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**Hands Off
the Colonial
peoples!**

McCarthy Loves Little Children!

YOUNG Janet Gray in 1951 earned three dollars at 75 cents an hour doing some modelling for an art class in a Pasadena public school.

She has never been paid, because she has not signed a loyalty oath required of all employees. Her attitude on the oath is not known, because she did not sign.

Being only three years old, she can't write.

School officials told her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gray, that on behalf of their daughter they could swear that:

"Within the five years immediately preceding the taking of this oath I have not been a member of any party or organisation,

From an
American Correspondent

political or otherwise, that advocated the overthrow of the government of the United States or of the State of California by force or violence or other unlawful means."

Mrs. Gray's comment on reading that section was, "Ridiculous. How can I sign this part for a three-year-old?"

To their everlasting credit the Grays refused to sign, and the Pasadena schools are in the position of refusing to pay for services they have already received and which they solicited.

In a way this is the final word, the logical end result of the loyalty oath.

McCarthy and company want conformity without exception, and if any three-year-old thinks she can go around modelling for children's art classes without establishing her loyalty, they are out to teach her differently.

One would have to look far to find a parallel to this case. It is easy to remember the anti-Nazi cartoons of the 30's depicting German babies almost covered with war helmets they were wearing and weighted down with arms. Those were cartoons; this is the real article.

The whole purpose of the drive against freedom of thought and expression in the schools is to ensure in advance the dumb, automatic conformity of youth to capitalism. But we can anticipate that the youth who face an insecure, militarised life will have something emphatic to say before long about this decaying system.

Tories Use Troops In Defence of Profits

—in Guiana AND in London

THE use of troops in industrial disputes—as in the recent London petrol strike, or in political disputes—as in the case of the suspension of the Constitution of British Guiana, has been excused by the Tory Government on the grounds, in both cases, that the presence of troops was necessary to "protect vital public services". Shallow though it is, this argument completely floored the Labour Front Bench speakers in Parliament.

Mr. Jim Griffiths, it is true, moved in Parliament an Opposition motion opposing the suspension of Guiana's Constitution—but he was at pains to point out that, under similar circumstances, he also would have moved in the tropics.

Similarly, Mr. George Isaacs, on behalf of the Labour Opposition, congratulated Sir Walter Monckton after that Tory gentleman's use of troops in the London petrol strike had forced the men back to work.

WHY NOT PRESSURE ON BOSSES?

It never seemed to occur to our Labour Front Bench that the "vital public services" in both Georgetown and London could have been admirably protected by bringing the greatest possible Government pressure on the employers—in both cases—to settle in favour of the workers!

For example, in the petrol strike, a declaration of Government support for the men's demands, coupled with a firm refusal to use troops as conscripted strike-breakers, would have brought a

rapid capitulation by Shell Mex and the other oil companies. (The strikers themselves were, in any case, perfectly willing to ensure a supply of petrol to hospitals and other public services.)

TORIES WON'T DO IT

Naturally, it is hopeless to expect such an action from a Tory Government which is in office, precisely and solely, to protect at all times the interests of the oil companies and the other great industrial combines. But it's the job of an opposition to oppose—not to lend credence to the lie that the Tory Government is the dis-

interested protector of public interests.

The Tory Government isn't neutral, on the contrary, it is the paid servant of Big Business. All doubts on that score at least, should have been removed by Sir Walter Monckton's bland announcement to Parliament that the cost of his "Operation Tanker" would be borne in full by . . . the oil companies!

No Government is neutral, but

Compelled to be strike breakers, conscripted troops move into a strike-bound fuel oil depot watched by strikers.



LEADERS JAILED

For these things, and for the crime of attempting to get a more democratic Constitution, Dr. Jagan's government has been deposed and the leaders of his Party thrown into jail "indefinitely". Their efforts to improve the lot of the workers of British Guiana have been frustrated by the use of troops. And in like manner, the efforts of the London petrol strikers to improve their lot has also been frustrated by the use of troops.

Both in Guiana and in London, movements striving, quite democratically, to improve living and

working conditions have been defeated with the invaluable aid of the armed forces of the State, controlled, in both cases, by the Tory Party acting in the interests of Big Business.

In face of these facts, how can anyone be so blind as not to see the affinity of interests between British workers and the oppressed people of British Guiana? How can anyone in the Labour Movement do anything else than bitterly oppose the use of troops in either industrial or political disputes.

John Lawrence

Another Case for the N.E.C.?

IN the debate on British Guiana, John McGovern, one of Glasgow's Labour M.P.'s declared bluntly that he could not bring himself to support the Labour Party's motion opposing the Tory Government action in Korea.

The N.E.C. at Margate justified their refusal to endorse John Lawrence as prospective candidate for Woodford on the grounds that he is "out of step with official Party policy".

Will similar action now be taken against Mr. McGovern? If not, why not?

The Imperialist Rape of Democracy

[By air-mail from Georgetown,
British Guiana.]

★ Guiana Youth Leader Gives the Facts ★

ON April 27, 1953, the people of British Guiana, the only British colony on the mainland of South America, returned 18 members of the People's Progressive Party to the 27-man House of Assembly in a perfectly democratic election.

On Friday, October 9, the British Government suspended the Constitution under which they were elected and in a most high-handed manner deposed the six elected ministers.

Why did the people vote for 18

members of the P.P.P.? What are the British Government's reasons for suspending the Constitution?

Since the abolition of slavery and the end of the indenture system the people of this country have lived a life of poverty and frustration. Most of the land on the coast, most of the well-drained land is held by the Sugar Producers' Association. Only half of the land which they hold is cultivated, the remainder is allowed to lie waste. The little land which is not held by the sugar bosses is flooded out by them as they control the drainage boards.

By
B. H. Benn
Secretary of Guiana's
Pioneer Youth League

Housing is shocking. Hundreds—nay thousands—are without shelter. Many find accommodation in make-shift dwellings. A Cost-of-Living Survey Committee commented "the average number of persons per room . . . was 2.6."

In tenement rooms, however, overcrowding is prevalent and

returns disclose that in certain instances as many as 12 persons live in a single tenement room.

On the sugar plantations nearly 18 per cent. of the people live in barrack type ranges built during the days of slavery. The state of sanitation is shocking. The people live like the lower animals.

Malnutrition is widespread. More than 25 per cent. of the school children are necessitous. A very large percentage of the school children suffer from dental caries. The best sanatorium—the Tuberculosis Hospital—in this country has a huge waiting list from among the coastland dwellers. In the North West district more than 40 per cent. of the Aboriginal Indians suffer from Tuberculosis.

Education is the old cast-off type. There is little or no type of agricultural training in our primary schools. The newly established Government Technical Institute affords training not to young people leaving school, but to workmen whose increased efficiency enhances the profits of their employers.

Dual control in our schools debars Hindus or Mohammedans from teaching appointments. They are consistently urged and forced to become Christians. There are only two Government-owned secondary schools and these absorb less than 1,000 pupils. Needless to say the fees are extremely high.

There is one doctor and about one dozen nurses for all the school children in the colony.

There is widespread unemployment. Thousands of able-bodied men hang around the two bauxite companies and around the 14 sugar plantations for employment. Young people with Cambridge and Higher Certificates roam the streets of Georgetown vainly looking for jobs. There is no unemployment insurance for any one.

Wages are so low that most of our people spend their wages in two days after pay day and borrow or get credit to live out the week.

The best jobs are set aside for foreigners. They are for the most part unmindful of the progress of the colony. They get housing allowances and those who are employed by the Government get palatial residences. A small percentage of the local men are given top jobs but only those in Government employ.

These are a few of the reasons why the people voted P.P.P.

Voters were warned by the Press, by the Church and the radio to vote for any candidate other than those of the P.P.P. Thousands of dollars were spent printing leaflets to warn the voters. April 26 was declared as a "Day of Prayer"—to pray that God guide voters in their choice of candidates. But the people voted P.P.P.

It was no doubt hoped by the capitalists and Whitehall's representative and his advisers that our elected Ministers and Members of the Houses would lose contact with the people; that they would attend their cocktail parties. But they were mistaken.

The people's representatives gave the officials of Whitehall and the capitalists a wide berth. They had explained to the people during the election campaign that the Constitution granted this country was a farce and so they refused to

● Continued col. 5, page 2

THE SOLIDARITY OF PECKHAM

WHEN the petrol strikers declared "black" all fuel handled by troops, a number of London bus garages convened special meetings to decide what action to take. The meeting at the Peckham garage was called at midnight on Saturday, October 24. After hearing a report that "black" fuel had been delivered to the garage that afternoon, the following resolution was passed:

"That this 1/1401 T. & G.W.U. Branch, in view of the acceptance of disputed fuel into Peckham Garage resolves that, as a matter of principle, we cannot operate any buses from the garage forthwith and until such time as the dispute is settled. Further, we call upon the Trade Group Secretary to convene an immediate delegate conference to secure united fleet action in this matter."

Indignation was expressed by the Peckham busmen at the use of troops as strike breakers. The official letter from the General Secretary, Arthur Deakin, calling on all busmen to remain at work, was read out to the men and it was the general opinion that the Union's Executive Committee—a body of ordinary laymen—could not possibly have given such advice which was a breach of the highest principle of Trade Unionism.

There was a thorough discussion and when the vote on the garage resolution was taken there were 147 votes in favour of strike action, only 12 against and 2 abstentions.

What makes the action of the Peckham men so fine is the fact that they were fully aware that they were taking the lead and would probably be out alone among London's bus workers.

A Strike Committee was called for and 33 men and 3

women stepped forward. By 3.30 a.m. a picket line had been organised and the Peckham garage went quietly about the job of standing by their fellow workers on strike for better pay and conditions in the fuel delivery industry.

There were few scabs in evidence. Up to midnight on Sunday only about three buses from the garage were on the road. After that time the number of those who were prepared to sacrifice their manhood and their principles only increased to about 20 out of a total staff of nearly 600 busmen and women. Scabbery increased a little more on the Monday as it became clear that only Peckham and a couple of other garages had taken any action.

After the tanker drivers returned, the Peckham garage held a mass meeting and the strike committee moved a

return to work resolution which was carried in good order.

It is a simple story of solidarity and yet it is a wonderful one. No heroics, no shouting, no false boosting of morale—just a quiet determination by a group of ordinary London busmen not to scab on their mates who were being beaten down by the use of troops. And what did we get out of it?

Superficially nothing. Indeed, every one of us lost about £3 10s. much needed wages! But we gained something which the capitalist Press will never understand. We gained that pride and confidence which always comes to our class when we know we have acted in defence of Trade Union principles, when we have raised the banner of Solidarity. We are all the better for the experience and will give a good account of ourselves in whatever struggles lie ahead. "BUSMAN"

Guiana's Deposed Premier Answers Lyttelton

At a crowded Press conference in London on October 22, Dr. Cheddi Jagan, the deposed Premier of British Guiana and the former Minister for Education, Mr. L. F. S. Burnham, gave a point for point reply to the British Government's White Paper which attempts to justify the suspension of the Constitution in British Guiana.

From the statement issued by the dismissed Ministers and the replies they gave to questions, it emerged quite clearly that the White Paper is based on misrepresentations and distortions. The Tory action stands revealed as a plot against the people of British Guiana and the White Paper bears a marked resemblance to the Zinoviev Letter forgery which the Tories used to defeat Labour in 1924.

If it was really true, as claimed in Paragraph 30 of the White Paper, that the Government had proof from "reliable sources" that Dr. and Mrs. Jagan and other leaders of the People's Progressive Party planned to set fire to business property and the residences of prominent persons and government officials, then why were they not arrested and charged with this indictable offence?

NATURE OF P.P.P.

The P.P.P., said Dr. Jagan, was not a Communist Party, though some of its members, including himself, were Marxists. The Party was open to all who subscribed to its published programme and were prepared to work for the liberation of British Guiana. They did not enquire into the ideology of those who applied to join the Party.

The White Paper charged the Ministers with negligence but they had been in office only for four months and had to devote much valuable time to the gathering and correlating of information. Their staffs were smaller than those of their official colleagues and were not always as helpful as they could be.

There had been no intention to set up a separate Police Force. What they objected to was that in the past the police had always supported the employers against the workers—witness the strike on the Enmore Sugar Estate, June 16, 1948, during which five people were shot in the back by the police.

They wanted the police to be under the control of a Minister

responsible to the Assembly as was the case in the United Kingdom and other countries. At present the police was under the control of the Chief Secretary who was a Civil Servant appointed by the Governor.

THE TRADE UNIONS

It was not true that the Ministers tried to use their position to undermine the influence of the **Man Power Citizens' Association**, as alleged in Para. 15 of the White

**Our Own Correspondent at
Dr. Jagan's Press Conference**

Paper. One of the leaders of this Union had accepted a monthly salary from the Sugar Producers and it had for years been losing its influence among the workers.

The **Guiana Industrial Workers Union** had the full support of the workers in the sugar industry as was proved by the successful strikes it led between 1948-53, but had never been recognised by the Sugar Producers' Association.

Although the official membership of the M.P.C.A. was high, this was not an indication of the Union's strength in the sugar industry. The sugar estates run a Provident Fund and for workers to enjoy the benefit of this fund they have to be members of the M.P.C.A. **Dues for this Union were deducted by the employers.**

ILLITERACY

It was quite true that the P.P.P. proposed to remove the schools from Church control and to introduce secular education, as was the practice in most civilised countries. The main opposition to this came from the Catholics and the Anglicans. Under the present educational system, the non-Christian communities received very inadequate education. **Illiter-**

acy among East Indians was about 40 per cent. and for Amerindians the figure was even higher.

The new educational laws would have safeguarded religious interests. Provision was made for the various denominations to give religious instruction in the schools during school time.

Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham defended the position of Ministers who had continued in their posts as Trade Union leaders. Trade Unionism in British Guiana was still in its early stages and the Unions were not prepared to forego the services of trusted leaders.

Summing up the position, the two Guianese leaders stated:

"The White Paper on the suspension of the Constitution of British Guiana has built up a case based upon the familiar device—find something behind which to hide and which will arouse the emotionalism of people. Communism in this instance has been made the bogey and in order to fill in the familiar picture of Communist violence and terror and arson, the Government in the White Paper is attempting to fill in the details."

"Statements, many of them erroneous, have been lifted out of their context, and without giving the background of the situation in

Dr. Jagan & St. Pancras

Speaking to an overflow meeting at the Holborn Hall, London, last week, Dr. Cheddi Jagan said: "Everyone remembers that I went to the International Youth Festival in 1951. No one seems to remember that I also spoke on the election platform of the late Dr. Santo Jeger and helped to win St. Pancras for Labour."

Dr. Jagan and Mr. Burnham arriving at London Airport from Guiana.



The Sound and Colour Barriers

DURING the Margate Conference while a sea of smiling faces were ebbing and flowing on the ballroom floor at the Mayor's Reception, I remember talking to a colleague, a medical man, on the social ills of our time. I listened to a long and fascinating exposition of some of our problems and I remember him saying: "While we spend millions on breaking the sound barrier we are spending almost nothing on breaking through the colour barrier".

Perhaps we might reverse this and say that the Tory Government are spending millions to maintain the colour barrier. Millions will be spent to strangle the Constitution of Guiana, almost at birth. Why?

"The Times" on October 7 said: "Thoughtful observers feel that unless the show of force is justified by subsequent revelation of an imminent plot, it may well alienate public opinion. . . ." The White

The Week at Westminster

By Harold Davies, M.P.

The Report of the Commission of Enquiry into the Sugar Industry in British Guiana in 1949 described the terrible conditions of work. We were told of long hours of work with no shelter from sun or rain and the workers having to drink water from canals, because there was no provision of drinking water.

All this economic squalor seemed to be forgotten during our Debate. As the "Manchester Guardian" said: "What is new in this decision of the British Government is to specify a political boundary to constitutional developments in the Colonies." Indeed, Lyttelton went wider than that. At the Tory Conference he put the boundaries to the whole Commonwealth.

It is charged that Dr. Jagan and his Government did not encourage investment in Guiana. Here we

have another problem in democracy. Must encouragement of investment be allowed at all political costs? If the investors get control of the Government apparatus is not that a **limitation on true democracy**? Would Britain encourage American investment at all political costs?

A list of companies were given in the White Paper as refusing to

invest in Guiana. A writer in the "Church Times", October 13, wrote that British Guiana also possesses rich deposits of iron ore besides bauxite. "They are claimed to be the biggest in the world."

NO MORE OLD FASHIONED REVOLTS

There are no more old fashioned revolts and riots in the Colonies. They are all "Communist-inspired". When human endurance of poverty, squalor and disease has reached its limits then any flare up is allegedly "inspired by Moscow".

While I was listening to the Debate I thought of the shades of Charles Stewart Parnell hovering around the Lobbies. Here we were dealing with trumped up White Paper charges on the threat to law and order in Guiana by a baby Government only four months old. It was Parnell who had said, when sailing for America in 1880, "A

truth. A plot has been invented where there is none.

"The issue of British Guiana today is not Communism. What is challenged is the very right to vote—the basis of democracy."

"All that has been presented in the White Paper about Communist activity has been pointed out in very glaring terms, before and during the elections. The people were quite conscious of the issues—in fact Communism was one of the issues. The people voted and now force and the threat of bullets have taken away their democratic rights."

"It has always been pointed out to us that Communism is sustained by force and violence—now we see that in the name of democracy democracy is being destroyed by force."

KENYA

One Year of Slaughter

EVENTS in British Guiana today bear a striking resemblance to the sequence of events in Kenya, just over a year ago.

On October 19, 1952, the Governor of Kenya, Sir Evelyn Baring, declared a state of emergency in the colony. No one outside administrative circles knew what it was all about. There appeared to be no adequate reason for such a drastic step.

The Governor's move had obviously been prepared well before

**By
C. Van Gelderen**

hand. That same evening the first battalion of United Kingdom troops arrived in Nairobi by air. By midnight parties of police were searching the locations and the reserves and Jomo Kenyatta and 130 other leaders of the Kenya African Union were arrested.

It was thought that the arrest of the leaders would leave their followers powerless. In fact, the effect was just the opposite. The arrest of Jomo Kenyatta and the others was the signal for the beginning of a mass revolutionary movement which soon embraced 90 per cent. of the Kikuyu people. Convinced by the actions of the

THE RAPE OF DEMOCRACY (from page one)

been tied down to files, but supported a patriotic appeal for amendments to the Constitution.

With their clear majority in the House of Assembly and their limited power as Ministers they removed the bans placed by the former Government on progressive West Indian politicians, and on literature deemed "undesirable".

They set up a committee to enquire into the wages of domestic servants; they increased the number of scholarships to the Government secondary schools by 24.

They legislated for the compulsory recognition of Trade Unions based on the U.S.A. Wagner Act; for compelling landlords to provide drainage for their tenant farmers.

They refused to vote money from the colony's depleted funds to go to Jamaica to visit the Queen.

These were a few of the things done by the P.P.P. in the four

months they controlled part of the machinery of government.

There was no riot, no arson, no assaults on foreigners or any one.

The people heavily backed the P.P.P. They attended meetings of the House and listened to the debates. Those who could not gain access to the Chamber stood outside and cheered the members as they arrived or left. They called the Ministers "People's Ministers" and went to Ministerial buildings in their scores to lay their grievances or to give the Minister's advice.

The enemies of the Party, the enemies of the people of British Guiana, those politicians who had failed in the past and lost in the April General Elections, the Roman Catholic Church, the enemies of democracy, again started their campaign of vilification.

They told the people that the Party would freeze their savings from the Post Office Savings Bank. The Party possesses documentary evidence to prove this.

They urged the Colonial Governor to act against the P.P.P. and so he called on his superiors in London to supply him with troops "to forestall a Communist coup". On October 9 after the troops had been deployed the Constitution was suspended and the Ministers relieved of their portfolios.

The people had been warned by their leaders to be calm, because the imperialists were seeking an opportunity to shoot. On the sugar estates the workers went on strike, and people started to withdraw their savings from the bank and to boycott British goods.

The local police who were disarmed by the Governor became watchmen and servants of the foreign troops. A series of raids were carried out on the homes of Party leaders and on Party Headquarters; several hundred pounds of literature was carted off.

No ammunition was found, no correspondence with any foreign country was found.

The plot against the democratic wishes of the people was exposed. The people's government was raped by the imperialists and their lap-dogs.

The people will now organise a campaign against British imperialism as the people of India had done. The people will soon retaliate, not with guns, which they do not possess, but by non-cooperation, the boycott, and strikes.

The Sales Front

LEEDS shareholders are to be congratulated for a first class job of work over the past year. At their annual meeting held on Sunday, October 17, a splendid picture of their achievements was presented both on the field of circulation and money raising. Plans for future expansion were enthusiastically adopted. **Leeds pledges 100 new readers towards the national total of 1,000 for the fifth anniversary campaign.**

These enjoyable proceedings were followed by tea. Afterwards a report on the Margate Conference rounded off a fruitful day.

Manchester readers also met on Sunday night and discussed plans for the fifth anniversary. They mapped out a circulation drive to be wound up by a demonstration early in December.

Edinburgh readers got on the job immediately they received advance information on the Dr. Jagan articles. They ordered 50 extra copies over their usual order—good work!

The widespread interest in the development in British Guiana resulted in a splendid sale at a London Rally where Dr. Jagan spoke.

Finally a word about our industrial supporters. In this field Birkenhead dockers do a first class job week in, week out. P. McShane and his mates push the paper at the dock gates and have now built one of the most stable sales in the country. We hope our supporters in other industries will follow this lead.

G. Healy,
Circulation Manager.

Socialist Outlook

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Withdraw The Troops!

THE attitude of Labour's rank and file to Guiana is well expressed in this resolution from the **East Fulham Labour Party**.

"That this Party protests at the British Government's attempt to retard the political and social advance of the people of Guiana by displacing their elected representatives, and calls for an immediate withdrawal of all military, naval and air forces from that country as a first step to independence."

We have received similar resolutions and protests from the **Political Conference of U.S.D.A.W. (London Division), Surrey Federation of Labour Leagues of Youth, Holborn and St. Pancras South C.L.P. and Moston (Ward) Labour Party.**

THE PETROL STRIKE

The Real Issue Explained

SIX thousand tanker drivers do not come out on strike without a grievance. And without a deep seated grievance, 6,000 men do not stay out on strike for a week in face of the pressure that was put on them.

Those are the first points to be made about the recent strike which for a few days paralysed London's petrol distribution.

"The men are frightened into support of the strike. They aren't vote to go back", said one newspaper.

Frightened to go back? But look what they had to fear by remaining out. Fear of public opinion, fear of publicity, fear of radio and newspaper attacks, fear of being involved with the law and the Government—all these weighed on them. Consider what this meant to men who a fortnight ago were leading normal working lives. **Yet they remained on strike.**

THAT BOGEY AGAIN

The Pressmen looked for Communists—the "Times" even looked for "Trotskyites". Having found a member of the Communist Party on the strike committee, the newspapers, including the "Daily Herald", played the usual variations on the well worn theme of "Communist inspired".

However, the "Times" declared: "In spite of a general assumption that the strike has been inspired and conducted by Communists, there is little evidence that Communists and their sympathisers

have done more than join in the strike movement after it had begun".

THE REAL CAUSES

Conditions were being undermined. The biggest oil company, Shell Mex and BP was handing over the distribution of certain products to contractors. The contractors were employing drivers under conditions which were not agreed through negotiations.

There was a threat to conditions in the attitude of the employers to a wage claim which the officials of the Union made on behalf of the men last June. The employers offered an increase of 5s. 6d. a

From Our Own Industrial Reporter

week. Coupled with this offer, however, was a condition which the men found unacceptable.

In exchange for the rise the employers demanded the rescindment of an agreement which laid down that joint negotiations should take place over which particular jobs a driver should have a mate.

The employers wanted to decide arbitrarily when a mate was necessary. This was clearly a worsening of conditions of employment. The workers considered it would lead to redundancy. Negotiations were deadlocked.

These were the grievances behind the actions of these men. For three months these grievances were creaking through the negotiating machinery. Finally, the drivers came out on strike demanding an

OILY BUSINESS

SIR Walter Monckton, Tory Minister of Labour, has announced in the House of Commons that the cost of "Operation Tanker" will be borne by the oil companies.

It seems that the oil barons are dead against nationalisation of oil—but they are all in favour of the nationalisation of strike-breaking!

increase of 10s. a week. They wanted an undertaking from the employers that the oil companies new distributing agents would conform to Union agreements.

To ensure these agreements were carried out they demanded the dismissal of a handful of non-Unionists.

Later they amended their proposals. They were prepared to return to work on the promise of immediate negotiations on their demand for an increase. They asked Shell Mex to suspend the transfer of work to the distributing companies until conciliation machinery had been set up to control the wages and conditions of the contractors' employees. They asked that the five non-Unionists be withdrawn pending negotiations.

The Union refused to put these demands to the employers. The men stayed on strike and the troops came in.

SOLIDARITY

When conscripted lads were brought in to break the strike, other workers showed traditional solidarity. Some London bus garages, C.W.S. garages at Bow, and Silvertown B.R.S. drivers came out refusing to use black petrol.

The strike is over, but a problem for the Labour movement remains. All developments in industry point to a growing number of strikes such as this. The crop of rejected wage demands, the continued rise of the cost of living, the threatened depression with a consequent drive of employers to lower labour costs—all lay the basis for that. Some struggles will be "official" but many will be "unofficial" if workers find their official negotiating machinery blocking and delaying their demands.

What is the Labour movement to do in face of these struggles? Cry anarchy and stand aside? Or worse, line up on a witch-hunting campaign and support the employers and the Tory Government? That is fatal. The Labour movement must realise that these struggles express the workers desire to maintain and advance their conditions—an aim for which the Labour and Trade Union movement was built.

London's Own Menace

THE fog which covered London from December 5 to 8 last year was described by the British Medical Journal as a "great disaster". Dr. W. P. D. Logan, Chief Medical Statistician, General Register Office, writing in the "Lancet", called it a "catastrophe of the first magnitude".

"There is reason to believe" he wrote, "that the fog incident in December, 1952, caused deaths in London on a scale possibly never experienced before from this cause. It is to be hoped that such an event will never recur—or be allowed to recur."

In the London area deaths from bronchitis, pneumonia, heart failure and other causes attributable to fog increased rapidly from December 5 to 9. Even on December 15 the daily total deaths from these causes was almost twice as high as before the fog began. It is estimated that almost a million people were ill as a result of this fog and that it cost London at least £10,000,000.

That is the trail of disaster left by the last London fog. Now, once more the season of fogs is approaching. Experts have said that this year's fogs are likely to be worse than the last. How can this menace to health arising from smoke pollution be combatted?

It may appear, at first thought, that this problem of "smog" is one that all men of goodwill can get together and solve on an all party basis. Nothing of the sort! A national solution of the smoke problem, this problem particularly pressing for London, will need a Labour Government with a Socialist programme.

You can see that from the recent proceedings of the Coal Utilisation Council's first post war convention. They show that a solution will never be forthcoming

under a Tory Government and "private enterprise".

At this Harrogate convention one of the speakers was Dr. J. Bronowski of the N.C.B. Central Research Establishment. According to the "Manchester Guardian" October 16, he stated he put his faith for the future in the carbonised fuel with which his staff was now experimenting. This fuel, when it was ready, would be cleaner, more efficient, and more expensive. He estimated that "smoke cost the country about £150 millions a year when such things as doctors and laundry bills were taken into account. Yet, under their process, even nutty slack could be efficient and clean".

While the new fuel would save millions of pounds it would cost, according to Dr. Bronowski, £1 a ton more. The community as a whole, however, would gain. But a scheme to provide this fuel so as to improve public health would demand planning in accordance with the communities needs. If its distribution is left to the free workings of capitalism the new fuel will be too expensive for the workers, an additional charge out of wages; and too expensive for industrialists who put profit before public health.

However, we have not yet reached the stage of even a firm possibility of having the fuel ready for the market within the foreseeable future. That was made clear by Dr. Bronowski.

Many critics at the convention asked why the scientists were not doing so well in making smokeless fuel as at making atom bombs. The answer given was "that the public (!) was so much more generous in paying for destruction. The first atomic bomb in 1945 cost altogether about £500 millions, or more than enough to equip every home in the country for smokeless fuel".

There you have it. To end the menace of smog needs a plan. A plan to develop smokeless fuel, a plan to alter grates and furnaces. Under a Tory Government, under capitalist methods, with a vast rearmament programme, we will never see such a plan. We will see, of course, a spate of discussions, pamphlets and lectures on smoke abatement, particularly as this year's fog closes on London. But action we will only see under a Labour Government planning Britain according to the needs of the working people.

Cl. Bill Hunter

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NORMAN DINNING
Member of the A.E.U. delegation to the Margate Conference

ARTHUR DEAKIN'S description of the "Plan for Engineering" of the Confederation Union's as the "mumbo-jumbo" of "mongrel-dogs" has been given the lie. The Secretary of the Confederation, Gavin-Martin, in last week's "Tribune", performed this signal service and officially endorsed the efforts of those leaders and rank and file

attempted to provide the new policy for the new situation. It is up to the Labour Movement as a whole to find courage to apply that policy."

The place of engineering in Britain's economy cannot be over-estimated. Just as coal was the keystone of the rehabilitation of industry through nationalisation of other industries—fuel for the railways and power stations, and as coke for iron reduction in the steel industry—so also is State development of engineering the key to supplying these industries with mining machinery, locomotives and wagons, heavy electrical generators and machinery, and the thousand and one engineering products from Bessemer furnaces to rolling and drawing mills used in the steel industry.

By Norman Dinning

Trade Unionists who fought for the "Plan" at Margate.

He did more, he made it clear that Margate, far from being a defeat, was but the first step of the Confederation Union's to secure a real policy for economic security. This final statement is eminently in need of repetition:

"If we are struggling against economic disaster, and if engineering must bear the heaviest burden in that struggle, then something more imaginative than the status quo is called for. The Confederation has

To give but one example of the need for planning and co-ordination as envisaged by the Confederation Unions. The 1952 Transport Report discloses that the deplorable effects of the limitation of investment on railways efficiency is even worsened. The slightly higher allocation for 1952 was underperformed by £7 million because steel was not obtainable.

This known shortage of materials prevented the planning of new locomotives, coaches and freight wagons. Arrears on a previously authorised programme for carriages are 2,177. New wagons were the lowest in any year since 1948.

The railways are still saddled with 341,000 private owners' wagons, more than half of the old grease-box type, which cannot be run at any speed.

The "Plan for Engineering" advocates public ownership of wagon manufacture and a strong case for locomotive construction being co-ordinated with the railway workshops.

The tremendously increased cost of heavy motor vehicles and equipment generally, was one of the reasons given to justify the two recent transport fares increases. Public ownership, particularly of the A.C. Vehicles Group (which supplies London Transport) as advocated in the "Plan" would remove the private profit factor from the cost of such equipment.

Public ownership of builders castings and domestic fittings manufacture, in which monopoly greatly increases housing costs, features prominently in the "Plan". Indeed, it is difficult to find anything in the daily needs of our people which is not affected by engineering.

The splendid appeal to the miners delegation at Margate by

Well Done Smithfield!

A WEEK ago porters at Smithfield market, London, returned to work after a four day strike.

Trouble began on Friday, October 16. After handling 70 tons of meat, six men went home at five p.m.—the end of the normal working day. The following morning they were dismissed for not working overtime.

The negotiating machinery set up for disputes such as this was completely ignored by the employers. The 1,500 men employed in the market stopped work the following Monday.

Sections of the Press were just beginning a campaign against the Smithfield workers, when the strike ended. The employers agreed to reinstate the six men and then negotiate on the dispute with regard to overtime. They also agreed to pay the strikers for the time lost during the stoppage.

Congratulations to Smithfield workers for their grand victory. They proved that a good case when backed by solidarity will win.

Down With Cowardice, Sir!

UNABLE to avoid hearing "The Red Flag" recently, I noticed that you Socialists also detest flinching cowards and sneering traitors. Yet every fusilier or private who is accused of cowardice has your mob defending him.

That red rag, the "News Chronicle" allows letters to appear saying "you simply cannot order a man to be courageous". Another stated "a soldier may be forced to commit and suffer the enormities

Henry Dubb's (Jnr.) Advice Service

of war, but the law cannot require men to be brave". Do you realise, sir, that we are endangering our proud claim that one Englishman is worth five Froggies, 10 dagoes or 100 niggers?

The film "Malta Story" was unfair to officers and gave too much prominence to other ranks. I can tell your narrow minded readers the inside story of Malta, because I was there.

During the blitz A.A. gunners left their posts when the bombing was bad whilst the brave H.Q. staff officers continued to direct operations. The situation got so serious that the men were reporting sick and being diagnosed as anxiety neuroses cases. H.Q. had to send

out this notice to inspire them with their own courage:

"Fear is the weapon which the enemy employs to sabotage morale. Anxiety neurosis is the term employed by the medical profession to commercialise fear.

"Anxiety neurosis is the misnomer which make 'cold feet' appear respectable.

"To give way to fear is to surrender to the enemy attack on your morale.

"To admit an anxiety neurosis is to admit a state of fear which is either unreasonable or has no origin in your conception of duty as a soldier.

"If you are a man you will not permit your self respect to admit an anxiety neurosis or to show fear.

"Do not confuse fear with prudence, or impulsive action with bravery.

"Safety first is the worst of principles.

"In civil life anxiety neurosis will put you 'on the club', in battle it buys you a bayonet in the bottom and a billet in a P.O.W. camp."

Please remember the guns were protected by concrete walls or sandbags. Yet the men sneered that it was all very well for H.Q. to tell us to be brave when they were safe beneath 60 feet of rock. The men remained recalcitrant and

continued going sick with anxiety neurosis.

H.Q. then issued this Order on March 28, 1942:

"Psycho-analytical Examination.—Any man who becomes a casualty by bombing, will, under NO circumstances answer any questions put to him in the form of Psycho-analytical Examination."

That's the way to deal with all this new-fangled rot about nerves. Our officers know how to handle men, sir!

In my battery one of those damned agitators stuck up this notice in the canteen:

"The soldiers of the workers' and peasants' Red Army are not cowardly rabble. They want to fight for the liberty and happiness of the working people. If they retreat or fight badly, it is the fault of the commanders and commissars.

"I serve notice that if a unit gives ground, the political commissar will first be shot. Then the commander.

"Courageous soldiers will be rewarded in accordance with their merits. They will receive commands. The cowards, the traitors and profiteers will not escape our bullets. For this I assume responsibility before the Red Army.

Trotsky's Order to Red Army, 1918."

The bolshie who put up this notice had already led to mutinies but got away with it by winning the support of N.C.O.'s. However, he was later dealt with by being transferred to a gun position which suffered heavy casualties. Within a fortnight the bolshie was wounded. But the devil looks after his own and the wound was only slight. Even when he did get a direct hit later, the bomb was a dud!

All this contempt for the officers was exposed, for many officers were decorated. One colonel who had safeguarded his genius for leadership by rushing to shelter during raids, regardless of the men's ignorant sneers, won the M.B.E. The Other Ranks nastily said it meant "Miles Below Earth". The Brigadier at H.Q. won the C.B.E. Because he was red faced and rotund the nasty-minded said it stood for "Comfort Before Everything".

This foul agitator was soon kicked out of his new unit when he stuck up this blasphemous verse:

"They Red Cross the sick and maimed,

Wooden Cross those that fall. Victoria Cross the hero guy And Double Cross us all." Who dares to say in 1953 that such an attitude is justified

Henry Dubb junior (ex-R.A.)

Labour Ranks Back Colonial People

West Lewisham C.L.P. has lately been taking up the cudgels on behalf of two colonial peoples. After the August general election in Mauritius, when 13 Labour members out of 19 were elected to the Legislative Council, the Governor chose the nominated members from people opposed to self-government and workers' emancipation. The W.L.L.P. protested against this action of the Governor in flouting the will of the Mauritian people. More recently, it sent protests to Churchill and Lyttelton (with copies to Cheddi Jagan and Sir A. Savage) against the British action in British Guiana. It accused the British Government of acting against the P.P.P. Government merely because it didn't like its political colour.

Peter Ibbotson. Press Officer.
W. Lewisham C.L.P.



"Daily Mail" is Prepared to "Take the Risk"

All the newspaper correspondents in British Guiana agree that there was no sign of any disturbance when the British Government sent warships and troops there to

The Choice Before South Africa

CURRENT news from South Africa creates more than a passing interest in E. S. Sachs' book, "The Choice Before South Africa", which now appears in a new paper-bound edition brought up to date and published by the author. A study of this volume sheds lights on understanding today's news about Africa.

Starting with general social and economic problems, the author gives historical material on the parties, the current economic condition of the country, and the growth of the existing political Trade Union movement, and draws conclusions on problems facing the country under the current administration of the Nationalist Party which has risen to power under the leadership of Dr. Daniel Malan.

Having been General Secretary of the South Africa Garment Workers' Union for almost 25 years, and during that time a close student of the political and economic developments of his country, Mr. Sachs has first-hand knowledge of much of the material he presents in his book. He came to England last Spring following an order by Mr. C. R. Swart, Nationalist Minister of Justice, removing him from his position and forbidding him to attend any gatherings "whatever".

His book is a personal business venture which he believes will prove a means of livelihood that will enable him to continue his career in fighting for what he terms "the democratic forces of South Africa". The book may be obtained through him at 21 Strutton Ground, London, S.W.1, and costs 5s. 6d. including postage.

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Our Readers Write . . .

suppress a non-existent Communist revolt.

But Tory, British imperialists, inspired by that patriotism which Dr. Johnson described as "the last refuge of scoundrels", glory in these crimes against humanity and violation of the "four freedoms". This is shown by the following extract from the "Daily Mail" editorial of October 9:

"We have 70,000 troops in Egypt. This is 60,000 more than we are allowed by treaty. Nevertheless, says Lord Salisbury, it is the minimum to maintain our position if we are faced with an unfriendly Egypt." . . . Lord Salisbury reminds us that we have troops in Germany, Malaya, Korea, Hong Kong, Kenya and other places. He did not mention British Guiana. We have troops there now. (My emphasis, P.A.) In these matters, says Lord Salisbury: 'I hope you will trust the wisdom and experience of Sir Winston Churchill and Mr. Eden, who have no past records of feebleness'. For ourselves, we are ready to take the risk!"

But the British Labour Movement is not prepared to "take the risk" of plunging the world into atomic war with the wholesale slaughter of the flower of British manhood at the behest of elderly patriots who "take their risks" in comfortable Fleet Street editorial chairs, and in affluent Stock Exchange circles.

As you suggest in your statesmanlike editorial, the manipulation of the block vote and the misuse of Executive Power to defeat the democratically expressed wishes of the rank and file members of the Labour Party, can be overcome by joint action between the progressive elements in the Trade Unions and Constituency Labour Parties to ensure the defeat of the present "continuity of Tory Foreign Policy", and the implementation of the Morecambe mandate for full nationalisation and the freedom of all colonial races.

Percy Allott. Wimbledon.

More Greek Terror

The Executive Committee of the League for Democracy in Greece, has learned with grave concern that, on October 9, 1953, the Cavalla Court Martial pronounced sentence in the case of 20 Greek citizens facing framed-up charges of espionage.

Six Greek democrats were sentenced to death. Among those sentenced to terms of imprisonment were two girls, Kyriaki Architectonidi aged 16, and Elpiniki Kinaki aged 17.

The Executive Committee of the League for Democracy in Greece expresses on behalf of its many hundreds of thousands of members and members of affiliated organisations, deep abhorrence at the continuance of such trials which are a mockery of justice. It deplores the passing of more death sentences and the consequent

threat of executions, and is disgusted with the penalties if imprisonment passed on young girls.

It demands that the executions of the six democrats should not take place but that the death sentences be commuted immediately. It further demands that the Papagos Government which pledged itself to a policy of "forgetting the past", release the many thousands of men and women political prisoners and exiles and grant a general amnesty.

League for Democracy in Greece.
19 Beak Street, London, W.1.



Deception in the Headlines

Our glorious (Right wing) Press has been playing its favourite game of "Deceiving the Headline Reader" on the British Guiana issue.

On October 21 the Government issued its White Paper. Its lack of evidence was apparent. To support the claim that there was a secret plot to set fire to homes it stated that people who did not possess cars had been buying petrol in bottles! Hardly, one would have thought, the best way to go about organising a secret plot.

But our millionaire Press treated the allegations as facts. The "Daily Express" "splash" read: JAGANS APED MAU TERROR.

It included no indication that this was merely a Government claim. It did not put its headline in inverted commas.

Similarly other big circulation papers accepted one Party's statements as facts and assumed the guilt of the Guianese leaders

The "Daily Mail" headline was: **GUIANA FIRE BUG PLOT EXPOSED.**

"Daily Telegraph": **PARTY PLOT TO FIRE GEORGETOWN HOMES.**

"Yorkshire Post": **GUIANA REDS' FIRE PLOT UNMASKED.**

"Daily Despatch": **JAGAN FIRE PLOT SECRET EXPOSED.**

For the millions who merely read the headlines that was enough.

The next day Jagan arrived in Britain and asked: in that case why haven't they arrested us? This was not reported at all in most Conservative papers.

The "Daily Express" story did mention it. But its headline was: **NOW JAGAN WANTS TO SHOOT MACCOLL.** It appears from the news story that Jagan said to the "Express" reporter:

MacColl! My wife wants to shoot you!

"Was she sore!" went on Jagan, shaking hands with a rueful smile. "So it's you again. More MacColl reports, eh!"

MacColl's story makes it clear

that Jagan said this with a smile. I wonder if all the 4,000,000 buyers, and 10,000,000 readers, of the "Express" noticed this or if many of them now believe the disgraceful headline that Janet wants to shoot MacColl.

I suggest that these attempts to mislead the public should be brought before the Press Council. **Frank Allaun. Manchester.**



On Picking Our Candidates

No doubt you are aware that many "converts" to the Socialist movement are, after a short time, being adopted as Parliamentary candidates.

For the life of me I cannot see why we cannot find enough life-long Socialists already in the movement who are capable of being M.P.'s. Or is it that our members look for "brains" only in people who ride in big cars, have thick horn-rimmed glasses and a spiv suit, and who, if given a pick and shovel would shrink from the very thought of working for £5 17s. 6d. a week in one of the nationalised industries.

I myself, would never agree that any man could change his political beliefs and be conversant with the doctrines of the other side without first expounding for a number of years the reason for his change of policy. **W. R. Storey. Northwich.**

Guiana Appeal to Scots Readers

We are writing on behalf of the **Edinburgh British Guiana Committee** which has just been set up in response to the appeal made from the platform at the public meeting on Tuesday called by the University Socialist Society and addressed by the President of the Caribbean Labour Congress.

The aim of our committee is to spread information about the present situation in British Guiana and the background of it, with a view to correcting what we believe to be the false impressions created by present official statements.

We are endeavouring to obtain either **Dr. Jagan** or **Mr. Burnham** to come to Edinburgh and address a public meeting. It is clear that such a meeting will need the largest hall available and the expenditure of far more money, time and efforts than we ourselves can manage. Also we wish the sponsoring of the proposed meeting to be as widely representative as possible.

Would anyone who is willing to be publicly associated with us in furthering this project, or who can help in any way—and this goes of course for organisations as well as individuals—please communicate with **Councillor Smith** at 22 Elmfield Bank, Dalkeith.

Signed on behalf of the **Edinburgh British Guiana Committee**
David Smith (Councillor), Secretary,
Clifford Field, Assistant Secretary,

DOCK GATE MEETINGS
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Labour's History

No. 22. The Invergordon Mutiny

When The Navy Went On Strike

By Councillor David R. Smith

Severe punishment in actual fact was being meted out to them for their part in the mutiny.

IN the long and colourful history of the British Navy few incidents have emitted such an electrifying current throughout the entire globe surface than the revolt of Britain's seamen at Invergordon in 1931. Mutiny in the navy of the world's greatest seapower! Rebellion in the armed forces of the most firmly entrenched imperialist state!

The sensation at home and abroad was to send stock prices tumbling, rock the Bank of England, and provide one of the causes that drove the pound sterling off the gold standard.

Seldom has the intellectual poverty of capitalism's economic apologists been more clearly demonstrated than in their treatment of the world economic depression, of which the collapse of the New York Stock Exchange in 1929 was the prelude. The most devastating crash in the sordid history of capitalism was produced by the inability of the system to maintain purchasing power at a level sufficient to absorb total production.

Yet, alarmed at the budget deficit, the economic physicians sought to overcome the crisis by reducing still further the spending power of the workers. The "National Government" declared war on their living standards on the recommendations of the May Committee. A 10 per cent. cut in the benefits to the 3,000,000 unemployed was demanded, the detested means test was introduced, and vicious slashes were made in the salaries of all public employees.



The workers responded by nation-wide demonstrations of protest. The unemployed in unity with civil servants and other black coated workers, 100,000 strong, converged on Trafalgar Square to demand a restoration of the cuts. But the most severe blow to the Government was to come from that branch of the fighting services with which the name of that great national figure, whose column dominates the Square, will be permanently associated.

The Atlantic Fleet was preparing at Invergordon for autumn exercises when the Admiralty announced that cuts were to be enforced in the pay of officers and ratings. The cuts were to be

"democratic". They applied equally to all men—one shilling a day all round. This meant that whereas a Lieutenant Commander was left with 26s. 8d. a day; a skilled rating was left with only 3s.

The following night every available seaman ashore assembled in the canteens to discuss the situation. Jumping on to a table, **A.B. Bond** called upon the men to stand together, resist the cuts, and declare a strike. Another sailor, **Len Wincott**, appealed for a volunteer from each ship to act as a representative on each, sound the feelings of the crews still aboard, and report back to a further meeting the following night.

A patrol command, attempting to disperse this second gathering, was chased away. In a militant mood, the men unanimously decided, by a show of hands, to commence strike action the next morning. Flushed with enthusiasm, they flocked back to their ships singing the "Red Flag" and calling to one another: "Don't forget tomorrow morning."

The biggest movement of revolt in the British Navy since that of Spithead in 1797 began at 6 a.m. on Tuesday, September 15. The ship's company of "Rodney" collectively refused duty. The men mustered on deck and gave three resounding cheers. This was the signal for the rest of the fleet to follow suit. By 8 a.m. the officers were completely powerless, and all the ships were completely in command of the men of the lower deck.



Aboard H.M.S. Norfolk a manifesto was drafted and circulated by motor boat to the other ships. It read: "We, the loyal subjects of His Majesty the King, do hereby present to our Lord Commissioners of the Admiralty our earnest representations to them to revise the drastic cuts in pay that have been inflicted upon the lowest men in the lower deck. It is evident to all concerned that these cuts are the forerunner of tragedy, poverty and immorality among the families of the men on the lower deck. The men are quite willing to accept a cut which they, the men, think within reason and unless this is

done we must remain as one unit refusing to serve under the new rates of pay."

On the Wednesday, the Admiral of the Second Cruiser Squadron toured his ships to appeal to the men to return to duty. When his attempts met with failure he called out to them that they were "Bloody fools" and "Bloody hooligans".

Urgent messages were despatched to the Admiralty to intervene. A signal was later received by all ships of the Atlantic Fleet instructing them to proceed to home ports. It was threatened that any further refusals of duty would be dealt with under the Disciplinary Acts. But coupled with that was a promise to appoint a commission to investigate the men's grievances. Further, stated the Admiralty, there would be no victimisation of any person connected with the strike.



The mutineers had compelled the Government to surrender. The pay cuts were revised on a percentage basis which meant that the cut in the pay of a rating would be 5d. instead of 1s. a day.

Despite the promises of no victimisation, however, special investigators and spies were sent into the ports to discover the names of the ringleaders of the strike. Thirty-six of the men were later ordered to report to naval barracks. They were formed into classes to undergo a "special course". This course was a blind

In Len Wincott's own words: "We were compelled to drill with a rifle and bayonet continually at the double. We were run off our feet and allowed no time to rest, and we were subjected to rigorous punishment at the slightest provocation."

After applying for permission to register a complaint the men were summoned to appear before the Commander of the Barracks. He told them: "You are not being punished for the Invergordon affair. We all know that it was announced that there would be no victimisation of individuals. There have been further activities both on board and ashore and you are suspected of having taken part in them. I am not afraid of you, but I am afraid you will corrupt the minds of some ignorant young urchins who know nothing."

There were no reported incidents after the Invergordon affair.

A few weeks later the men received their discharge notices from the Admiralty. Reasons for these were denied them, until they read in the newspapers that they had been dismissed for "further subversive conduct".

While the action of the men of Invergordon may be condemned by those inflicted with patriotic infantilism as a stain upon the prestige and traditions of the Royal Navy, others again will salute them. Their courage and fortitude wrote another glorious chapter in the age-long struggle of man for social justice.

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