenever the coronation mentioned on the radio, and tends to change the programme. Perhaps there'll be a general action among most people when ballyhoo is all over.

Our readers write -

dukes, Royal princesses, and their related hangers-on.

Why doesn't Bevan start using his oratory and fire to rouse the country about all this mockery taking place before our eyes? He has enough ammunition in the criminal cost of this coronation to blow the flattering, time-serving, Royalty-licking Churchill and his crowd out of office in very short time.

Let him put aside all other issues and stomp the country on the menace of the Tory plan to teach the producers of the country's wealth how to respect their "betters".

A Butler Budget is going to mean a Butler winter for the workers but not for Royalty and its costly, grovelling hangers-on.

Leicester. Paton Dene.

A Councillor on the Coronation

The Coronation hullabaloo is lessening, and people will perhaps now be pondering its meaning without having 16 pages of each newspaper filled with talk of the "Great Commonwealth", the pomp and glory, and the young beautiful mother of it all. Behind it all, our coloured brothers are still dying of disease and malnutrition.

The "Socialist Outlook" is to be congratulated for remaining true to its principles. Its courageous attitude has stimulated much discussion in my factory, and probably others.

The very existence of the Trade Unions, Labour Party, and revolts of our colonial brothers for freedom, expose the lie that we are a big happy family. At one time the Labour Party was not afraid to say to the people "The Lords and Monarchy are hereditary class systems existing to preserve the

Lost overcoat

228 Great Clowes Street, Salford 7, Lancs. June 3, 1953

Dear Comrade,

Will the comrade who took my husband's overcoat from the Annual Meeting at the Three Nuns Hotel, Aldgate, by mistake please return it to the above address as soon as possible.

It is especially urgent as it is the only one he had and having to go out each night in Manchester weather without an overcoat is soon going to put him in hospital with pneumonia.

We have no money to buy another.

Sincerely, O. Ratner.

capitalist imperialist system of exploitation for profit". All the pomp and glory and flashy diamond tiaras are supposed to make the workers gape at such splendour. The Queen is supposed to be the head of a united happy family.

Nowadays too many Labour Councillors say "You must please the electorate", and use this as an excuse for joining in the Coronation fuss. I was not yet a Councillor when Birmingham decided to spend £60,000 on "celebrations", but I have tried to show my opposition in every way possible. I have not participated in any of the Coronation activities (such as a Coronation Service, a march past of 7,000 troops, or watching the ceremony on a huge television screen) for which all Councillors could have tickets.

We must realise that the monarchy and the peerage are there to prop up this rotten capitalist system. In our fight to remove capitalism and institute socialism, the monarchy itself must be removed from the scene.

Birmingham. H. Finch.

The Greek Horror

★ An Appeal For Workers Solidarity ★

IN its new pamphlet* the League for Democracy in Greece brings a timely reminder that, eight years after the liberation of Greece from German occupation there are still more than 20,000 men and women detained in prisons and camps because of their political opinions.

These men and women are the people who led the resistance to the Nazi invaders. Their only crime is consistency—after the war they continued the struggle against fascism, this time the native variety.

From the pages of this pamphlet speak the voices of the victims of the Papagos Government—the prisoners in the concentration camps and the families they left behind.

A mother writes:

"... I have a little girl of four years. Her father has been in prison for four years and he does not know his child. I am doing my best to support our child but wherever I went to try and get a decent job it was denied me... So I finally started going from house to house doing washing... the work was hard and now I suffer from rheumatism. You can imagine my position..."

From the sister of a young girl prisoner:

"Effi is in Athens in the Kifissian Prison for girls under 21. We get two letters a month from her. She is ill and in the last months has lost about 7 lb. In prison the food they get is horrible. Last month they took an X-ray of her and it showed shadows on the lung. The majority of the girls have tuberculosis and they are all shut up together. But she suffers

*Cry from Greece (The League for Democracy in Greece) 6d.

mostly from her feet having lost her toes from frostbite...

"... When they arrested her she was half dead. She was wounded in the arm and for about a month her wound smelt horribly. She had no medical attention and only after great efforts were we able to take her own doctor to the prison to see her. She has now lost her arm..."

Effi's sister, Koula, was executed in Salonica in 1947 after being sentenced to death by a Special Court Martial. She was repeatedly offered her life if she would agree to denounce her comrades. This she refused to do. Now, Effi also is awaiting another trial. Her sister, Victoria, writes:—

"We have very little hope because naturally she will refuse to sign the statement of denunciation which they want."

And so the tale of horror could be repeated. In the hell camps of Greek fascism, people are living in conditions of indescribable misery, in leaky tents, with inadequate food supplies and only threadbare garments to keep out the wet and cold.

This terror can only be halted if the united voice of the Labour Movement is raised on behalf of our suffering comrades in Greece.

The Island of Disease

IN a medical examination of 1,249 exiles on Agios Efstratios, carried out in November, 1952, it was found that:

170	exiles	suffered	from	1	disease.
264	"	"	"	2	diseases.
304	"	"	"	3	"
220	"	"	"	4	"
156	"	"	"	5	"
56	"	"	"	6	"
23	"	"	"	7	"
7	"	"	"	8	"

In 1950 a world-wide protest movement forced the government of General Plastiras to close down the most notorious of the concentration camps at Makronisos. A similar movement today could call a halt to new measures being introduced by the Papagos Government against the political prisoners.

"The aim of these measures is to produce new categories of prisoners and thus do away with the special category of political prisoners who are guaranteed certain rights and protection by law. Security Police Officers are to decide the category of each prisoner and this means that once again the brutal Security Police will revive the maltreatment and torture of prisoners. The lives of all the thousands of political prisoners are threatened."

The Labour Movement must say that this will not be. We must demand that the Greek Government grant facilities for a delegation from the Labour Movement to examine conditions in the camps and prisons. Every section of the movement must protest against the proposed new measures and demand the immediate release of all political prisoners.

Send your letter or resolution to any of the following:

Greek Ambassador, 51 Upper Brook Street, London, W.1.

Premier Papagos, Athens, Greece (postage stamp 4d.)

Foreign Secretary, Foreign Office, Whitehall, London.

Your M.P., District and National Committees.

And let the League for Democracy in Greece, 19 Beak Street, London W.1, know what action your organisation has taken.

C.V.G.

Well Done, Low!

WHAT a pleasure it was, on the day after the Coronation, to turn from the sycophantic bilge which filled the national press to David Low's brilliant cartoon in the "Manchester Guardian".

Here was the complete summing up of the whole sorry business. The yawning, bored Britannia, the Peer of the Realm, the man in the askew, and his retreat, the man covered with the Union Jack; the empty champagne bottles; the toy soldiers, the parade over, cast aside; the collapsing decorations. The morning after the "£100,000,000 spree".

It was good to see that the old master of satire has not yet lost his touch and that he still retains a little of the radicalism of his earlier days.

Well done, Low and congratulations to the "Manchester Guardian" for its courage in publishing the cartoon. It's not often that we have the opportunity to say something nice about Liberalism's daily. We are particularly pleased to do so in view of the spate of jingoistic attacks launched against Low and the "Guardian".

We are pleased, too, that Low has refused to recant or apologise and that the "Guardian" has not hesitated to defend him in its editorial columns.

THIS side of the Iron Curtain

'Brain Washing' in the U.S.A

FROM the American Press one can get a general picture of what happened to the G.I. prisoners of war sent home from Korea.

Like the returned British prisoners, the Americans were handed over to the United Nations authorities in Korea at a place called "Freedom Village". They were promptly walled off from reporters by armed guards until they could be "examined" and pronounced "free from dangerous thoughts". A number of them were refused permission to talk to the press.

They were brought back to the United States by a "Freedom Airlift", but anything but freedom awaited them in their motherland. Some were rushed off in great secrecy to a secluded military hospital for "brain washing". It was feared that while in the hands of the Communists they had been "contaminated" politically.

"Of the 30 Americans returned

on the first day, nine were refused permission to talk, only one or two because of serious physical condition", reports "Time" magazine.

The "U.S. News and World Report" of May 8, published a "personal letter from a correspondent who talked with prisoners of war released at Panmunjom". He wrote: "I can't figure out what the Communist pattern of attack on the Americans was as yet, or how it worked. A few of the American returnees are stupid. One, under the drum-firing

From Our American Correspondent

questioning of correspondents, finally gave in and said, weakly: 'Well, if you say there were atrocities, there must have been some'. Another, who as far as I can find out had no newspaper or radio experience, demanded a 'pooled interview—one radio, one T.V. and one press-service man'. So I ask, who told him about poolers?"

From this report, it is quite clear that the returned prisoners must have been subjected to terrific pressure. Just a reference to a "pooled interview" brought them under the suspicion of the witch-hunters.

This same correspondent goes on to say: "There were many Americans no one was permitted to see, and wounds were not the reason. But I am certain that among the Americans returned were a number who had been infected by the

Communists. A half dozen of them back in the States might be worth a million dollars to the Red Chinese..."

What a confession! These boys, used to the comparatively high-living standards of the United States, sent to Korea in the sacred cause of "private enterprise", spend a couple of years in a P.O.W. camp under war conditions—and come back Communists. What a commentary on the American way of life!

When the transport plane from Japan brought back the first batch of American prisoners to the States, every possible step was taken to keep the information secret from the public. The news only leaked out by accident. According to an official statement issued by the Air Force: "We are co-operating with the other military services in maintaining security over this particular operation because of the position taken by the Army and others that these men may have been misled under conditions of duress and hardship during the period of their captivity."

One of the soldiers returned under this "Operation Secrecy" was Cpl. Paul Schnur Jr., of San Francisco. Immediately on arrival, he was separated from the rest and sent to Letterman Army Hospital. Was he, perhaps ill? Not at all! But he happens to be the son of the former secretary of the San Francisco C.I.O. Council, who is also a well-known supporter of the Progressive Party. So young Paul is being psycho-analysed to see if he has come back with any "peculiar" political views or, per-

haps, merely if he shares some of the views of his father. Just before his capture, Paul Schnur was awarded the Bronze Medal for valour in action.

Why was this atmosphere of the witch-hunt called into being to surround the returned G.I.'s? Apparently to talk about the "Chinese" and the "Koreans", instead of referring to them by the normal contemptuous American expression as "Gooks", was sufficient to bring a man under suspicion. One of the men sent to Valley Forge Hospital for "reorientation", was Pte. Carl W. Kirschausen. His crime—he used expressions such as the "forces of Wall Street" and "parasites of the Stock Exchange" in letters to a relative.

And these boys were supposed to be fighting in Korea to preserve the "four freedoms"! Some freedom!

Youth IS responsible

Says NORMAN ATKINSON

FOR many, many years the National Executive Committee and many right wingers in the Labour Party have been condemning the Youth of Britain. They have allowed a League of Youth to be built, but they have not allowed this League to flourish and turn their energy into useful channels.

For years now, the members of the League have been trying by every means possible to have their resolutions forwarded to National Conference and have been trying even harder to discuss policy resolutions at the National Labour League of Youth Conference. The N.E.C. and right wingers have countered with the ridiculous and absolutely ill-founded reply that the youth of today is "irresponsible" and cannot be relied upon to formulate or discuss anything even remotely connected with politics.

This fallacy has been resoundingly squashed by the A.E.U. National Committee. The A.E.U. Policy-making Committee at its last Annual Conference endorsed

several very important resolutions passed at the A.E.U. Youth Conference earlier in this year.

These then became the policies of some 900,000 Trade Unionists!

These resolutions were mainly connected with National Service and were reported in last week's "Outlook".

The L.L.O.Y. has a real problem facing it. If their natural outlets are squashed the League will disband, not through mutual consent, but will fall apart because of the political inactivity. If this happens the Labour Party will also collapse and this is something the bureaucrats will really have to think about in the next few months.

The League, however, can help to push the N.E.C. along. Use every means at your disposal, Comrades, the Ward and Local parties and don't forget the terrific influence Trade Unions have on the Labour Party. Push through resolutions asking for autonomy for the L.L.O.Y. and, believe me, when we achieve a democratic voice, we shall have a real chance to pursue a Socialist policy through the Labour Party.

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