

THE

Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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WAGE RESTRAINT, PRICES AND PROFITS

As we go to press the report of the O.E.C.D. study on policies governing prices, profits and other non-wage incomes is about to appear. We shall comment on it in our next issue. But the interest with which it is awaited in the business press has already been stimulated by a neat little apertif, in the shape of the report of the Brussels Commission on the economic situation of the Common Market, published on Tuesday 18 August.

The Commission has cause to lament. The strength of the labour movement, in a situation of full employment, has been sufficient to defeat all sorts of attempts to constrain wage pressure on the economy. The labour market remaining tight, wages and profits rose throughout the past year, and "the overall rise in production costs again 'greatly surpassed' the overall increase in productivity," as the sombre summary in The Times was quick to stress. The force of union pressure, however, has been sufficient to compel the Commission to seek some rather deeper explanations than those normally canvassed, about "wage inflation." "There is danger," it says, "that with information on other classes of income being less accurate, or even non-existent...the weight of any restrictive measures may be concentrated on wages."

In fact, of course, this hits hard at the nub of the argument about 'incomes policy' which has been the centre of attention in every European country during the past period. Neo-capitalism has desperately been trying to foster state regulation of wages, in order to overcome the market pressure for higher wages which naturally accompanies full-employment. Last year, hourly wage rates rose by 18% in Italy, and increased substantially in every country in the Common Market except Germany, where there was a slight increase, and Holland, where there was an actual setback. Since employers tend to pass on the cost of wage increase, with interest, by raising prices wherever possible, the cost of living index rose by 2.1% in Belgium, 2.9% in Luxemburg, 3.1% in Germany, 4.8% in France, and 7.5% in Italy. The actual rise in living costs, of course, will prove to be greater than that reflected in these figures, because they are carefully computed in such a way as to minimise the effect of rising prices and inhibit trade claims. In this context, a showdown with the unions, on the issue of incomes policy, becomes more and more imperative for the employers and their state.

Britain can in no sense stand aloof from this pattern of events. All the pressures on the Common Market countries exist here in the same degree, or to an even greater extent. Two responses are clearly obligatory if the unions are to defeat the employers' manoeuvres. First, it becomes absolutely necessary for the European and British unions to co-ordinate their activities. Since they face the same onslaught, it is criminally stupid to meet it in an unco-ordinated way. Not only must links be formed across national boundaries, but they must also be forged across the religious and political schisms which rend the labour movements of almost all the European countries. The British movement, with its long non-sectarian traditions, and its comparative flexibility, can help in this direction. Second, but no less urgently, we must develop a common offensive strategy to beat the employers on an international scale. This involves a programme of deep structural reforms calculated to erode capitalist power across the whole European continent. There is not much time for left if these things are to be done. Active union members should begin to demand that the work starts now.

BERT WYNN ANSWERS SID FORD

from an N.U.M. correspondent

Sid Ford, the N.U.M. National President, spent 85% of his annual address (to the N.U.M. conference) replying to the Derbyshire miners' discussion document, "A Plan for Miners." He attacked the document on the grounds that it implied a criticism of the present leadership of the union, because it wrongly attacked the N.C.B., and he accused it of using wrong figures in connection with wages. He also imputed ulterior motives in its publication, especially in view of its timing: i.e., just prior to the general election. Bert Wynn replied to these charges in the latest issue of Derbyshire Miner, the journal of the Derbyshire Area of the N.U.M..

It is not possible to do justice to the detailed arguments in a review of this length, but in the opinion of the writer Bert Wynn doesn't leave Sid Ford much of a case by the time he has finished. I would recommend all those interested, however, to get hold of the paper and the pamphlet which caused the argument in the first place. Derbyshire Miner costs 5d, post paid, and the pamphlet 9d, post paid. Both can be obtained from N.U.M., Derbyshire Area, Miners' Offices, Saltergate, Chesterfield.

GEORGE BROWN'S ASSISTANT ATTACKS THE UNIONS

Gerry Reynolds, who is personal assistant to George Brown, has joined Ray Gunter in having some very harsh things to say about the unions. He says this in the latest issue of the journal of the Purchasing Officers' Association. His remarks are very similar to those of Gunter: "...for the last ten years the Labour Party has been negotiating with T.U.C. representatives in an endeavour to reach agreement on basic changes in the field of social security. The party has been putting forward ideas, the T.U.C. doggedly stonewalling them. Even the Labour Party's carefully worked out plan for a national superannuation scheme does not have the full backing of the T.U.C.

"Thus the next Labour Government will fairly quickly have to force the T.U.C. to take decisions in the social and economic field which the unions have been dodging for many years. What has really happened is that since 1951 the Labour Party has advanced further into the twentieth century than the trade union movement. Because of this, and due to the changing personnel and the physical separation of their office accommodation, the gap between the two organisations is probably widening and will continue to do so." Very significantly, Reynolds goes on to tell the unions to revise their thinking about the M.P.s they sponsor. Instead of looking upon them as servants, the unions must regard them as advisors who will keep the union up to date on what is happening in the political field.

No doubt this piece of arrogance will incur the same anger as Gunter's effort did. It seems inevitable that the first major battle between left and right after the election will be on this front. The comrades who conceived the idea of Union Voice must have had crystal balls!

DRAUGHTSMEN'S STRIKE CONTINUES DESPITE ULTIMATUM

The strike of 140 Members of D.A.T.A. at Vickers-Armstrong, Barrow, is to continue despite a sack-or-return ultimatum from the employers. The 6-week strike, which is over a wage claim, threatens to bring work on the Polaris submarine to halt. The employers claim that 6 men returned - this hasn't been confirmed up to press. The strike is official.

A LONDON VOICE?

from Richard Fletcher

For many years the London Labour Party has published its own "London News", supported by trade unions, Co-operative organisations and constituency parties in the London area. Owing to financial difficulties the London News is to cease publication. Believing that a Labour paper should continue to cover the London area, the Voice has offered to make available a special London edition - to be called, possibly, "Voice of London Labour" to be under the direct control of labour, trade union and co-operative organisations in the metropolitan area. The cost of the 12-page paper will be 6d, and provided a minimum circulation can be guaranteed, Voice will carry the costs of publication and distribution on a non-profit basis.

A preparatory committee has been set up and all organisations are being circulated with the request that they order copies of a first, trial issue and also book advertising space. The next step will be to elect a London editorial board at a conference of delegates voting on the basis of readership. It is hoped that the preparatory committee will complete its arrangements in September and that the first edition will be published before the election in October. All organisations in the metropolitan area are asked to give these proposals their urgent consideration, to book advertising space and to order the maximum number of copies of the first issue.

Ed. note: orders for copies, requests for advertising space, and applications for delegates credentials (for the editorial meeting after the General Election) should be sent to:

Voice,
71, New Kings Rd.,
London S.W. 6.

KILLER PACE IN THE PIT

by Ian Taylor

This headline on the 'Finance, Industry and Commerce' page of the Sheffield Telegraph (August 18) concerned statements made by Mr. Joe Kenyon, Yorkshire Organiser of the National Council of Labour Colleges, about the danger of coal face workers having to retire early because of mental pressure resulting from increased mechanisation in the pits. A former miner himself, Mr. Kenyon said: "I am sure there is going to be an incidence of mental illness among miners because of the drive for more production. Lord Robens has called for an extra 15 minutes a shift but work is already intensified. The problem will be when the fellows break under the strain and this will result in more absenteeism as well as men having to leave the face for other work." (But of course it was only last month that Comrade Robens said: "The miners have no better friend than Alfie Robens.")

BUSINESS MANAGER'S ANNOUNCEMENT

We have received a postal order for 5/- posted in Oxford. There was no accompanying letter so we have assumed that this was a donation from A. Non, who has our thanks. If, however, it was for some other purpose, will the sender please communicate. Further donations for The Week from other reticent readers will also be welcome.

VITAL AEU ELECTION GOES TO SECOND BALLOT from an engineering correspondent

In the first ballot for the election for the general secretaryship of the AEU, the result^{was}: James Conway: 46,277; Ernie Roberts: 34,887; and two other candidates sharing 7,000 votes. The contest now goes to a second ballot between Conway and Roberts. Following the news of Sir William Carron's re-election to the presidency of the union, this result confirms what commentators of various political persuasion have been saying for some time: that the percentage poll in the union is extremely small, and that the results ensuing cannot therefore be held to provide an accurate reflection of union members' opinions. There is very little doubt that the left would greatly benefit from a large increase in the percentage poll. The fact that the Roberts-Conway contest has run to another ballot will provide an opportunity for all union activists in the engineering industry to pull out every stop to secure the maximum vote in the next round.

There can be little doubt that elections in the AEU would be a lot fairer, and the results more representative of feeling in the union, if all steps were taken to ensure that all members voted. If branches circulated all members about the ballot, collectively taking the burden of envelope addressing from the their secretaries' shoulders; if branch meetings all remained open from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m., instead of opening for two hours only; and if all stewards were alerted to lobby members to attend their meeting to vote; then there can be no doubt that everyone would be happier with the results.

WELCOME INITIATIVE BY NALGO E.C. from Public Service (August 1964)*

Every member of NALGO will be asked once again during the next few weeks to say whether he is for or against affiliation to the Trade Union Congress. The ballot ordered by Conference will be held between September 21 and October 12. Ballot cards will be distributed to branches by district organisation officers not later than September 21. All who members of NALGO on July 1, 1964, are entitled to vote...A simple majority of those voting will determine the issue.

In 1962, when Conference ordered the previous ballot, it merely "noted" that the NEC favoured affiliation. This year's motion, by the Scottish district council and the Sussex gas and Wolverhampton branches, began forthrightly, "That this Conference is in favour of the Association affiliating to the T.U.C.!" On a card vote, Conference passed this motion by 199,949 to 67,444 - more than the two-thirds majority needed to order a ballot of membership (Ed, note: this is the highest majority ever for affiliation).

The ballot..will be the sixth NALGO has held on affiliation. The first, in 1942, showed a majority in favour - 40,733 to 28,715. But since 73% of the members in the forces, and 31% of those at home, did not vote, the 1943 Conference decided to take no action. Ballots in 1948, 1955, 1958, and 1962, all showed majorities against - but with a steadily rising proportion of members in favour. In 1962, when 77.5% of those eligible voted, 111,489 were in favour and 117,312 against - a majority against of 5,823.

* The official journal of NALGO.

MARTEL'S 'GENERAL ELECTION POLICY REFERENDUM'

Martel's 'Freedom Group' has been distributing in the middle class areas of marginal constituencies a pre-paid postal reply questionnaire. The questionnaire asks a number of questions, and then goes to say: "If you are not a Member of the Conservative Party are you prepared to join and help persuade your local Association to back this kind of programme?" Which shows that one of the aims must be to recruit people to the 'ginger group' which it declares itself to be in the statement of aims and objectives, working 'to influence the Conservative Party to return to first principles, and calling upon it to abandon the attempted bribery of the electorate by offering a form of pink socialism.'

Just what these 'first principles' are can be gleaned by some of the questions: "THE COMMONWEALTH: that determined attempts be made to draw the Commonwealth, and particularly the white Commonwealth, together again.DEFENCE: that Britain works in close harmony with the other Western powers and plays her part in NATO but that she builds, maintains and controls her own independent nuclear deterrent....TRADE UNIONS: that the Government should set up a Royal Commission to enquire into the status and activities of trade unions and pending its report, should institute temporary legislation making it compulsory for a secret ballot to be held by an independent (sic) Returning Officer of all the workers concerned in a dispute before the strike can be considered legal. Illegal strikers not to be imprisoned or fined but to forfeit all rights to National Assistance, and to be subject to dismissal without notice or compensation. WELFARE STATE: That the excesses of the Welfare State should be curbed... CRIME AND DELINQUENCY: that crime must be punished. The Cabinet should order the Home Office to abandon its soft psychiatric attitude towards crime and juvenile delinquency...STANDARDS OF MORALITY: that the Government should insist upon Christian standards of morality and discipline being maintained by the BBC in the presentation of their programmes, and by teachers in the schools."(our underlining throughout)

ENGINEERING EMPLOYERS ORGANISATION AGAINST 'NO VICTIMISATION' PLEDGE

The Engineering Employers' Federation has issued a statement to its 4,500 member companies as guidance on the operation of the Contracts of Employment Act. Under the Act an employee is entitled to notice of dismissal which varies in time up to four weeks according to the length of service. If employees strike it appears that they return to base as far as qualification for long notice is concerned. In the statement the Federation remarks that companies which are trying to secure a return to work during an unofficial strike may be met with a demand for no victimisation of strikers after the resumption of work. The statement goes on: "Such no victimisation claims may include a demand that the employees who took part in the strike shall suffer no loss of continuity of service and no loss of longer notice rights under the Act. If, in such cases, an employer were to give employees contractual rights equivalent to their lost statutory rights, the prescribed intention of this part of the Act would be destroyed."

Union officials are taking legal advice on the question, and depending upon this will decide whether or not to press for an amendment to the Act. Whilst the Federation deny issuing an instruction on the matter it is clear that they are trying to stiffen their members' attitude.

THE BEJA TRIAL CONCLUDES

by Alvaro de Miranda

The Beja trial finished in Lisbon on 30th July with the reading of the sentences on the 82 accused who had been accused of armed rebellion against the regime. Manuel Serra, the Catholic workers' leader received the highest sentence of 10 years' imprisonment. He had been accused of organising the plan for the revolt, on the orders of General Humberto Delgado, the opposition's presidential candidate in the 1958 'elections'. General Delgado was in exile at the time but entered the country illegally during the revolt, and then escaped again after its failure. Captain Joao Varela Gomes, the leader of the actual attack on the Beja barracks, who was severely wounded, received a sentence of 6 years' imprisonment.

Of the 82 on trial, 33 were released after being acquitted or given prison sentences which they had already served. They had waited for over two years in prison before being tried. The remaining 49 were given terms ranging from 2 to 10 years, the highest of which, after those of Manuel Serra and Captain Gomes, was $3\frac{1}{2}$ years. (Under Portuguese law a sentence of more than 2 years is a major sentence, and only half of the time served before the trial is taken into consideration.)

The sentences might not seem excessive compared to the usual ones given by military dictatorships for armed revolt. It should, however, be pointed out that Portugal is a NATO country and thus part of the "Free World". For this reason Salazar has a special interest in maintaining the facade of benevolence. This was a trial that attracted international attention and the first revolt which resembled anything like a popular uprising. There were several workers involved and all the others, including the army officers, were of left wing tendencies. Up to now all opposition has been of a peaceful and semi-legal character.

A separate trial will be held for 4 other people involved, who found refuge in exile. They are General Delgado and Fernando Piteira Santos, both now leaders of the Patriotic Front for National Liberation (FPLN) with headquarters in Algeria, in which are represented most of the main opposition movements, Jose Hipolito dos Santos, an economist, now also in Algeria, and Carlos Veiga Pereira, a journalist, now in France.

LORENZ KNORR FACES SEDITION CHARGE from Mrs. E. Dales

The Defence Committee for Victims of Nazi Persecution has issued the following statement: "...Our 'open letter' appealing to the Chancellor in Bonn, to uphold the observance of international law - which was signed by 300 eminent people from different European countries - was not successful. Mr. Knorr, the well known anti-fascist and resistance fighter, and many years national secretary of the socialist youth and now one of the executive members of the German Peace Union, was sentenced, following his appeal, to a fine of DM 2,000 (just over £180) for speaking the truth about Hitler's generals...At the same time a charge of 'sedition' was brought against him, before a special political court. It seems obvious that the intention is to remove Mr. Knorr from the political scene. His party is the only party which demands and supports a nuclear free zone in Central Europe and the removal of guilty nazis from public office..." The statement appeals for people to sign a letter addressed to the Gen. Sec. of UNO, and the secretary of the Human Rights Commission. Copies of the letter for signing can be obtained from DFNVP, 12, First Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.

ALEXANDER DEFENCE COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES from Alan Harris

The Alexander Defence Committee are to hold a meeting on Friday Sept. 4th in the Caxton Hall, Victoria St., London S.W. 1. commencing at 7.30. A panel of representative speakers is being arranged. In a circular put out by the committee a request is made for organisations to:

- (1) elect delegate or observers to the meeting;
- (2) send a speaker;
- (3) make a donation towards the expenses of the committee.

The committee have also ^{issued} a statement on the case, in the form of a 6-page pamphlet, which will be sent to interested organisations and individuals. The committee is anxious to be put in touch with all those who might be interested in the case. You should contact the acting secretary:

C. Kirkby,
27, Thursley House,
Holmewood Gardens,
London S.W. 2 Telephone: Tul 6984

MORE BRITISH TRADE WITH SOUTH AFRICA from the Financial Times (14/8/64)

South African exports to Britain during the first six months of this year rose to £69.8m. from £62m. in the same period last year. Over the same period. British exports to South Africa rose from £99.7m. to £100m.

OUTSPAN LAUNCH AN ADVERTISING DRIVE

Almost certainly (in part, anyway) due to the effect of the boycott campaign, Outspan has launched an advertising drive in Britain. Posters are being put up on hoardings in all large towns and adverts, extolling the quality of Outspan fruit, have appeared in the press. An interesting sideline has been that oranges have appeared in wrappers and cartons marked prominently: 'produce of Southern Rhodesia'. Another feature that has been noticed is that certain people have painted slogans on the hoardings which are obviously designed to draw the attention of people to the fact that Outspan is a South African firm. It may be that the advertising drive will boomerang!

SOUTH AFRICAN BASED CIGARETTE FIRM INCREASES PROFITS from a Sheffield reader

The futility of the boycott of consumer goods from South Africa is highlighted in the report of the Sheffield Telegraph City Editor on August 18 that Carreras, the South African based cigarette firm, had profits last year totalling @£4 million. The firm, which produces many brands of tipped cigarettes including Guards, thus increased its stock to £38.6 million, and the dividend from 13½% to 16½%. If the labour movement is to be successful in imposing a boycott of South African goods, it is clear that piecemeal boycotts in the shops (even if adhered to all by every active member of the movement) will not be enough. The only way to impose a boycott that will really affect the South African economy is to stop the goods actually entering the country. Dockers in Australia and Scandinavia have recently refused to handle goods from South Africa. Dockers in this country should be encouraged to follow this up. Then messrs. Carreras and Verwoerd would really start worrying.

OPPOSITION TO U.S. ATTACK ON NORTH VIETNAM PILES UP

Although no longer to the fore, the question of the U.S. attack on North Vietnam has not been neglected by the British Labour movement. We are still receiving reports of actions taken (sometimes owing to holidays, etc., well after the event).

Bristol was the centre of activity on the question. Much of this activity was organised by supporters of the Bristol Left Club. The club itself sent a telegram to Wilson asking him to repudiate American action, Bristol CND issued a statement condemning the provocation by the U.S. and threats of war by China over North Vietnam. "We also condemn the British Government's sheep-like support of Johnson's action. The continual presence of large military forces in and around Vietnam constitutes a real threat to the hopes of world peace." the statement concluded. 24 people, including 2 councillors and a professor from the University signed a letter to Wilson saying how greatly disturbed they were by the situation and appealing to him to speak out and disassociate the British Labour movement from the U.S. action.

Colin Livett, vice chairman of NALSO, and Ian Taylor, editor of the NALSO journal: Labour Student, both sent individual telegrams to Wilson asking him to repudiate the U.S. action. Stoke Newington branch of the AEU, at its last meeting, called for an end to the U.S.-supported war in South Vietnam with an immediate ceasefire under the auspices of the International Control Commission. The General Council Of the Scottish T.U.C. issued a statement on August 12th urging the British Government to take positive action to end the dangerous situation in the Far East. John Eber, secretary of the Movement for Colonial Freedom, stated on August 14th, that he was not convinced by the U.S. story of the Maddox incident, he saluted "the amazing courage with which the people of Vietnam have defended their homeland, we wholeheartedly support their just cause." Branches of the British China Friendship Committee and local Friends of China groups have organised meetings and other activities, on the affair, in various parts of the country including London, Manchester, Liverpool and Manchester.

IMPORTANT C.N.D. DEMONSTRATION IN BLACKPOOL from Alan Rooney

On the occasion of the Trade Union Congress annual conference North West CND is organising a demonstration in Blackpool. This will take on Sunday 6th of September, and will assemble at Glynn Square, North Shore at 3.00 p.m.. There will be a march to a mass meeting on South Shore.

It is absolutely imperative that all out efforts be made to get the maximum support for this demonstration. With the cancelling of the Labour Party annual conference because of the general election the T.U.C. conference will be the only effort of its kind prior to the general election. Buses, minibuses, cars, etc. should be organised to bring CND supporters from all the towns within reach. North West CND (address: 14, Tib Lane, Manchester 2) will give all support necessary to ensure a successful trip.

N.A.L.S.O. CAMP ONLY THREE WEEKS OFF The NALSO/New Left camp which we have mentioned many times is only 3 weeks away. We have been asked to communicate to readers the fact that the organisers are hindered because people who are definitely coming have not sent in their deposits yet. If you are one of these people send your £1 immediately to B. Vester, 13, Keynsham Gnds., London S.E. 9; anyone who misses ^{opportunity} this will be extremely foolish indeed.

FRENCH YOUNG COMMUNISTS ATTACK PARTY LEADERSHIP by Ian MacDonald

Alike perhaps in little else, the leaders of the French C.P. and of the British Labour Party share one problem, that of keeping in check their respective youth movements. In recent months French C.P. has first refused to print an issue of Clarte, the journal of the Union of Communist Students, which contained an article by Togliatti offensive to the party leadership, and second to permit the appearance of the fourth number of La Lutte, published by the Young Communists of Bezons (a suburb of Paris), on the grounds that an article attacking the Church might lose the party valuable Catholic votes in Bezons.

The editorial board of La Lutte retorted by bringing out a special number in which they announced that "in view of the bureaucratic and anti-democratic methods of the party" they are withdrawing from the Young Communists. Their declaration, reprinted in the current issue of La Voie Communiste, the organ of a Communist opposition group, makes it plain that they regard the banning of their paper merely as the worst in a series of frustrating experiences. Listing their differences with the official view they object that in establishing separate organisations for girls and for boys (respectively, Union des Jeunes Filles de France, and Jeunesses Communistes) the party is "leaning upon bourgeois prejudices instead of fighting them" though in order "to drown opposition" it does unite all youth groups at the top.

For British Young Socialists the other complaints have a familiar sound. Of political education there is "absolutely none"; the activists "are content to organise dances, outings (and) the sticking up of posters .. The 'Communist' activity of the Jeunes Filles...consists of talking about clothes and hanging about the cloakrooms at dances." The stress upon social activities, particularly in recruitment, results in many branches with a very large nominal membership having only a handful engaged in political work. The official journal of the Young Communists devotes only 10% of its space to "more or less political articles" and the remainder to "blown-up photos and biographies of 'teen-age idols' (and to) competitions for guitars."

It is, claim the editors, because La Lutte, "basing itself upon the class struggle," attempts to involve young people in politics and because those responsible for its production believe that "young people can be interested in other problems than guitars and 'ye-ye'" that the paper so displeases the leadership of the party and leads them to attack it.

HAWKER SIDDERLEY TO EQUIP PORTUGAL FOR ANGOLA WAR? from a Bristol reader

Flight International (6/8/64) reports: "Hawker Siddeley's Blackburn Division is said to be buying some of the Force Airienne Belge's redundant Hunter day fighters. These will probably be rebuilt and modified to FGA standard, a ground attack version. One airforce known to have shown interest in the availability of secondhand Hunters in recent months is that of Portugal, which at present is equipped with two squadrons of F86f interceptors and two squadrons of very old F84G American fighter bombers. It would seem that no U.S. replacement for the outworn F86Fs, originally supplied as U.S. military aid, has been forthcoming because of Portugal's lengthy war in Angola. In this context new U.S. military aid to Portugal would provoke a storm of diplomatic protest.

RACIALISM AT THE POLLS

by Robert Q. Gray

During what the New Statesman has aptly dubbed 'a summer of unreason', nasty rumours of reactionary electoral exploitation of racialism, are beginning to take on concrete shape. A group of right wing Tory MPs in Birmingham has - according to the Observer (9/8/64) - come out into the open, with a statement which, after praising the infamous Immigration Act as an enlightened measure, goes on to talk of: 'the frictions to be avoided when different cultures live side by side' - or, for the unsophisticated electors: 'if you want a nigger for a neighbour, vote Labour.'

Transport House is reported to be worried, especially lest Gordon Walker should lose his seat in Smethwick. 'Some officials' are demanding 'a new directive, to candidates and canvassers, making it "crystal clear" that Labour is as opposed as the Conservatives to unrestricted immigration.' In the face of this peculiarly vicious opportunism, we must campaign throughout the Labour movement, in favour of the point of view embodied in an excellent Guardian editorial (11/8/64) which argued that Labour must 'appeal straightforwardly to the moral sense of the British people,' and 'confront racial prejudice head-on...laying bare (its) fundamental inhumanity.' It is hardly necessary, here, to stress the importance of bringing pressure to bear, with a view to making Labour play a more positive anti-racialist role, both abroad and - what is more difficult - in the more sordid corners of our own back-yard. For a start, we must get the opportunistic equivocation of 'voluntary restriction by consultation' abandoned.

'The test of a civilised country is how it behaves to all citizens of different race, religion and colour. By that test this Bill fails, and that is fundamentally why we deplore it.' Thus, the late Hugh Gaitskell; it is not often that the left has occasion to quote him with whole-hearted approval. But unless some people in high places ponder upon his words, certain Transport House officials may wake up and wonder what has happened to all those advocates of equality and human brotherhood who used to be candidates and canvassers for the Labour Party.

HOWARD CHENEY'S REFUSAL TO PAY TAXES FOR NUCLEAR WEAPONS from Sanity

Howard Cheney..was told last month that a bankruptcy order would be taken out against him by the Inland Revenue in respect of about £1,300 surtax which he has refused to pay....Mr. Cheney has what he describes as 'a substantial income' from the family firm of C.W. Cheney & Sons Ltd., which manufactures suitcase locks at a Birmingham works employing nearly 1,000 workers. He also owns and lives in a 350 acre farm, Aylesmore Farm, near Shipstone-on-Stour, Warwickshire. The £1,300 is what he calculates to be the proportion of his surtax assessment for 1961-2 which would be used by the Government to finance nuclear weapons....'If the Inland Revenue accepted my conscientious objection I would pay the money to CND. I once paid £100 I owed on taxes to the Committee of 100, but the Commissioner wasn't at all pleased when I told him....

CND's National Council at its last meeting adopted a resolution expressing respect for those who refused taxes for nuclear weapons, but declining to commit the Campaign to a strategy of tax refusal.

Ed. note: A copy of Howard Cheney's leaflet 'Why I refuse to Pay Taxes for War Preparations' is enclosed with this issue of the Week for information.

TWO BOOKS BY NEW LEFT AUTHORS

Weidenfeld and Nicolson have announced the forthcoming publication, in October, of Labouring Man by E.J. Hobsbawm, and Third World by Peter Worsley, costing 55/- and 36/- respectively. Eric Hobsbawm's book is a collection of essays dealing with the working class from the late 18th century to the first world war. The essays are written to demonstrate the economic and technical conditions which allowed the labour movement to be effective or ineffective as the case may be. The subjects range from Marx to Methodism, and from the Labour traditions to the machine breakers. In contrast, Peter Worsley's book is an analysis of the nature of the society in the newly independent nations of Asia and Africa. The creation of the world, he argues, took place in the 19th century. Then, for the first time, the whole world became one single system, forced into being by the imperialist powers. As a result the nation-state became an anachronism. Peter Worsley ^{shows} how, in response to their common history and common contemporary needs, the nations of the third world, have evolved a distinct philosophy - populism - and have produced new forms of party and state organisation, as well as quite a new kind of 'internationalist nationalism.'

Readers should ensure that these two important books are obtained for their municipal or university libraries. They should be available through normal channels but in case of any difficulties the publishers: Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 20, New Bond St., London, W.1., should be contacted.

A STUDY OF CHANGING TRADE UNION STRUCTURE

The Fabian Society has published a study of the changes which have taken place in the trade union movement in recent years. The pamphlet, by John Hughes, is the result of over 18 months discussion by the Fabian Society's trade union group. The latter, under the chairmanship of Charles Smith, general secretary of the Post Office Engineering Union, is composed of trade union officials, university lecturers, and M.P.s. The stable T.U.C. membership conceals dramatic changes of membership in individual unions varying from an increase of 28% in the membership of the Clerical Workers, over the past 5 years, to a decrease of 29% in the Locomotive Engineers'. John Hughes believes that when the contracting industries have reached their limit of contraction there will be a large upsurge in T.U.C. membership. Union organisation has been undergoing sweeping changes with more and more members being organised by individual unions on an industrial basis instead of a geographical one. Other developments he notes are: the installation of computers by the Draughtsmen and the Engineers, an improvement in trade union magazines (with professional journalists being employed in some cases), the increasing use made by unions of their research departments, etc.

The author concludes by saying that he believes that this evidence, which shows that the trade unions are meeting the challenge of the times, gives everyone hope for the future. The pamphlet, entitled Change in the Trade Unions, may be obtained from the Fabian Society, 11, Dartmouth St., London S.W. 1., price 3/9 post paid.

BUILDING PROFITS

by Colin Livett

The August edition of Labour Research serves as a useful reminder to Labour that nationalisation of building land will not by itself, reduce the cost of housing sufficiently to solve the country's problems. It shows that trading profits of the 20 largest contractors, despite the virtual cessation of building for the first three months of the year, stood at £33,646,000 in 1963, 8½% above the 1962 level. Over ¼ of this was made by Wimpey (£6,838,000) and McAlpine (£5,668,000) alone. Total dividend paid out was £2,682,000 - an increase of 19% over the previous year. The profits in building materials (including bricks, cement, sanitary ware, paint and timber) zoomed by 9% to £34,759,000. In the latter category profits were particularly high in the brick industry - a reminder that private enterprise combines high profit rates with inefficiency.

U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS GETS WORSE from Pat Jordan

Preliminary figures issued by the U.S. Commerce Department on August 13 show a sharp deterioration in the balance of payments position in the second quarter of this year. The deficit was running at an annual rate of nearly 3,000m dollars (£,071m.) compared with a revised figure of about 800m dollars for the first quarter. The increase in the deficit was not unexpected - there had been a very big inflow of funds during March, which was largely reversed in April. Whilst too much cannot be read into the results for one quarter, the figures do not augur well for the steps taken by the Administration to improve the position and if repeated will lead to further action being contemplated.

Ed. note: cf. next item.

JAPAN HIT BY "INTEREST EQUALISATION TAX" based upon Hsinhua report

The contradictions between the ruling circles in Japan and the U.S. will become acute following the passage of the 'interest equalisation tax' bill in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives. The Bill is designed to control the outflow of dollars from the U.S.. Kyodo reported on Aug. 13 that the Bill was harsher than the original bill which Kennedy introduced in order to tax those who brought foreign stocks and securities. The Bill just passed stipulated that loans to foreign banks for over a term of one year would also be taxed. The Japanese Broadcasting Corporation reported: "The Japanese Finance Ministry considers that if loans to banks are to be taxed, the effect on the Japanese economy should not be ignored." It said that U.S. bank loans to Japan for a term of over one year stood at 305m. dollars in the past year; therefore Japan would ask the U.S. not to tax loans from U.S. banks.

It is estimated that the contradictions between Japanese and U.S. ruling groups would grow sharper with the passage of the Bill. This was even admitted by the U.S. Ambassador in an interview with UPI. He said: the main divergences between the two countries were on economic issues. Relations between the U.S. and Japan would erupt as in a storm in the next 3 or 4 months. U.S. loans to Japan amounted to more than 2,560m. dollars from 1959 to 1963 and Japan's unfavourable balance of payments is mostly made up by foreign loans. Thus the passage of the Bill will directly affect U.S. capital going to Japan and Japan's ability to improve its balance of payments position.