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Hands Off  
the Colonies  
peoples!

## THE TORIES TRYING DE-REQUISITIONING

By Ken Andrews

THE Tories are beginning to turn people out of their homes in order to hand them back to the landlords. The bland way they approach the job of de-requisitioning may be seen from the wording of a circular sent out last week by the 100 per cent Tory Westminster City Council to Mr. North and other tenants or requisitioned properties. Here is the full text:—

"The Minister of Housing and Local Government has directed the council to take steps to secure the release of premises requisitioned for housing purposes and, in the first instance, the council is making arrangements for the release of the more expensive properties.

"In order to release the premises, it is necessary to require the licensees now in occupation to move elsewhere, and the Council regrets that it is not in a position to offer them alternative accommodation.

"It feels, however, that now that the housing situation generally is much easier, many of the occupiers of requisitioned accommodation will be able to find other accommodation for themselves.

"In particular I would mention that in the suburbs there are now houses for sale as well as for letting and it is not so difficult to obtain a building licence for the erection of houses.

"There are, further, facilities for obtaining loans from local authorities for the purpose of buying houses and the erection of houses. There are also, of course, facilities for the loans from building societies and other financial organisations.

"I am therefore directed to give this preliminary notice that the accommodation which

you now occupy will have to be released from requisition in the near future and to ask you to make every effort to find other accommodation for yourself within the next three months."

You probably noticed that the greater urgency, according to the Westminster City Council, is attached to handing back "the more expensive properties" to the landlords.

One of these is No. 33 Eccleston Square, Pimlico, where Mr. and Mrs. North and their family of four occupy one of six flats, two of which are requisitioned.

Ironically enough it was this house that Sir Winston Churchill moved with his wife shortly after their marriage in 1908.

Mr. and Mrs. North moved there thirty-six years later after being bombed-out of nearby Ebury Buildings. They had nowhere else to go.

"We thought then," Mrs. North told the local paper ("Westminster and Pimlico News"), "that if the council gave us notice to quit because the owners wanted it (the flat) back the council would find us alternative accommodation... My husband is a bus conductor earning only £7 a week and cannot afford to go buying property in the suburbs even if he wanted to."

Already the builders have been "set free" to build for those who can pay. Already this has led to enforced cuts in council building schemes. Already the Higher Rents Bill is on its way. Now they are threatening to turn out the tenants of requisitioned properties.

The Labour Party must stop all evictions. Nationally and locally we must insist that there be no de-requisitioning whilst there is a single family left on the housing lists.

## E.T.U. Strikers Must Have Labour's Help

### This Guerilla War is Our War Too

WITH 7,000 London Electricians joining the 1,800 already on strike at selected sites throughout the country, the bitter dispute between the E.T.U. and employers organised in the National Federated Electrical Association enters a new phase. Its outcome can have as big an influence on industrial relations as did the fight

### IT'S LATER THAN YOU THINK

I know you are busy. All "Outlook" readers are—they're generally the most active people in the movement.

But there comes a time when things just can't be put off any longer. That time has arrived for YOUR entry in our "nationalisation competition."

Like all busy people you have been meaning to fill in your coupon but simply haven't got around to it. Now you've got exactly three days left.

So over that "cuppa" in the canteen, or before you rush off to the branch meeting tonight, spend five minutes and "have a go."

Fill up your coupon and post it TODAY, so as to reach us by Monday morning—the closing date.

You may win £10. You will certainly enjoy trying. And, as important as anything else, you will help the Fighting Fund.

Fred Emmett

Says Sam Goldberg

of the railwaymen and miners after World War I.

The first shots in the battle were fired by the employers in 1952. Following local strikes at the Festival Gardens (April 1952) and at Messrs. Dynes, Newmarket (June 1952), the employers suspended the negotiating machinery. From that moment a test of strength between the employers and Union was inevitable.

Negotiations were eventually re-established, and the National Joint Industrial Council met on February 4th, 1953 to consider a Union claim for increased wages for Apprentices. At a meeting of the N.J.I.C., on 24th March, Walter Stevens, E.T.U. Secretary stated:

"The Union's suggestion to take the matter to arbitration had evoked from the National Federated Electrical Association a reply to the effect that it would not be prepared to accept an arbitration award on this matter."

Even the Tory Government, in its White Paper on the dispute

admits that "The accuracy of that statement has not been challenged."

The employers, who were not prepared to accept arbitration in March, 1953, are today, only 10 months later, positively crying out for arbitration. What has changed their attitude, and why has the E.T.U. now rejected the employers' demand to refer the matter to arbitration?

LOADED DICE

Andrew Gordon, writing in the E.T.U. Journal "Electron" supplies part of the answer:

"The workers have built up their standards on Trade Union action and not on Arbitration or the fair-mindedness of employers. For the workers arbitration is a gamble, and while arbitration should not be ruled out, it is too much to expect responsible Trade Union leaders or masses of workers to stake their fate on the roulette wheel or a game of dice when the dice are loaded against them."

This attitude is understood by the men. Its correctness was shown by George Isaacs (Minister of Labour in the Labour Government). He asked his Tory successor, Sir Walter Monckton, "what Ministerial guidance had been given to arbitration tribunals on the level of wage awards permitted?"

Workers and employers alike know the "guidance" which can be expected from the Tory Government. The dice would be well and truly "loaded" against the Union.

What Are The  
Tories Cooking  
in the  
Gold Coast?  
Don't Miss Next Week's  
"Outlook"

The "guerilla" tactics employed by the Union are not new. They were employed more than 40 years ago by the old London District Committee of the E.T.U. Their name implies, they are calculated to allow a thinny and scattered membership to their forces felt most effective.

What is new and unprecedented is the loyalty and discipline of E.T.U. members.

They were ordered out of various sites on August 1st, 1953, back to work on August 31st, against September 1st, back September 10th, ordered out one-day demonstration on Jan 18th after being out and during the preceding week, now out once more.

These "guerilla actions" however, met with certain success from the men. At Thorpe, for example. But this position was not, as was reported in the capitalist opposition to striking. It was a question of whether all should called out or only a few.

EMPLOYERS' TACTICS

The Employers' Association and their part, are determined to every means, not merely to crush the strike, but to smash the Union as well.

First they enlisted the "bogey". The Press dutifully dragged this red herring across the front pages. When this had no effect, they responded to one-day stoppage by a national lock-out—the first time this has been used against a Union on a scale since the General Strike of 1926.

Protected by release or clause in contracts, assisted by Tory government and the capitalist press, and profiting from the fact that contracting electricians do not have the same strategic importance in industry, workers in Electricity Supply have embarked on a policy of right lies, sackings and victimisations.

The E.T.U. members, however, after mass meetings up and down the country fully understand this will be a hard and desperate fight.

The one-day strike was decisively called for January 1st. This was the day the employers were to commence their overtime and piece-work. As a result of a great militant industrial struggle the contracting electricians could count on the sympathy and support of all Unions.

The decision of the Minister of Labour to refer the engineers' dispute to a Conciliation Inquiry, and its tame acceptance, **Continued on page 2, col 2**

## London Dockers Score Big Victory

★ Strike Action Re-instates a Militant ★

"If you won't employ Harry Constable, then its one out; all out," said an angry docker to the foreman "calling on" at the West India Dock, London. With that, one hundred dockers walked out through the dock gates.

That happened on Wednesday afternoon the 20th January. On Thursday morning by 9 a.m. one thousand dockers were on strike. An hour later the total was 2,000. It was

Reported by  
BILL HUNTER

3,000 by mid-day—West India and Millwall docks were paralysed.

The solidarity of dockers is well known. It was born out of many years of bitter struggle to organise and improve conditions in face of hard employers. Their sympathy with the old, the infirm, and the militant docker suffering under a "raw deal" is traditional.

To understand this particular spontaneous strike, you must know a little about Constable, and his treatment by the Dock Labour Board and by Arthur Deakin's Transport and General Workers' Union.

Constable was one of the leaders of the dockers' strike in 1949. For that, he was expelled from the T.G.W.U. Ever since, he has conducted a constant struggle for re-admission. Undoubtedly the vast majority of dockers in London and Merseyside—that is the majority of Britain's portworkers—want his return. He remains a leader on London's docks and—unique on the docks—a docker without a union ticket that portworkers will willingly work with!

The dockers were unable to prevent Arthur Deakin from expelling Constable from the union; so far they have been unable to get his reinstatement in the T.G.W.U.; but they have watched closely every attempt to push him off the docks entirely.

Last Saturday, I talked with dockers who left me in no doubt of their opinion, that Harry Constable had been suffering for a very long period under victimisation. Said Charlie Horn:

"I believe the authorities have tried over a period of time to starve Harry Constable off the docks. He would present himself for work time and time again, and everybody would be given work but him. It would take three or four editions of the "Socialist Outlook" to list the ways they have tried to get rid of him."

The strike began when the dockers felt they had concrete evidence of discrimination which had been going on for many months. When Constable was refused work that Wednesday, the foreman declared he had orders from the superintendent not to employ



Harry Constable, as one of the leaders of the great 1950 Dock Strike, addressing a mass meeting in London.

him as he was a "trouble-maker."

In describing what happened, Mr. B. Simpson, Constable's work-mate, declared—"By 'trouble-maker' they mean he puts up a fight against bad gear and dangerous conditions and is prepared to fight, not only for himself, but in particular in defence of the old men."

On Thursday morning, officials of the T.G.W.U. discussed with the Port of London Authority. They came out of the meeting at 11 a.m.

to ask Harry Constable himself to go into the meeting room to discuss directly with the Port Authorities, and see if a settlement could be reached. Constable asked that a representative of the Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union (Mr. S. Humphries) be present as well as the T.G.W.U. representatives. This was agreed.

At this meeting assurances were given by the Port of London Authority Superintendent, that there would be no victimisation of any man in the port. Further, as Constable had been deprived of his membership of the T.G.W.U. and thus of negotiating rights, he was given the right of approach and interview with any foreman, warehouse-keeper, or the superintendent himself.

I stood outside the gate of the West India Docks as the strike ended. A short while after the main body of men went in I heard a resounding cheer. The men had stood back from the call stand while Constable went forward. His fellow dockers thus gave him the privilege of picking any job he wanted on the dock.

The dockers I met felt they had won a solid victory and were proud of the unity that had been shown.

Jim Humphries told me what he saw as significant in this brief struggle. "It is the first time in the history of these docks that any docker member of the Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union

—the blue union—has been invited to participate in the settlement of a dispute. We have always had to accept the decisions of the T.G.W.U. The blue union has been fighting for years for the right to negotiate for dockers. This is a big step in achieving that."

Stan Blewer, another docker, added his summary of the strike. "In this instance we were fighting on two fronts—not only the employers but also the officials of the T.G.W.U. Dockers are watching very closely now what happens to Harry Constable's fight for admission to the T.G.W.U. Failure to recognise his right to be a union member will cause further bitterness on the docks."

### 'Blue' Union Bans Overtime

SEVEN thousand members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers Union, working on London's docks, banned overtime as from Monday.

In the words of Dick Barrett, secretary of the union, (see last week's "Socialist Outlook"): "The big question at issue is whether overtime is to be voluntary or compulsory." The employers contend that overtime is compulsory. Members of the union have been disciplined for refusing to work overtime at a few hours notice.

The dockers are fighting for a right that is elementary in other industries—the right of a worker to refuse an extension of his working day if he so wishes.

The ban on overtime is among "blue union" men. It appears that dockers in Transport and General Workers' Union are behind them in this fight. Although their union is not supporting the ban it will undoubtedly spread, particularly among members of the T.G.W.U. working in gangs with the "blue union" men.

The stevedores' union is threatening stronger action. "Socialist Outlook" has already reported their decision to go out on strike unless all actions are covered by the employer's insurance.

These men deserve the support of the whole Labour Movement in their fight for principles.

# A scientist looks at the

## ATOM BOMB

★ By Professor Hyman Levy ★

Professor of Mathematics at the Imperial College  
of Science and Technology

It does not matter to a blade of grass" said an old Korean peasant to a British soldier, "whether it is eaten by a horse or a cow."

It did not matter to the inhabitants of Hiroshima and Nagasaki who disappeared in a flash into a mushroom column of atomic dust in August, 1945, to whom the bombs belonged. Nothing mattered to them any longer, not even that they were the first experimental guinea pigs for the final obliteration of mankind. But it matters to us.

It even mattered to the airmen who dropped the bombs. I have personally spoken with the men who were most intimately concerned with the discharge of these murderous explosives, and I have seen the terrible effect it has had on them also. People who commit murder to order—decent, civilised people at any rate—are themselves murdered in the process. The difference is that they live on to realise what they have done. Have mercy on them. They knew not what they did. But today we do know.

Since that terrible August the world has slipped rapidly along that same course—still further along it. Today it is no longer a question of having a couple of atom bombs, choosing a suitable target and watching the effect of dropping them. Every country that has reached the level of knowledge—I would not call it understanding—to assemble these murder-concentrates, has now accumulated a stockpile so that immediately on the breakdown of peace

negotiations they can be let loose on pre-arranged targets deliberately selected to wipe out a whole series of towns with their living sentient inhabitants.

These stocks are dotted about the world ready for action at their atomic bases. It is literally true that your life and my life lie in the hands of some atomic strategist to be sacrificed when the time comes as military needs require.

It is no longer a question of killing soldiers in uniform armed with guns, bayonets and rifles, of the strategy and tactics of columns of infantry or regiments of soldiers or army divisions. All that has been swept into the background. That is part of the end-game if their is an end.

The U.S.A., thoroughly realistic in its organisation for the mass extermination of others, has begun to remove its infantry from the danger spots. The whole thing can now be done, they believe, by press-button methods that will release guided missiles and atom bombs at long range.

All you have to do is to wipe

out your opponents' population, his towns and cities, his factories and his homes, his schools and his museums, his universities and his art galleries, old and young, and babies in their cradles, quite indiscriminately, before he has a chance of doing the same to you. It is as easy as that—on paper!

It is the ravings of a lunatic asylum. What it means in human suffering—what it means for the whole of civilization hardly enters into the calculations of those who play with atomic destruction. You and I aren't even their pawns. We are merely so much dust to be wafted hither and thither as the logic of self-effacement works itself out to its ultimate conclusion. Our part will be played in the mushroom column of fire that will rise 20 miles towards heaven—we and our children.

There is no-one anywhere who tries to justify this. That, at any rate, is beyond the wit and conscience of anyone, however satanic. But there are people who still prate of the sanctity of the individual who will not raise a voice in protest against mass slaughter on a scale that dwarfs everything that has ever happened on this planet.

On the greatest of issues that have ever faced Mankind the Churches are silent. They condemn themselves with the unspoken word.

Our political leaders hold their peace as they are led meekly to the slaughter in the wake of U.S.A. policy. For them it is a matter of high policy and negotiation—negotiation from strength they call it. What moral bankruptcy is it that keeps these people tongue-tied?

"By the evening of the second day," writes Reginald Thompson in his searing book "9-A.B.

The Challenge" (the ninth year of the Atom Bomb)—"By the Evening of the second day what had happened to London was known... The heart of London had perished... Out of the wilderness and into the wilderness they came, haggard, hopeless and helpless, bereaved and bereft, and for miles they lay by the roadsides that spread outwards from the desolation... In the heart of London... there was a new silence..."

Reginald Thompson ought to know, for he it was who threw his career into the melting pot in order to expose the terrible scenes of Napalm burnings in Korea. And yet there are people who tell us that these things are done in order to bring civilisation to "the natives"! We have to speak now—or we shall be silent for ever!

## Electricians (from p. 1)

by the Engineering Union leaders, exposed the contracting workers to a struggle in isolation. A struggle in which the employers and government hope to cripple the E.T.U. and demoralise its members. As Sir Walter Monckton said in reply to George Isaacs, "I am glad that my Rt. Hon. friend realises there are times when it would be wrong to intervene".

By dealing with the E.T.U. first the employers as a whole hope to crush the present wave of industrial unrest and clamp down on all workers. This new attitude of employers is shown in the report of the National Federation of Building Trade Employers:

"A real contribution to the industry can be made at this time by employers who, having welfare of all (employers) in the ensured that the management of their jobs is efficient, take firm steps to eliminate slackness by 'their workers.'"

Thus the electrical contracting industry is the arena in which the present struggle between employers and workers is being decided.

The E.T.U. deserves the unqualified support of all trade unionists. Penwill and the arrogant leadership of N.F.E.A. must be defeated. A setback for the electricians can have disastrous consequences for Labour.

Immediately, moral and financial support can be given. The E.T.U. has opened a voluntary fund to implement its strike funds. This should be supported, not only by the E.T.U. members not yet engaged in the strike, but by all Trade Unionists, just as the dockers received general support of trade unions in their historic fight for the "dockers tanner".

Rally to the support of the E.T.U.

# Plots Afoot?

UNDER the leadership of its popular Convention People's Party, the peoples of the Gold Coast have fought their way in recent years from almost complete imperialist slavery to the very brink of Self Government. Kwame Nkrumah, the Prime Minister, was elected to the Gold Coast Parliament while still in jail for his anti-British activities.

Next May or June, a General Election will take place in the Gold Coast under a new Constitution.

The Legislative Assembly will, for the first time, be composed of members directly elected by secret ballot in each of the 104 constituencies.

to improve communications and bring large areas of dry plains into cultivation. But foreign capital is interested only in exporting vast profits along with the aluminium. Unless the Gold Coast wins its fight for political independence, the native populations will find that, after the big monopolies have taken their share, there will be precious little left with which to raise the standards of life of the Gold Coast people.

This clash of interests between foreign capital and the interests of the people was at the root of all the trouble in Persia and, more recently in British Guiana. Mosadeq and Jagan were removed as obstacles to the super-exploitation of a colonial peoples' natural resources.

The signs are now accumulating that the big monopolies intend Kwame Nkrumah as their next victim.

The C.P.P. is not unaware of the plot. The Political Correspondent of the Ghana "Evening News" (journal of the C.P.P.) writing on January 5th says: "A deliberate campaign of lies and slander has been started by the disparate opposition clique (G.O.P.A.) designed to sabotage self-government by all means since they are convinced that the dynamic C.P.P. will be returned to power in the next General Elections..."

Our purpose in this brief editorial is to sound a warning. A plot against the Gold Coast people is undoubtedly being hatched. Are the British Tories implicated? We don't know—but we do know that Toryism acted as the faithful tool of the sugar and aluminium monopolies in British Guiana and people like Oliver Lyttelton have proved in Kenya that they are brothers under the skin to Dr. Malan.

## What do these countries have in common?

AUSTRIA, Alaska, Australia, Aleutian Islands, Azores, Belgium, Brazil, Bolivia, Bermuda, Canada, Cuba, Colombia, Denmark, Egypt, England, Eritrea, El Salvador, France, Formosa, Germany, Guam, Greenland, Greece, Honduras, Hawaii, Israel, India, Indo-China, Italy, Indonesia, Iceland, Iran, Iwo Jima, Japan, Kawahalein, Korea, Liberia, Lybia, Malaya, Morocco, Midway Island, Okinawa, New Zealand, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Peru, Portugal, Pakistan, Paraguay, Puerto Rico, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Spain, Saipan, Trieste, Trinidad, Thailand, Turkey, Virgin Islands, Venezuela, Wake Islands, Yugoslavia.

See answer at foot of column.

# Guiana's Deposed Ministers Appeal to YOU

112, Regent Street,  
Laceytown, Georgetown,  
British Guiana

Dear Friends,

When the Tory Government added troops in our country and, without any warning or justification, suspended our constitution and deposed our ministers, we knew that there would be the strongest opposition to their crude imperialistic tactics on the part of liberty-loving British people. How strong this opposition is, we have been able to see for ourselves during our few brief weeks in this country, where we have met and spoken to thousands of men and women of all shades of opinion.

In thanking our friends for their support we wish to pay a particular tribute to those members of the great British Labour Movement who have been active on our behalf. From the most eminent member of Parliament to the ordinary rank and filer, the sympathy and support we have received on behalf of our oppressed people will be remembered and cherished.

We would be lacking in candour, however, if we did not express our deep regret at the statements issued by the General Council of the T.U.C. and the Executive Committee of the Labour Party on British Guiana. The T.U.C. has condemned our Government for dealing with trade union problems when we were only following the precedent of the Labour Government in this country, which used its majority in the House to amend the notorious Trades Dispute Act. We have

no apologies to make for our unwillingness to co-operate with the "Manpower Citizens Association" referred to by the T.U.C. as this has become a "yellow" company union, with a handful of members only, using its monopoly of negotiating rights to further the interests of the sugar owners.

The legislation which the T.U.C. refers to and which was based on the U.S. Wagner Act sought to give the right to workers to obtain recognition for any union which had a substantial majority of membership.

The Labour Party Executive seeks to justify the Government action in sending troops, by using the age-old slogan of British imperialism—"Law and Order". No evidence, other than the vague tittle-tattle of anonymous police agents, exists to justify the contention that law and order were threatened by our Government, and it must be noted that this information was received by the Colonial Secretary on October 7th, three days after the Constitution had been revoked.

In the few weeks that we were in office, Bills were introduced to Repeal the Undesirable Publications Ordinance, to Amend the Ricefarmers (Security of Tenure) Bill. This would compel landlords to keep in a state of good repair the drainage and irrigation canals on their property in order to allow the tenant farmers to have a chance of making a living on their farms. We further introduced Bills to extend piped water supply to the suburbs of Georgetown (our capital); to limit the interest charged by moneylenders and to extend food production loans, including the fishing industry. Shortly to be introduced was a Bill reimposing three sugar taxes that were repealed by the old legislature a few weeks before it was dissolved.

We are deeply disturbed by the use of the Communist "smear" in references to our Party and Government, but we are convinced that there has been too wide an experience of Tory tactics in this country in respect of the Labour Party from time to time for this to prevent a fair consideration of our case.

We trust that the members of the British Labour Movement will not forget the people of British Guiana and will secure a reversal of this iniquitous act of repression.

## BRITISH GUIANA

- Cheddi Jagan
- Janet Jagan
- L. F. S. Burnham
- H. W. Benn

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# What Africa Thinks of the Tories

★ By Mark F. Owiredu ★

Reproduced from the "Ashanti Sentinel"

THE colonial policy of the British Conservative Party is assuming some terrifying proportions. The so-called "toughness" adopted by Mr. Oliver Lyttelton is leading to threats, intimidations, bloodshed and brutality.

The Labour Party opposition, as well as a good many Conservative back-benchers are becoming increasingly aware of these dangers, and this is clearly reflected in the constant cries of "shame" and "resign" that greet Mr. Lyttelton when he speaks in Parliament.

Students of colonial affairs will by now have a full perspective of Conservative colonial policy since 1951. The policy that has led to the Kikuyu "Mau Mau" resurgence in Kenya, the failure of the Nigerian Constitution, the riots in the Tanganyika territory, the suspension of the Constitution of British Guiana, the shameful deposition of the Chief of Buganda, and a host of the disgraceful incidents.

The Conservative Party came into power in 1951, swearing to be tough. They put a rather uncompromising fellow in the Colonial Office, and the results are that sheer brute force has replaced

reason and diplomacy. Instead of sending impartial political observers to study the situation in British Guiana Mr. Lyttelton despatched ship loads of infantrymen to go and wreck the constitution. When Dr. Jagan flew from British Guiana to London to present his case Mr. Lyttelton just refused to listen. He only believes in force. It is believed, from Mr. Padmore's recent report in the 'Sentinel' that Nigeria may well be the next port of call for Mr. Lyttelton's colonial troops.

The reasons for the deposition of the Chief of Buganda baffles the world. According to Mr. Lyttelton, he deposed him because he will not bow low to the English bureaucrats, and has demanded self-government. When France deposed the Sultan of Morocco for similar reasons, it was the British press that took the French Government to task, with the bitterness of criticisms. But Mr. Oliver Lyttelton has repeated just that.

His policies in Kenya are even worse. He has ordered the Kikuyu people to be bombed and strafed with long range Lincoln bombers

dropping bombs (probably left over from the German war.) It is however common knowledge that the 'Mau Mau' are merely armed with stones and knives. British troops just shoot any African they see about anywhere in Kenya, and label him a 'Mau Mau' terrorist; the reason being that a soldier who murders one African 'terrorist' earns 5/- for his kill. This was confirmed at the recent court-martial of Captain Griffiths in Kenya. Captain Griffiths, a trigger happy British trooper, just fired his Bren gun into three African Forestry workers who were at work, and killed two of them. A British Court-martial found him 'not guilty of murder'; and what else could one expect, of course.

It is also well known that some members of the British troops put the burning ends of cigarettes into the ears of 'Mau Mau' prisoners to burn their ear drums. This is certainly not being tough. It is being cowardly and brutal. To put the lighted end of a cigarette into a man's ear is the action of a beast: even the ass is too human to

do it. Yet British troops are doing it in Kenya, and the irony of it is that this is being done at the time that the British delegate in the United Nations Assembly, Sir Gladwyn Jebb, is vehemently condemning the communists in Korea for their treatment of war prisoners. Certainly the communists did not put cigarettes into the ears of their prisoners, and there is no evidence of even the mad Nazis doing it in Germany during the last war.

It is time the Conservatives became human and ceased perpetrating atrocities which they like to call 'toughness'. The obvious fact is that diarch Lyttelton and his like are making frantic efforts to restore colonialism to what it was in 1844.

ANSWER (see above)

All these 63 countries have American troops stationed in them. The list is given in the "U.S. News and World Report" (December 25th.) which also reveals that there are more U.S. troops stationed abroad today than were in the entire Army four years ago, and they are in more places now than ten years ago at the height of World War II

## Why and Where

Money is urgently needed to ensure that the cause of British Guiana shall be properly placed before the Labour Movement and the British people generally. Donations should be sent to Mr. Maurice Orbach, M.P., c/o 16 Soho Square, W.1.

Amongst the expenses which have to be met are the fares of the deposed Ministers of British Guiana who have been visiting this country. The Government has placed a number of obstacles in the way of normal transport arrangements and a chartered plane at a cost of £500 will be necessary to ensure their return.

Yours sincerely,

British Guiana Defence Fund.

Yours sincerely,  
Cheddi Jagan  
L. S. Burnham

# This Trade Unionist looks at his wages and decides it is . . . Time to Give the Tories MARCHING ORDERS

**T**HE "Court of Inquiry" now sitting (in more ways than one!) on the Engineering dispute is but another step in the delaying tactics of the combined forces of Tories and Employers.

Since the Chancellor of the Exchequer first made this wage application imperative by removing food subsidies, the whole might of Government and Employers has been used to delay any increase in wages until the fullest possible advantage had been taken of the decrease in the purchasing power of the workers wage packet.

By  
**D. Burgess**

Profits now being announced give some indication of how successful this "plan" has been. The "Economist" (propaganda organ of the Employers) does not attempt to excuse these profits, instead it uses an insidious "Bogey" called "Recession" in an attempt to frighten workers. They state that our markets are going to foreign rivals who are not troubled by Trade-Union pressure and can therefore quote a lower figure for products for which we have had a previously assured market.

"Recession", is but a nice word meaning "Slump." Those of us round the fifty mark are very well acquainted with it—for we had

two very big helpings of it between 1920 and 1938!

At the present time in India, famine is again raising its ghastly head while in the United States, Alistair Cook reports, the Government are put to the greatest difficulty in storing food and cotton which they have been compelled to buy from the growers in order to maintain World prices at the present level!

While the masses of India die of starvation, Alistair Cook informs us on the Radio that these vast hoards will never reach the consumers because it is not intended that they should!

More than likely it will be burned as was the case before the war.

The "Economic League" does not mention these embarrassing facts but busies itself by flooding engineering shops with leaflets containing the usual "Howlers" like the one I read recently. "That the engineers should not press for wage claims while HER Majesty the Queen was working so very hard on the Commonwealth tour!"

Now those of us who HOPE to take the wife (after 51 weeks at the wash-tub!) and kids for a week to the seaside should bear this advice in mind and treat it with the respect it deserves—only be careful of your Haemeroids!

There is one solution and only one. To give the Tories marching orders permanently and put in a Labour Government with a Socialist policy and Socialist leaders.



**I** SUPPOSE that it is going to be a difficult year. Anyway we are getting back on the job again listening to elephantine platitudes about how to avoid a coming economic slump.

The same old tales are bandied around about the electricians, the engineers and the railwaymen, and behind it all is the old old story that we cannot find trade if wages are high. One of the chairmen of the Big Five banks has told you: "The blame should be laid fairly and squarely on the shoulders of those who have insisted on inflating wages."

Nothing of course, is said about the removal of subsidies or the scorching cost of armaments.

No it is just the fault of those clamouring for enough to pay for their "grubstakes." Watch this fight through the year if you have enough strength.

### THE SKY AND THE PIT-PROP

Aneurin Bevan opened the attack on the Mines and Quarries Bill when we had the debate on the Second Reading. The trouble is too, that two Bills are here knocked into one. The object of this legislation is to revise and tidy up the laws on safety and health in the pits and the quarries.

For the one the sky provides the roof for the other the roof is limited by the pit-prop.

"Nye" felt that a frightening aspect of the Bill was that there were too many phrases that en-

abled a coach-and-four to be driven through. Both he and Bob Taylor (Morpeth) drew attention to the fact that there should be more opportunity for workmen's inspections.

Bob Taylor in a moving and eloquent speech based on the reality of years of toil in the mines, brought home to us all the dangers of the pits and paid tribute to the work of the unions in the miners' struggle for decent conditions.



by Harold Davies, M.P.

Col. Lancaster a former coal-

owner paid a tribute to Bevan's speech and said that he had unerringly put his finger on every weak spot in the Bill. He felt that the quarries and mines should have had separate Bills.

Tom Jones of Merioneth told us of the largest underground slate quarry in Britain which is in Merioneth. Low wages and the dread disease of silicosis was a factor that helped to depopulate the quarry towns and villages of North Wales. Tom raised a laugh when he spoke of an old miner who said that he had worked in a place so low that the mice had developed bow legs.

Rupert Speir (Conservative) said that over two thousand of the five thousand quarries now operating were employing less than twenty men, and therefore, were unsuitable for a ponderous system of management.

Bill Blyton when winding up the Debate believed that in some aspects we were worse off under this Bill than in 1911. There were too many "escape clauses" that enabled managers and owners to escape their responsibilities. The Bill should have fulfilled the Royal Commissions' recommendation that men should be withdrawn from the coal face when there was 2 per cent of gas, but instead of that we find that the Minister had accepted the old provision of 2 1/2 per cent. Women too, should not be employed on screening. He warned the House that the Government should not be sur-

prised if about 500 amendments were put down in the Committee Stage.

The miners contributed moving and informed speeches. After we were dealing with an industry in which one-quarter of a million men suffer accidents which are three days or more of absence. Sure the Coal-standard is more vital than the Gold-standard!

### CARGOES!

At last more and more pressure is being brought on the Government to do something about the cargoes that we want to sell to China and the U.S.S.R. Both the Trade Unions and the Party the need for more liberal trade with the East is seen.

I tried hard to get the Annual Conference last year to accept resolution on freer trade with the East. We failed. Events are now showing us in search of alternative markets and, in the Lords this week, Viscount Elibank and I. Killearn showed their anxiety about the China Trade.

"During the year 1952," said Elibank, "the trade of Hong Kong fell from £100 million sterling to £26 million and the Hong Kong traders are watching a procedure which trade with China is being taken away from them by their competitors."

Remember the busy little port of Masefield's:

"Dirty British coaster with salt-caked smoke stacks  
Butting through the Channel in the mad March day  
With a cargo of Tyne coal,  
Road rails, pig lead,  
Firewood, ironware, and chin  
tin trays

Guess it will only be cheap trays we shall have to sell unless we get into "them thar markets east". Our competitors are following the Trade Winds while we are being puffed up to keep the Cold War going.

## OPEN LETTER To Cyril Osborne Tory M.P. for Louth (Lincs.)

**Y**OU disregard facts in what seems an attempt to placate the old-age pensioners. In my view, it is deplorable.

Recently, you addressed members of the Old-age Pensioners Association in Grimsby and according to the report of the meeting in the "Grimsby Evening Telegraph", you told them, "If the old folk were going to have more and take more, out of the common pool, then the younger ones had to put more in than they took out."

What are the facts? They are, that both the younger—and the older workers now retired—have always put in more than they have taken out. And production figures show they have done—and are doing a real good job.

On the other hand the figures for wage increases and profit increases clearly reveal that the fruits of greater production have in the main gone to the profit-receivers. This applies equally to private industry and nationalised. In the case of the latter, the profit-takers are the former owners. But, you seem to have forgotten it was you who declared—in Grimsby shortly after the Louth election had returned you—"That no great effort could be expected if, in the eyes of the worker, the sole beneficiary was the unseen shareholder." You urged that profits should be cut to reduce prices.

In what seemed to be an attempt to assess the costs of old-age pensions over the years, you compared figures for 1911, with the estimated number of old-folk there will be in 1977. This does nothing to lessen the hardships of many thousands of pensioners and is in

essence like saying to them "just bear the hardships, and console yourselves with the thought that there is a far better and happier land to go to when you die."

But, let us take another look at that "common-pool,"—or in other words the National Income—you mentioned in your speech. Actuarially, calculations, show that the total yearly cost of pensions, 25 years hence will be in the region of £700 million. The national income already showing considerable increases, at the same rate of progress should be up by about £6,000 million in 1977.

The plain fact is that the "common-pool" is now, and always will be, quite capable of providing the means to ensure an adequate pension for the old folks. But, you prefer to support—as a Tory—a policy that distributes the national wealth in the form of millions to the bankers, the brokers and the landlords and other forms of big business, and mere pittance to those in greater need.

Did I say your seeming attempt to "pull the wool over the eyes" of these grand old people, was deplorable? On second thoughts I say, it is despicable.

S. R. Pearson

Birmingham Readers are cordially invited to hear  
**G. HEALY**  
SUNDAY, JANUARY 31st  
at  
The "Tamworth Arms"  
Moor Street, at 7.30 p.m.  
Subject:—  
**THE RUSSIAN REVOLUTION: ITS AFTERMATH: RUSSIA TODAY**

## ★ Star Letter ★ A Question on 'Any Questions'

Why are the audiences in the hall when "Any Questions" is broadcast so heavily weighted in favour of the Conservative Party?

Time and time again a good Labour point receives a mild clap, while a good Tory point is met with uproarious and prolonged applause.

This has the effect of making the vast radio audience believe that Socialist views are unpopular. Yet the general election results show the country to be fairly equally divided.

The explanation lies in the fact that the programme always comes from the West Region. It is only natural that in small market towns and the predominantly rural areas of the West Country the Labour man is not adequately represented.

"Any Questions" should be held in other parts of the country if this unfairness is to be ended.

It is only fair to add that, however biased B.B.C. politics may be, programmes sponsored by big business would be ten times worse.

Manchester Frank Allam

## Is the "SOCIALIST OUTLOOK" in your Local Library?

If not—ASK FOR IT!

# Is Big Business Getting Cheap Coal?

During the negotiations for the recently awarded miners wage-increase, many references were made to the question of whether or not industries (especially steel) are paying the full price for their coal.

If they are not it means that they are, in effect, being subsidised by the coal-industry and that while these industries are declaring record profits, the miners are being told that the industry cannot afford wage-increases.

Are there any grounds for thinking that these profitable industries are obtaining cheaper coal than anyone else?

I have no factual evidence concerning the present position, but I have no doubt that such a thing has happened in the past.

G. M. Coleman, in "Capitalist Combines", (P. 61) quotes Sir Herbert Samuel, Chairman of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry, 1925, as having said, "The wages of miners are based upon the proceeds of the sale of coal. The amount of the proceeds is taken from the books of the collieries, and is checked by the accountants. But a large part of the coal is not sold on the open market: it is transferred to other departments of the same company, or to associated companies or agencies. A fifth of the coal is dealt with in this way, and in South Wales nearly 40 per cent. The men are not convinced that this coal is entered at its full value. In order to meet this complaint, it was recommended

the Commission) that the true market value of each grade of coal should be ascertained by an agreed procedure, and that these values, and not the book entries, should be used for the purpose of wage computations. A question recently addressed to the Secretary for Mines in the House of Commons failed to elicit any information to show that this very reasonable proposal had been acted upon by the mine-owners."

As far as I am aware, there is no evidence that "this very reasonable proposal" has even yet been carried out.

At the other end of the price-range is household coal. Whilst it is almost certain that industrial prices are being swollen by under-

cost coal, the housewife is paying double the pithead price.

The N.C.B. sells coal for something under £3 per ton. Yet when it reaches the housewife she is charged between £5—£6 per ton.

Surely it should not cost as much to transport coal from the pit to the home as it does to wrest it from the bowels of the earth.

I am fully convinced that there is a very strong case to be made out, not only for an enquiry into the cost of production, but also for the N.C.B. to extend its range of business by taking over the whole distribution of coal. Thereby eliminating the excessive present-day costs.

Price Jones

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# THE MYSTERY OF RENFREW AIR BASE

By **Don McKennan**

Chairman Renfrew Base Joint Committee

THE Trade Union movement is becoming accustomed to the cry of "redundancy" as a new name for the old "unemployment." What is more the cry is usually that "there's no work to do."

At the B.E.A. base in Renfrew, Scotland, however, this would not appear to be the case. This letter from a responsible Trade Union official at the base makes it clear that work is available, but it is being diverted, despite a very efficient record.

For their efficiency they are rewarded with the threat of the sack—whilst £400,000 per year is being paid to private enterprise to do work that they, a nationalised industry, could handle—and in fact are anxious to handle.

We understand that negotiations are still proceeding between the Unions and the B.E.A., but the conclusion, from the available facts, seems inescapable. Namely that there is encouragement from the Tories for this policy of farming out work to private enterprise at the expense of the nationalised sector.

IN 1948 the British European Airways base at Liverpool was closed down, and the work, plus a large percentage of the workers was brought to Renfrew, Scotland.

A sum of £250,000 was spent to erect the transfer and equip the Renfrew Hangars and Workshops. Many of the transferred workers, and others since engaged, bought houses in the Renfrew area. Many others left established positions with other firms in order to work here.

### BIG EFFORT MADE

As can be appreciated, we had our teething troubles, and it was not till 1951 that we really showed what we could do.

By then we were doing what is called a "Pionair" Check IV (a complete overhaul) in four days—against a period of two weeks previously taken.

We serviced the entire Pionair converted D.C.3's fleet and also the Rapide fleet.

As we became more efficient it is as natural that "waiting-time" could build up. Consequently the staff Committee agitated for more work. As a result of this agitation we received the minor checks of the Viking/Admiral fleet, and in 5 months we effected a saving of 24 per cent on costs compared

with the cost of similar work at our London base.

There are many other cases I could quote which point to our efficiency at Renfrew.

### REDUNDANCY ARRIVES

You can judge our reaction therefore, when our Higher Management came North to tell us that they now proposed to effect economies by cutting down our Renfrew staff to a maximum of 100—thereby creating a redundancy of something like 600/700 persons.

It is true that we would be offered employment in the new "Super-Base" at London Airport. But, as you will appreciate, it would be impossible for the majority of us to go there—bearing in mind the shortage of houses in that area.

Without going into the matter any further at this time, I may say that we have agitated strongly against any depletion of our staff.

We have urged that we be given some part of the £400,000 worth of work at present "farmed out" by B.E.A.

We have the support of most of the Scottish Groups, such as Scottish Advisory Council for Civil Air Transport, the Members of Parliament of both Parties, and the local press.

# Cold Feet in the City?

## Andrew Kirkby considers the Steel Sell-Out

IT is not very long since the Tory Government's Iron and Steel Realisation Agency, under City bigwig Sir John Morison, managed fairly successfully to unload the United Steel Companies, Ltd. shares onto the shoulders of the "private" investor

Things have not gone so well in the second denationalisation operation.

Last week the Agency announced the results of the Lancashire Steel Corporation Ltd.'s offer. As before, this issue of denationalised steel stock was backed by the guarantee of a "consortium", as they call themselves, of City issuing houses.

The guarantee is to the effect that any unsold stock will be taken up by the "consortium" itself and so there would be no danger of the denationalisation stalling from lack of confidence amongst share purchasers.

Unfortunately for the "consor-

tree. Is there any way of dislodging them?" he asks.  
Is there indeed? The Tories could sell off the rest of the industry at even cheaper rates. The robbery of public funds which this would entail would be too blatant even for them. Until the Tories can think up another move it seems that, for the time being,

They mean that the Tory attempt to place the denationalised steel industry into the hands of the "smaller investor" has failed dismally.

The plan was to spread the risk (of renationalisation) as widely as possible so as to face the next Labour government with an army of "small" men and women whose savings and "widows' mites" would be "in steel."

"This failure," comments the Financial Editor of the "Manchester Guardian", "probably puts an end to any further issues of steel denationalisation shares for some months."

The Labour Party's determination to re-nationalise steel at the first opportunity and the growing demand in the ranks of our movement for no more generous compensation are threats that the Tories cannot ignore. They are real.

It is now eight months since the Tories carried their Act of Parliament to denationalise steel. The Iron and Steel Realisation Agency had the task of handing back about £250,000,000 worth of steel shares. So far they have got rid of a mere £30,000,000 or so and they are striking trouble. Can they go on?

Oscar Hobson, City Editor of the "News Chronicle" is worried.

"The 'plums' of the industry, Stewarts and Lloyds, Dorman Long and John Summers look as though they will have to remain hanging indefinitely on the

the Labour movement as a whole has been able to do more than the Parliamentary Labour Party. The denationalisation of steel has been halted.

It is all very "unconstitutional" to upset the share markets with threats of what we mean to do when Labour is back in power. **But it works!**

"Steel denationalisation," laments Mr. Hobson, "seems to have come to a full stop; it has been held up at the pistol point."  
**How wicked.**

## Our Readers Write . . .

### The Glasgow 'Squatters'

Every socialist will view with deep concern the prison sentences recently imposed on the so-called "squatters" in Glasgow. Homeless they moved into empty houses—and now the law has moved in with them.

Dan Dowies, an ex-serviceman was sentenced to 14 days imprisonment. His wife cried out, "it's not fair," and she was hurried out of the Court.

A man aged sixty-one, a chronic bronchial and asthmatic, was sent down for ten days. **His wife pleaded that she be sent to prison instead of her husband.** And there were other cases similarly tragic.

These people are the victims of the cruel housing shortage—and the Tory Party's policy of guns before houses. Now the capitalist state has shown its brutality towards those who have challenged the sacred rights of private property. How many of the judges, I wonder, have ever had to live under the sort of conditions that drove these Glasgow workers to become "squatters"?

Once more the socialist conten-

tion that "the law exists to protect private property" is made nakedly clear. Let us fight for the end of this Tory Government and for a Workers' Government which will not hesitate to confiscate property if that is the only way to provide humane conditions for the workers.

Keighley (Yorks) M. Evans

### ★ More News of Labour Groups

I would like the "Socialist Outlook" to give more reports of what Labour Council Groups are doing to oppose Rent increases.

The Tory-dominated Exeter City Council has decided to send out a questionnaire to all Council tenants asking for details of their incomes. In my opinion, the Exeter Labour Group (14 councillors) should have showed its opposition to rent increases by putting down a motion protesting against the increase in the Bank Rate and calling on the Government to reduce it. It would have been defeated, but the people of Exeter would have been shown where Labour stands.

Exeter A. J. Johnson

### Force Tories To Resign

Ipswich Trades Council and Labour Party has carried the following resolution unanimously:

"The Ipswich Co-op and Private Trade Branches of U.S.D.A.W., suggests that the Trades Council and Labour Party asks the N.E.C. to organise a petition demanding the Resignation of the Tory Government. The policy of this Tory Government at home and abroad is causing a rising conflict which can lead to complete chaos.

Rising prices resulting in a reduction of real wages, oppression in the Colonies, war preparations must be resisted, The Welfare State must be restored.

The organising of a petition can show the people that the Labour Party is concerned and is prepared to struggle on their behalf."

# Tons o' Tripe From Tuke

By **Audrey Wise**

TYPICAL capitalist's comments were made by Mr. A. W. Tuke in his Annual Statement to the stockholders of Barclays Bank Limited.

Mr. Tuke is apparently an amateur psychologist. He says, for instance: "It is an undoubted fact that one now sees men and women walking about the streets with cheerful faces, instead of the depressed and harassed expressions to which we had become so accustomed. . . . Can it be that . . . makes the housewife happy to have in the shops a wider choice of nice things even if she cannot afford to buy them all? This theory does not accord with certain political propaganda, but it is nevertheless true, in my belief."

Since Mr. Tuke cannot be speaking from his personal experience as a harassed housewife, he might appreciate this small correction—he is talking pure rubbish!

It never makes anyone happy to "window-shop" for the necessities of life, because you can't eat the proceeds of such shopping. Packages and a wide selection may look pretty—but they are a mockery without a full purse.

On working class educational facilities, Mr. Tuke says this: "They (Local Authorities) were given objectives, particularly

under the Education Act, which, if they are ever reached, will send the rate burden very much higher even than it is today. . . . If the standards had not been set so high, a given amount of money spent, for example, on new schools could have been made to provide more school places. . . . I believe it is a fact that there has recently been some disposition to permit slightly less elaborate standards of building, and this is a step, if a small one, in the right direction."

He obviously doesn't view this type of education with a very generous eye. But to the middle class he is much more sympathetic, and sends out a heart cry for lower taxation for them.

For instance: "Everyone wants his children to have a better start in life than he had himself. Some would define this in terms of education at a public school; but who can pay the fees of more than one child out of taxed income?"

Again he sheds tears with the middle class man. "No self-respecting man likes to think that his wife is obliged to work outside the home to help to keep the home together."

Of course, we know (we have heard it so often from gentlemen of Mr. Tuke's class) that working class wives who go out to work are neglecting their children to earn cigarette or picture money.

The middle class, according to Mr. Tuke, have nothing but the purest motives. "They do not ask for subsidies on their bread and butter and they would scorn to live in utility cotton wool provided by the Welfare State; they want to be allowed to pay their own way out of what they earn."

When your heart is set on public schools and holidays abroad, it is no doubt quite easy to be unconcerned about your bread and butter. Old age pensioners, railwaymen and other lower mortals are, however, compelled to take great interest in theirs.

## Win £10 in this novel competition

All you have to do is to put an X against the 10 industries which you consider would make the most balanced programme for the next Labour Government. You can make as many entries as you like. Each entry costs 3d., and there is room for 4 entries on the coupon.

### RULES

The prize of £10 will be awarded to the competitor who selects on one entry from the list of nationalisation measures shown, the 10 which, in the opinion of a panel of experts, is the most balanced selection of measures which could be put into operation in the term of office of the next Labour Government.

In the event of a tie the total prize will be equally divided. No competitor can win more than one share.

Place an X against each of the 10 measures you select. You do not have to place them in order of merit.

Up to 4 attempts may be submitted on each coupon. Only 10 measures may be selected in each attempt column.

Each coupon must have stamps or postal order covering the cost of entries attached. Each entry costs 3d.


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