

The Week

17th February, 1965. Vol. 3, No. 7

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A news analysis for socialists

Vietnam – **STEP UP THE PRESSURE**

THE splendid initiative by over 50 MPs in calling for British action to end the war in Vietnam has demonstrated to the world that Britain's governing party is not unanimous in supporting U.S. action. The importance of this can be seen from the action taken by three Democratic members of the Californian Senate — they went direct to a spokesman of Labour's left: Konni Zilliacus.

Important, too, is the Cabinet action of giving *de facto* support to the U.S. bombings of North Vietnam. More than once, harrassed State Department officials have expressed their relief for the British attitude. U.S. opinion is split over the bombings, and Mr. Wilson is helping President Johnson to counter his critics.

We reiterate: Britain can tip the whole balance of forces. It is in this context that the MCF is organising a mass protest rally for Sunday, 28th of February in Trafalgar Square.

The huge Suez protest rallies pushed Gaitskell off the fence and led to Labour opposing the Tory adventure. This is a case where history should be repeated.

Malaysia – **STOP THE THREATS**

IN our pre-occupation with the Vietnam crisis we should not forget that in Malaysia our Government is pursuing a policy which could easily escalate. The campaign against U.S. action should be linked with the demand that our Government stops using threats and instead opens negotiations with Indonesia.

Providing such a move is based on a policy which comes to grips with the genuine grievances that are felt by Indonesia, it will evoke a ready response. As such it would involve the Labour Government in siding with the ordinary people of South East Asia against British big business.

The alternative to decisive action now is a position where Britain is bogged down in a military adventure. The action of the Malaysian Government in clamping down hard on its opposition parties indicates that it is only a matter of time before extensive guerrilla warfare breaks out in the Malayan peninsula.

Everything we are fighting for in Britain in the way of reforms: more housing, better education, etc., will be placed in complete jeopardy if this takes place.

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LABOUR PEACE FELLOWSHIP
 MEETING

Where is Labour going in its Foreign Policy?

ANY QUESTIONS?

Philip Noel Baker, M.P.
 Emrys Hughes, M.P.
 Trevor Park, M.P.
 Frank Allaun, M.P.

On Wednesday, March 17th
 in the House of Commons at 7.30.

USE THE WEEK GO-OP NUMBER
 NOTTINGHAM 25637

Advertisement —

MLF or ANF or DISENGAGEMENT ?

SATURDAY, MARCH 20th, at 2.30 p.m.

MAHATMA GHANDI HALL
 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1.

Speakers:

SIDNEY SILVERMAN, M.P. HUGH JENKINS, M.P.

Organised by Labour CND and London Co-operative Society
 CLPs, Ward LPs, Co-op. Parties, Trade Union branches, etc., are invited
 to send delegates. Send applications for credentials to: Len Nicholas, 48
 Leigh Road, East Ham, London, E.6., enclosing 2/6 per delegate.

HULL AIRCRAFT WORKERS' MEETING

HUMBERSIDE VOICE has arranged a mass meeting on the future of the aircraft industry, at which the need for a long term socialist solution of the industry's present problems will be canvassed. 100 men in design departments at Hawker Siddeley's Brough factory, on the Humber bank, have been declared redundant.

The meeting takes place on

THURSDAY, February 25th, at
 7.30 p.m. in CARRON HOUSE, 78
 Beverley Road, Hull.

Chairman will be Walt Joester,
 AEU District Secretary.

Speaker will be RUSSELL KERR,
 Labour candidate in 1964, at Preston
 North, and a member of the Execu-
 tive Council of ASSET, the techni-
 cians' union with many members in
 the aircraft industry.

SPEED NATIONALISATION — Steelmen

THE Sheffield conference of Trade Unionists called to discuss the nationalisation of the steel industry and workers' control, continued in Sheffield last Sunday, with participants from most of the key steel producing areas.

It was made clear in the discussion that the 1949 Act could not provide a basis for renationalisation. Existing firms, controlled by a State holding agency, would still be able to sabotage Labour's intentions and frustrate the rationalisation of the industry that is essential if proper control is to be established.

Sunday's meeting again stressed the need to have the greatest element of workers' control, while maintaining the independent bargaining role of the Trade Unions. Indeed, it

was thought necessary to establish the principle that the State Board should *only* be allowed to negotiate with Trade Unions in the industry, both in respect of white collar and other workers.

Hostile press reports about this "unofficial" Study Group were countered by the fact the participants appear to have been almost entirely officials of the various unions connected with the industry. Finally, the meeting stressed the need to pursue the issues discussed in all parts of the Labour Movement by the adoption of resolutions pointing out the inadequacy of the 1949 Act, the urgency of tackling the problem of nationalisation, and the need to ensure workers' participation in control of the steel industry.

Labour's Roll of Honour

HERE is a list of M.P.s who have signed the motion in the House of Commons calling on the Government to take early action to bring about a cease-fire and a political settlement in Vietnam:

Mr. Frank Allaun, Salford E.; Mr. Norman Atkinson, Tottenham; Mr. William Baxter, West Stirling; Mr. Norman Buchan, Renfrew W.; Mr. Richard Crawshaw, Toxteth; Mr. S. O. Davies, Merthyr Tydfil; Mr. Tom Driberg, Barking; Mr. Neil Carmichael, Woodside; Mr. Iaon L. Evans, Yardley; Mr. Robert Edwards, Bilston; Mr. Raymond Fletcher, Ilkeston; Mr. Michael Foot, Ebbw Vale; Mr. Reginald Freeson, Willesden E.; Mr. Will Griffiths, Manchester Exchange; Mr. Arnold Gregory, Stockport N.; Mr. Eric Heffer, Walton; Mr. W. Hambling, Woolwich W.; Mr. Denis Hobden, Kempdown; Mr. Emrys Hughes, Ayrshire; Mr. John Horner, Oldbury and Halesowen;

Mr. Hugh Jenkins, Putney; Mrs.

Anne Kerr, Rochester and Chatham; Mr. David Kerr, Wandsworth Central; Mr. Arthur Lewis, West Ham N.; Mr. Kenneth Lomas, Huddersfield W.; Mr. Charles Loughlin, Gloucestershire W.; Mr. John Mendelson, Penistone; Mr. Ian Mikardo, Poplar; Mr. Michael McGuire, Ince; Dr. Miller, Kelvingrove; Mr. Archie Manuel, Central Ayrshire; Mr. Walter Monslow, Barrow-in-Furness; Mr. Stan Newens, Epping; Mr. Christopher Norwood, Norwich S.; Mr. Stanley Orme, Salford W.; Mr. Maurice Orbach, Stockport S.; Mr. Trevor Park, Derbyshire S.E.; Mr. Derek Page, King's Lynn; Mr. Paul Rose, Blackley; Mrs. Renee Short, Wolverhampton N.E.; Mr. Julius Silverman, Aston; Mr. Sydney Silverman, Nelson and Colne; Mr. Ellis Smith, Stoke-on-Trent; Mr. Leslie Spriggs, St. Helens; Mr. Thomas Swain, Derbyshire N.E.; Mr. Eric Varley, Chesterfield; Mr. Harold Walker, Doncaster; Mr. William Warbey, Ashfield; Mr. Konni Zilliacus, Gorton.

U.S. Consul snubs Birmingham Students

BIRMINGHAM students reacted quickly to the American bombing of North Vietnam. On Tuesday, February 9th, over 50 students from the University and Fircroft College marched to U.S. Consulate in Birmingham and handed a protest in. The previous day the Fircroft NALSO branch had sent protests to the Prime Minister, UNO, the U.S. Embassy, and other places.

The U.S. Consul acted in a typically arrogant manner, saying that she would 'put the protest on the fire' and claiming that the protesters were irresponsible young people. Press cover-

age, too, was highly partisan. Supporters of the American action managed to muster six people to parade with pro-U.S. slogans. The Birmingham press gave more space to these people than to the 50 who marched.

A liaison committee is going to be formed to co-ordinate the efforts of students at the University, Fircroft NALSO and the CND. Anyone who is interested in this should write to A. Tideswell, NALSO, Fircroft College, Selly Oak, Birmingham. The committee will tackle political problems which require co-ordination and organisation in the Birmingham area.

BIRMINGHAM LEFT CLUB

ON Monday, February 1st, the Birmingham New Left Club was newly formed. A large number came to this meeting to hear Stuart Hall talk on "The Next 100 Days". A very lively discussion followed. After this encouraging start it was decided future meetings be held to discuss current problems facing the Labour Government, and to consider left wing solutions.

The next meeting will discuss the aircraft industry and it is hoped that a trade unionist will open the discussion.

Barbara Allen

BRISTOL LEFT CLUB

FOLLOWING the events of last weekend, letters have been sent to the Prime Minister by the Bristol Peace Council and the Bristol Left Club, asking him to speak out against the latest American attacks on North Vietnam.

Bristol ILP have passed a resolution calling for the withdrawal of all American forces from South Vietnam. In addition, the Left Club are taking up the matter of the highly misleading news reports of the events with the BBC and TWW.

In a letter to Mr. Wilson, the Left Club pointed out that when the question of attacks by the Americans against the North was raised by them last August, the International Secretary of the Labour Party stated:

"Mr. Wilson had, when he was in Washington, earlier this year, warned of the dangers of the extension of the conflict into North Vietnam . . ."

Adding that it hoped that Mr. Wilson would act on the matter, making clear the British Government's position.

On another front, supporters of THE WEEK have duplicated a leaflet based upon the "Voice of the Unions" appeal. (See Week Vol. 3, No. 5). This will be distributed by them at a special Labour Party Conference in Bristol on Saturday, 20th February, at which Margaret Herbinson is to address "key party workers".

by Tom Nicholls

Aircraft Crisis

Statement issued by the LPF

Executive on January 20th

THE Labour Peace Fellowship Executive, having discussed the present position of military aircraft orders, urges the Government:

1. To run down and end the TSR-2 contracts. The estimated expenditure of £750 millions on the low-flying nuclear bomber is something that Britain cannot afford.
2. To decide against substituting American planes for the TSR-2.
3. To devote the saving in money, manpower, material and research to re-equipping Britain's industry, carrying out the social reforms pledged in Labour's election programme and to aiding the under-developed countries.
4. To provide other work for the aircraft workers concerned in the manufacture of civil aircraft, machine tools or computers, or by granting Government research and development contracts for non-aircraft products.
5. To maintain all the workers affected by redundancy during the switch from Defence to non-military work by paying them their average rates of pay.

Ron Huzzard

An Engineers'

'VOICE'

REDUNDANCIES in the Aircraft sector of the engineering industry; the chaining of wages by long-term agreements; the powerful amalgamation of the employers' organisations; the fact that only 5% of the 2,500,000 workers in the engineering industry participates in Union activities—all these and many other problems have created pressure for a *Voice of the Engineers*.

This will be one more in the chain of *Voice* papers which already includes *Voice of the Unions*, *Ford Workers' Voice*, *Aviation Voice*, *Steelworkers' Voice*, *Dockers' Voice*, etc.

Plans to launch the new paper will be discussed at a meeting to be held on Sunday, 28th February, at 11 a.m. in the Wheatsheaf Hotel, High St., off Market St., Manchester. Further details can be obtained from *Voice of the Unions*, 71 New Kings Road, London, S.W.6.

W. J. Loft, Secretary of Woolwich Arsenal Joint Shop Stewards' Committee

Labour and the Woolwich Arsenal

THIS statement by the Woolwich Arsenal Combined Shop Stewards Committee gives a summary of the arguments for Labour reversing the Tory decision to close Woolwich Arsenal.

"The Balance of Payments", "Export or Die", "The Dollar", "The Pound", "Woolwich Arsenal". Woolwich Arsenal has the right to be included in the context of the opening paragraph on two counts.

There are thousands of firms manufacturing armaments. These firms must concentrate on the Export Market. We are absolutely convinced, that in the majority of projects (if honest assessments are made) we have been, are, and could be in the future, competitive with Private Enterprise. *The tempting distraction of steady, lucrative, Armament contracts must be removed, if the export market is to be developed.*

If International Disarmament becomes a reality, the expense of honouring cancelled contracts would not apply to the ROF. Government-owned Factories could change over to peace aid for the under-developed countries. We could again produce ditch diggers, railway trucks, machine tools, turbines, etc.

SITE — FACTORY & PLANT

Woolwich Arsenal is old. Woolwich Arsenal is NOT old-fashioned. It is probably the most comprehensive factory in the country. In spite of the modern trend to specialisation, vast savings can be achieved from unnecessary transport costs. The machinery is up to date and well maintained, and the methods are modern. The 200-acre site is practically self-supporting. It has its own Gas and Electricity Factories that can supply a much greater demand competitively. We can be served by Rail, Sea or Road. We can and should be developed, not reduced. Disarmament and the Channel Tunnel are future possibilities. Woolwich Arsenal is in an excellent position for a peace assual on the Continent, by Tunnel or Sea.

EFFORT—MEN & MACHINES

A payment on results system for ROF production workers (including the Tool Rooms and Instrument Shops) is rigidly applied. This produces quantity. The expensive double examination results in quality. Our fine maintenance department works an incentive bonus scheme, linked with production. Not only do we produce top quality work, our extensive Apprenticeship Scheme adds to the Country's credit balance.

STAFF—TRADE UNION

The liaison between Staff, Semi-Skilled and Skilled Workers has been good for many years. Joint Production and Factory Meetings are held regularly. Though there is still room for improvement, our system that brings twenty unions together, could be used as a model to others.

If Woolwich Arsenal is destroyed it will be a local and national tragedy. Many local firms have closed during the past few years. The proposed housing increases in the Woolwich and Erith areas will disturb the job/house ratio. If Woolwich Arsenal is retained the balance may be assisted with expansion. If Labour uphold the evil Tory decision, the result will be large scale unemployment and/or expensive wasteful long journeys to and from work.

Editorial note: Next week we will be carrying an article describing the way the Woolwich Arsenal shop stewards have been carrying on their struggle. Needless to say, we support their campaign and echo their call for all trade union branches and Labour Parties to send protests to the Ministry of Defence. The conversion of Woolwich Arsenal into a 'factory for peace', under Government ownership and with an increasing element of workers' control, could be a powerful lever in the hands of a Government determined to make inroads into capitalism.

The lot of farmworkers in Britain is very unfavourable compared with that of industrial workers. Some of the problems which face them are illustrated in these two articles which appeared in the February issue of *Landworker*, journal of the National Union of Agricultural Workers.

Farmers ignore 1924 Wages Act

LAST year, for the first time ever, the Union recovered arrears amounting to more than £10,000 on behalf of members whose employers had either paid them less wages than they were entitled to receive under the Agricultural Wages Board Orders, had not allowed them their holidays, or had dismissed them without proper notice. This means that since records were kept the Union has recovered £200,000 in arrears of wages for the membership.

Consider also, that in the past ten years arrears of wages have been recovered by the Union and by the wages enforcement branch of the Ministry of Agriculture on behalf of more than 10,000 farm workers. It is shocking to reflect that this enforcement action has proved necessary so many years after the passing of the 1924 Agricultural Wages Act. The monies recovered for these thousands of members were clearly due to them in law, and just as clearly would not have been paid by the employers concerned had it not been for the watchfulness of the Union and the legal powers vested in the Ministry.

Part of the responsibility for this massive underpayment—and a comparable amount due but never recovered—rest upon the individual worker. We still get cases reported to us where a member has worked for years knowing himself to be underpaid but has taken no steps to get matters put in order until his employment has ended. It is understandable that a tied cottage occupant working for an unreasonable employer is going to be nervous at complaining about his wages.

TIED COTTAGES

HOW many farm workers live in tied cottages? In the Commons recently, Mr. R. H. S. Crossman (Minister of Housing and Local Government) said that there were estimated to be about 120,000 tied farm cottages in England and Wales. This number is about 45 per cent. of the total adult male whole-time farm workers at June of last year. But rather earlier Ministry of Agriculture statistics have said that 48.1 per cent. of the employed farm labour force occupy tied cottages. This suggests that living in them are a surprisingly high proportion of other categories: youths and girls, regular part-time and seasonal or casual workers.

BOOK REVIEW

Repercussions of Redundancy

IT was decided that the large scale dismissals from BMC in Birmingham during 1956 "were worthy of 'academic' attention" and Dr. Kahn and a host of research assistants set about examining the repercussions of redundancy. This book* is a detailed report of these findings. On Wednesday, June 27th, 1956, the British Motor Corporation announced that as from Friday, June 29th, there would be a reduction in its labour force of some 12½%. The brunt of these dismissals fell on Birmingham. The extent and suddenness of the lay-off was unprecedented in post-war Britain. The car workers' unions called a strike, but the men were so demoralised that only about half of them came out.

Dr. Kahn examines the difficulties that these, often skilled, men had in regaining employment. Some 27% of the men were unemployed for over a month, while at the end of two months 15% were still not placed. The Labour Exchanges proved to be of little help and succeeded in helping only 15% to find jobs.

It has often been the contention of some socialists that sudden, catastrophic events like the Birmingham dismissals would tend to radicalise those sections of workers involved. What evidence that Dr. Kahn presents seems to point to the reverse. In spite of the fact that 45% of those who applied for help to their trade

unions were found jobs, there was a very obvious slump in regard for the unions. Twenty per cent. of men who had been trade unionists before the sackings refused to rejoin on re-employment. Amongst the remarks made by those who refused to rejoin were that "after paying 1/7 a week for two years, he had not got his money's worth."

Some 45% of the sample decided that, in the event of redundancy, coloured and foreign workers should be asked to go first irrespective of length of service.

Even more depressing than this to socialists is that only 27% of the dismissed workers believed that unemployment was not inevitable. The social nature of the economy was not remotely grasped. Amongst this group, however, nearly two-thirds advocated work sharing. Only a very small minority saw the problem as being political: "under the present system an employer can decide he has made enough profit and close down; there should be some planning at national level."

If Dr. Kahn's book can give us a message, then surely it must be that mass sackings will be continued as long as the majority accept them as inevitable.

RONALD KIRK

*"Repercussions of Redundancy,"
Hilda R. Kahn, Allen and Unwin,
50/-.

£ = 4/-

— CHANCELLOR

THE Chancellor of the Exchequer has published a table showing movements in the internal value of the pound since 1914. Changes in spending habits and standards of life mean that it must be taken with a pinch of salt, but it remains interesting. There follows a five-yearly abstract from the table:

1914 — 20s. od.	1919 — 9s. 4d.
1924 — 11s. 5d.	1929 — 12s. 2d.
1934 — 12s. 2d.	1939 — 12s. 5d.
1944 — 8s. od.	1949 — 6s. 5d.
1954 — 5s. 3d.	1959 — 4s. 6d.
1964 — 4s. od.	

Easter March '65

THE Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament have agreed to sponsor a three-day march at Easter.

This year's "Aldermaston" will start on Saturday, April 18th at the Royal Air Force Bomber Command Headquarters at Naphill, which is five miles north-west of High Wycombe. The route will be via the SAC Headquarters Base at Ruislip and end with a rally in Trafalgar Square on Easter Monday.

There will also be a contingent starting from Chequers which is a further six or seven miles north-west from Naphill.

The themes for this year's demonstration will be Disengagement before NATO, support for International Co-operation Year, a policy that advocates a United Nations Organisation settlement for problems in the Far East and a cutting of arms budgets to enable aid to be given to the undeveloped countries.

The campaign's general council have agreed to co-operate with all sympathetic organisations and individuals in recruiting, financing and organising the march.

Len Nicholas

WARBEY SPEAKS —

END VIETNAM WAR NOW!

Friday, Feb. 19, 1965
8 p.m. Rainbow Room,
Co-op. Education Centre,
Heathcote Street,
NOTTINGHAM

*Nottingham Trades Council
and Co-operative Party*

CND Group knocks Govt.

AT its last meeting Gloucester CND passed a comprehensive resolution expressing its concern at the present foreign policy of the Labour Government. It listed 4 points (1) support for the nuclear deterrent and NATO; (2) support for America's nuclear build-up; (3) failure to get rid of Polaris and the acceptance of the idea of the ANF; and (4) Mr. Wilson's proposed visit to West Berlin, without visiting the East.

In calling for a change in policy, Gloucester CND urged: (a) unilateral nuclear disarmament, the removal of foreign bases, and withdrawal of

of Britain from nuclear alliances; (b) a policy of neutrality and full support for UNO; and (c) an immediate cut by half in "defence" expenditure, the money saved to be used for constructive purposes.

The letter was sent to: The Prime Minister (Harold Wilson), the Foreign Secretary, Jack Diamond (MP of Gloucester), Anthony Greenwood, MP, Michael Foot, MP, Len Williams (Gen. Sec. Labour Party). Copies sent to press, also to BBC, Gloucester Labour Party, Stroud Labour Party, SW Region CND, W. Midland Region CND, CND HQ, BPC, etc.

ANTI-WAR FILMS

MR. DAVID STAYT is willing to show a number of films free of charge, in London or within 100 miles of Gloucester, subject to the cost of petrol used (approximately 2½d. per mile) being paid. For places over 45 miles from Gloucester only Saturday or Sunday showings can normally be arranged.

The films include Committee of 100 and CND Demonstrations and one entitled "Hands Off Cuba". All the equipment is provided by Mr. Stayt.

Anyone interested should write to: Mr. David W. Stayt, Hilvertsheem, Upton St. Leonards, Gloucester.

Australians organise against French Tests

THE Australian "Committee Against Atomic Testing" (CAAT) is planning to sail a multi-national, unarmed fleet, into the zone where the French intend to test nuclear weapons later this year.

If the armada is successful it may well be a turning point in the history of the fight against war in the nuclear age.

CAAT was formed last year, following the Australian Congress for International Co-operation and Disarmament, by representatives and lay

members of trade unions, religious and civic groups, and the academic community.

Its declared policy aim, which is consistent with the partial nuclear test ban treaty, is to prevent the testing of nuclear weapons in the South Pacific ocean area.

CAAT is working with the New Zealand Committee for Resolute Action against French tests, and is supported by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation; Liberation magazine and the War Registers League in

America; Voice of Women in Canada and Action Civique Nonviolente in France.

There is, unfortunately, little hope of official support for this project from the governments of the one hundred odd nations who signed the test ban treaty.

CAAT have to rely on — and are appealing to — individuals to finance the scheme. Their treasurer is Hugh Gilmore, P.O. Box 24, George Street North, Sydney, N.S.W., Australia.

Len Nicholas

CEYLON:

Unions reject deportation plans

AT a special meeting recently the Ceylon Workers' Congress decided to reject the recent agreement made between India and Ceylon on the status of workers of Indian origin in Ceylon. Most of these workers are employed on tea plantations in Ceylon. The agreement between the Indian and Ceylon governments on almost one million stateless immigrants of Indian origin provides that 525,000 will be granted Indian citizenship over a period of 15 years, 300,000 to be made Ceylonese citizens, and the fate of the remaining 150,000 is to be decided some time early in 1965 at a further meeting of

the Indian and Ceylonese Prime Ministers. One of the reasons given by the CWC for rejecting the agreement is that it involves "denial of human rights and is calculated to add to the suffering and humiliation of these stateless persons of Indian origin who are today making a vital contribution to the economy of this country." The trade unions are complaining that this agreement does not provide for the immediate granting of citizenship by both countries to persons who are stateless, but has spread the granting of naturalisation over a number of years, thereby leaving people stateless for far longer than is necessary.

ALGERIA:

Big strides in Education

ALGERIA had 1,400,000 pupils in 1964 as against 700,000 in 1961, the year before the country's independence, Algerian Minister of National Education, Cherif Belkacem, told the French newspaper *Le Monde* recently.

One hundred and ten thousand students were studying in secondary schools in 1964, as against 40,000 in 1961; and there were 8,000 students

in higher schools, as against 4,000 in 1961, he added.

He said that 12,000 probationary teachers had been recruited who would teach in primary school after a short course of training. This was a means to solve the shortage of teachers.

The Minister disclosed that 35,000 students were being trained to be teachers in the literacy campaign.

SOUTH KOREA:

Guerrillas attack Army barracks

THE story of a heroic South Korean guerrilla unit active on Jiuh mountain, South Kyongsang province was recently told in the Chinese press on the basis of scanty information in the South Korean papers.

This unit, which started its operations as early as 1950 during the war for national liberation, has persevered for nearly fifteen years in face of re-

peated attacks of encirclement. It has preserved itself and even swelled its ranks.

This unit with an initial strength of about a hundred men launched surprise attacks again and again on army barracks and police headquarters, demolished enemy military trains, burnt up enemy military stores and cut enemy communication lines.

BRAZIL:

COST OF LIVING UP 86 p.c.

OFFICIAL figures released in Rio de Janeiro show that the cost of living rose by 86 per cent. in 1964, despite the considerable efforts made by the Government to reduce inflation through higher taxation and cuts in expenditure.

Government spokesmen claim that without the prompt action taken by the new regime in April, the cost of living would have rocketed by 140 per cent. in 1964, following an 80 per cent. rise in the previous year.

ADEN:

Rebels oppose Base

KAHTAN SHAABY, representative of the National Liberation Front of South Yemen (Aden) said in Sanaa, February 9th, that the so-called constitutional conference of "the Federation of South Arabia" to be held in London next March is a new British plot against the people of occupied South Yemen.

He said that the conference would enable imperialism to maintain its hold over this part of the world. The Front and all the people of South Yemen would oppose this conference as it was aimed at suppressing the armed revolution in South Yemen.

Shaaby stressed that the armed struggle against colonialism would continue till the people regained complete freedom and until the dangerous military bases in Aden were removed lock, stock and barrel.

He said that the Front would regard those pro-British elements taking part in the conference as traitors and not as the genuine representatives of the people.

Advertisement —

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 Add 10% to cover postage.
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 Box No. 985, The Week,
 54 Park Road, Nottingham

NEWS FROM THE CO-OPS

Hull Co-op Subsidises Tories

The lead article in the February issue of *Humberside Voice* was devoted to the struggle now going on in Hull Co-op Society:

BEHIND the recent and, in our view, necessary blaze of publicity given to the move to unseat the President and Board of Directors of the Hull and East Riding Co-operative Society, there emerges a miserable story of the gradual erosion and destruction of the basic principles of the Co-operative movement.

A petition to unseat the Board through the calling of a special general meeting of members now bears over sixty signatures, including those of Fred Hall, secretary of Hull City Labour Party, Councillor Mrs. Phyllis Clarke, Archie Gemmell and Jack Foord, former Labour candidate for North Hull.

Jack Foord's long experience with the Hull Co-op and its management illustrates something of what is wrong. Both as chairman of his local branch of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union and then as delegate to the Area Council, he found an almost invariable difficulty existing between the union and the Society.

Finally, he became a member of the National Executive of SAWU, and he reports: "I doubt whether any organisation, capitalist, nationalised or Co-operative, has ever figured so prominently in discussion by the national committee of any trade union, as did Hull Co-op."

He continues: "In an effort to end the trouble my union, with responsible senior members of the Co-op office staff, drafted a grading scheme which, at negligible cost to the Society would have produced reasonable order out of the chaos of the hit-or-miss system of salaries then prevailing.

"I found months later that the then board of management knew nothing about this scheme that my union had submitted and, incredibly, **THERE WAS NO SYSTEM OF GETTING THE SCHEME TO THEM!** The secretary-manager was

the sole arbiter of what they were allowed to discuss. The answer to one letter from my union was received twelve months later!"

With three representatives from the Shop Workers' Union, including Archie Gemmell (their union had also experienced difficulties with the management), Jack was elected to the board of the Society. At an early meeting they discovered that the Society was making a regular contribution to the Willerby Unionist Association (that is, the TORY PARTY!). And the PETITIONERS are accused of playing politics!

A move to allow the trade unions to bring correspondence on matters of principle direct to the board for consideration was (incredibly) defeated. In Jack's words:

"It was just hopeless unless we could increase trade union representation, but in two successive years we have failed. Voting for the established board has reached proportions previously unknown. Newcomers to the town are polling vastly more votes than could Harry Kirk, who for decades was the Society's president. These election results may well be due to good organisation. If so, it would appear to be largely in the country areas where hitherto there has been little or no interest. It is amazing.

"It is now a matter of common knowledge how voting was seen to be fiddled at the Greenwood Avenue shop, and how elementary justice was denied at the subsequent annual meeting of the Society. How, after long delay, the law-courts ruled in favour of Archie Gemmell in his case alleging fraud in these elections.

"Those of us who feel we have been misled and bamboozled have formed the Co-operative Progressive Group, to co-ordinate protest among all those who think as we do, that there should be much closer co-operation between Labour, the trade unions and the Co-operatives; that there should be consumer councils and participation; that there should

be joint consultative committees and that co-operatives should be member-controlled in fact as well as in theory.

"As I write, we are organising a meeting of members to try to unseat those who hold power today. We hope that all trade unionists and people who think as we do will give us their ardent support. We are not beaten. We are just starting to fight."

L.C.S. to peg prices

Dear Editor,

I was amazed that R.B.'s piece on retail prices makes no mention of the co-operatives. Here in London, when Tesco has cut all his competitors' throats, he will still have the LCS to contend with! In fact, on price alone we are already his only serious threat.

The co-operative movement was first in introducing modern methods in retailing — if our vast resources (over £1,000 million) are now brought under unified control (as in the National Federation proposals) our position in the market will be impregnable, and through vertical integration we can guarantee to hold down prices for our members. We should remember that already the CWS is Britain's third largest enterprise.

Socialists *should* be enthusiastic about this "new wave of rationalisation" — the first duty of the co-operatives is to protect the standard of living of working people.

The LCS has recently published a list of "own brand" basic products at prices more competitive than anywhere in London (including Tesco) — which it has undertaken to keep stable. In recent weeks LCS grocery sales have shown increases up to 10% on last year — we must be meeting a need.

Strong co-operatives are the consumer's last protection — this is where we differ from the United States.

RICHARD FLETCHER
Director LCS

Package Deal for Builders

IN the building industry, under the 1963 settlement on wages, there is provision for the cost-of-living settlement in March (in previous years, that has been in February) and for the final settlement under the agreement of 2½d. per hour for craftsmen and 1d. for labourers in November, 1965. Already there are demands for a substantial increase to be submitted immediately the current agreement expires. There are some unions, of course, who want to submit a claim at once, but all indications show that the 1963 settlement will run the full course. This raises two questions—one, should there be

another package deal or long-term agreement, and if so, what sort of a submission should be made and for how much? This question should exercise the minds of branches, members, and conferences, and they should not be long delayed considering the matter. The second question is the 40-hour week and the demand for its implementation. This, of course, does not have to wait for the termination of the existing agreement. However, these questions in my view, will have to be answered in 1965. It is as well to get on discussing them now.

The clear implications of the need

*From February issue of *A.S.P.D. Journal*.

to safeguard living standards by the retention of adequate cost-of-living agreements, and in industries where there are none, such as shipbuilding and engineering, to insist on their inclusion becomes fundamental if any such policy of "Declaration of Intent" are to be acceptable to the Trade Union Movement, faced with a situation of rising cases.

Bosses organise

BBRITISH INDUSTRY, the new journal of the employers' organisations in Britain, announces in its latest issue that after simultaneous meetings on March 24th, the new merged organisation is to be launched, probably by August. The March meetings will discuss a charter which, subject to amendment, will become the founding document of the new body. This will be called the Confederation of British Industry. Its President will be Mr. Maurice Laing, with Sir Peter Runge and Mr. Leslie Jenkins as his deputies.

In spite of the recent lamentations by Mr. Enoch Powell, who urged employers *not* to associate in this way, in this month's issue of *The Director*, this consolidation marks a new phase in the evolution of neo-capitalism in Britain. The employers, once again, prove to be more class conscious and disciplined than labour: for although the T.U.C. is the only national trade union federation, it is not as closely integrated as the employers are likely to be after August. Labour must sit up and take notice.

Oxon Farmers reject Incomes Policy

ON Saturday, February 6th, Oxfordshire's farmworkers voted against the Government's plans for an incomes policy, despite a plea by the chairman of the Trades Union Congress, Lord Collison.

At the annual conference of the National Union of Agricultural Workers in the County Hall, Oxford, they voted, by 11 votes to 9, to "call on the union to oppose any attempt to impose an incomes policy on the workers."

Mr. Jack Dunman, of Little Haseley branch, said everything that had been said about incomes policies seemed directed to secure control of wages. "When it comes to profits and prices, the measures are exceedingly vague and mild."

Nothing had been said about bringing up the wages of the lowest paid industries.

He thought the unions would accept the policy but every one would consider itself the exception which deserved special treatment. "Can you see the powerful unions standing back and saying: 'We don't want anything this year; it is the farm workers who need it?'"

Lord Collison, who is also general secretary of the N.U.A.W., said a viable incomes policy is essential to avoid inflationary pressures. What the trade unions want is a situation where a wage increase of 12/- would really be worth 12/-, not 6/-.

"Of course the trade unions will ask for more. It is their job."

He denied nothing had been said about "bringing up to equality" the lower-paid workers. Much had been said on this point by both the general council of the T.U.C. and by the Government.

Chris Arthur

DATA debates Incomes Policy

THE Preliminary Agenda of the "Meeting of the Representative Council" of DATA which is to be held in Blackpool in early May, contains several resolutions on incomes policy.

Resolution No. 83, from Ayrshire Branch (similar ones were received from Birkenhead, Darlington, Leeds East, Rutherglen and Sheffield East Branches) whilst welcoming the return of a Labour Government, and

pledging support to the Government in its attempts to solve economic problems states:

DATA's participation in an incomes plan must be dependent on the acceptance of the principle that such an incomes plan will include profits, dividends, rent and all other forms of income." It ends by insisting that any redistribution of national income must be at the expense of the wealthy minority.

Hull Branch's resolution says that an incomes policy must take into account all the devious ways businessmen have of accruing profits until Government restrictions cease. London City makes similar points to those in the Ayrshire resolution but links the question with that of the extension of public ownership. London South rejects "all forms of wage freeze imposed by either a Labour or a Tory Government" — two other branches made a similar point. But to end on a lighter note; Coventry wants to give "every support to the Government in their efforts to introduce an incomes policy."

SWEDISH 'NEW LEFT' DISCUSSES WORKERS' CONTROL

THE Swedish "New Left" organisation, 'Zenit', has published the special Hull LEFT of Summer, 1964, which contained the papers written for last year's Nottingham conference on Workers' Control. In a letter to Tony Topham, their secretary Goran Therborn writes:

"Also here in Sweden the campaign for workers' control is getting under way, although our position is much weaker than yours. Our public sector is small, the union cadres are indifferent or hostile, and the Swedish left is notoriously weak. But, the world is changing slowly. Last Autumn Zenit arranged a conference of various groups of the Swedish left, and some form of unity is emerging, especially on the platform of workers' control. An open conference on this

will take place in March, and we have got the CP under its new "revisionist" leadership to propose a motion in parliament. We are also pressing on left-of-centre members in the Social Democratic parliamentary group, and the young Liberals. Direct union work is planned in the longer run.

"Your work in England is a great inspiration to us, and we have to a great extent made your proposals our own. Here I must confess, that we are publishing your proposal in Steelworkers' Voice in the forthcoming issue of ZENIT without having asked for your permission in advance. But the issue has been made in rather extra-ordinary circumstances, and you still have time to stop it. (It is going to print on Tuesday).*

"But we think that the technical aspect of disalienation should be paid more attention to. The various devices of job enlargement, job rotation, collective contract, etc. should be combined with the institutional aspect.

"We have seen in THE WEEK that a new conference on workers' control will be arranged in Sheffield next weekend. Unfortunately it has been impossible for us to send an observer. Now we wonder if you would like to give us a report of it and the whole British campaign for workers' control in the steel industry? It would be of great importance to Swedish socialists if we could cooperate in this direct manner. For our next issue deadline is March 5."

Kronetorpsgaten 56B
Malmo O. Sweden.

2-2-65

* We doubt if Voice editor Richard Fletcher is copyright conscious

SCANDINAVIA :

Brian Smith

Left front against NATO

THE *Daily Telegraph's* Copenhagen correspondent, in a despatch last week, tried to chill the blood of that paper's middle class readers by reporting that a Left-wing front had been formed in Scandinavia.

It was inaugurated at a meeting in Copenhagen of Mr. C. H. Hermansson, chairman of the Swedish Communist party, Mr. Aksel Larsen, chairman of the Danish Socialist People's party and Mr. Finn Gustavsen, chairman of the Norwegian Socialist People's party.

Burying their differences, the three

decided to wage a common campaign for "the neutralisation of the North" by the withdrawal of Denmark and Norway from the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation and disarming of Sweden.

They pledged themselves to observe the rules of Western democracy and to accept the existence of opposition parties if they were returned to power. They also stated their independence of Moscow.

Mr. Hermansson attacked Russia by denouncing "that poison of nationalism which can attack even the

greatest of the Socialist States."

The Norwegian Socialist People's party has only two seats in Parliament compared with the Social Democrats' 113 and the Danish Socialist People's party has 10, compared with the Social Democrats' 76.

Nevertheless these three parties can probably win supporters from the Social Democrats by attacking them on their weak point, the high cost of living.

The correspondent failed, however, to point out that in Norway and Sweden the parties hold the balance of power, and that in Denmark, the Social Democrat Government could not possibly last if the PSP voted consistently with the Right wing parties.

Czechs want pay rise

WORKERS on the lower pay scales and pensioners in Czechoslovakia have complained to the papers that their earnings are too low to keep them alive and too high to let them starve. The Ostrava newspaper "Nova Svoboda", which reported that it received numerous letters with this complaint from dissatisfied workers and pensioners, declared that the average wage in the country had barely risen in recent years and had by no means kept pace with the reported increase in productivity. Indeed, many work-

ers' wages had even dropped, the paper admitted. It stated that 28 per cent. of all manual and white-collar workers, that is 1.2 millions, drew wages ranging from 600 to 1,200 crowns per month (This compares with the average monthly wage of 1,390 crowns for 1964). The average old-age pension is fixed at 761 crowns, disablement pensions at 644 crowns and widows' pensions at 421 crowns per month. All these allocations are described by the paper as totally inadequate.

Our Oldest Ally

IN Portugal some 286 people were sentenced to imprisonment for political reasons in 49 trials during 1964, which constitutes an average of almost one person per day and one trial per week. Most of the people jailed were commercial, industrial and agricultural workers or miners. They were accused on stereotyped charges of alleged "activities against the regime", sabotage, or "subversive propaganda". In fact, they merely oppose the dictatorial regime of Antonio de Oliveira Salazar, which has ruled Portugal since 1932.

Nottingham Indian workers celebrate

AN enthusiastic rally of 1,000 people met on the occasion of India's National Day, in the Co-op. Education Centre, Nottingham, last Sunday, to celebrate Indian independence, and to organise and protest against racial discrimination. This most successful meeting was organised by the Indian Workers' Association and is an indication of the growing strength of this movement. Present were numerous public figures from the Labour Party and trade unions, artists from London, Southall, Coventry, Leicester and Birmingham, and the famous South African leader Dr. Joseph Dadoo, companion of Nelson Mandela and leader of the South African Indian National Congress.

The speeches, which were at a very high level, were interspersed with a colourful programme of songs, dances and performances of Indian music. The event was presided over by Chanchal Singh. Comments after the meeting from Labour Party workers, Indian workers and West Indians all agreed that the event was a splendid success and a tribute to the political awareness and organisational ability of the Indian community. Needless to say, the local press played down the event.

NAZI WAR CRIMINALS — LOBBY OF M.P.s

AN international delegation, consisting of survivors of concentration camps, will discuss with M.P.s the problems arising out of the decision by the West German Government to cease prosecuting war criminals. The delegation will be received in the House of Commons on Tuesday, March 9th, at 3.0 p.m., in a room booked by Mr. W. Warbey.

The Committee in Defence of Victims of Nazi Persecution is asking all local organisations to send delegates to this meeting. The committee urges people who are concerned about the prospect of Nazi war criminals going scot free to write to their M.P., the Prime Minister and the German Embassy. Accom. for a few nights (before and after the meeting) is needed. Please write to: Mrs. E. Dales, 12 First Avenue, Gillingham, Kent.

ICFTU slates Japan

FOLLOWING a two-week visit to Japan, a panel from the Fact-Finding and Conciliation Commission on Freedom of Association of the International Labour Office left Tokyo late in January 1965. The Commission has been investigating the complaints submitted by a number of Japanese trade unions against the Japanese Government for delaying the ratification of ILO Convention No. 87 on Freedom of Association.

On this occasion Omer Becu, General Secretary of the ICFTU, said "We express our sincere satisfaction at the thorough and conscientious way in which the Committee has engaged itself in its difficult task.

"On the other hand we cannot but state our disappointment at the fact that the Japanese Government, while making certain commitments to the Commission, failed to make such concrete undertakings which could have satisfied the trade unions, with the result that the trade unions did not see a way to accepting the proposals submitted by the Commission.

"An illustration of this failure is the long-drawn-out conflict between the Government and the Japan Teachers' Union (Nikkyoso) which has centred on the refusal of the Government to bargain collectively on a central level. Although the Government has agreed with the view of the Commission that the creation of mutual confidence is necessary to establish a satisfactory labour management relationship, the Government still refuses to engage in collective negotiations with the Teachers' Union on a central level."

Kitson collection

IT has already been reported in *The Week* that the Sheffield AEU District Committee has asked Sheffield shop stewards to support the Kitson Aid Fund. Following on this, Shardlow workers are organising, on a factory basis, a collection to help the DATA-sponsored campaign. Shardlows is one of the most important and highly organised engineering factories in the Sheffield area. It has a great tradition of solidarity for workers engaged in union struggles. It is very good to see this solidarity extended to the struggle against Apartheid.

A letter

SINCE Smethwick the colour issue has taken a turn for the worse. The Labour Government has gone one better than the Tories by tightening up the regulations on immigration, to the extent of humiliating coloured people at their point of disembarkation with mass X-ray units and medical checks.

Noticeable is the silence of the Labour left on this important social issue. For those who believe in a socialist Britain, there should now be a campaign in the labour movement for an act to outlaw racial discrimination based on Fenner Brockway's Bill, coupled with a vigorous demand for the speeding up of Labour's housing programme and legislation against unscrupulous landlords.

The climate is worsening for coloured immigrants and residents alike, and the behaviour of the present Government is helping to worsen this situation still further. Let there be no half measures by the Government: unless we have immediate action the Fascists will take advantage of the situation, aided by the antics of the Tory Party. The injection of racialism into the election field could end with defeat of Labour and the return of a Government which would make a merciless attack on the British working class.

It is in the interests of all workers, coloured and white, to push for immediate action by the Government for vigorous measures against racialism.

Dick Skyers

S.A. Boycott

AT the General Management Committee meeting of Doncaster Labour Party, a motion calling for a concerted international economic boycott of South Africa, to be led by Britain, was passed by an overwhelming majority. Harold Walker, Doncaster's Labour M.P., commented that the majority of the Parliamentary Labour Party was against such action, but he felt that he could not urge anyone to vote against the motion since it would imply that the Government was not willing to consider every measure that might help end Apartheid.

An attempt by Young Socialist delegates to include a clause criticising Mr. Wilson for concluding the present Buccaneer contract was, however, heavily defeated.

Colin Livett

BOOK REVIEW

Yoruba Warfare in the 19th Century

THIS book, by J. F. Ade Ajayi (Professor of History, University of Ibadan) and Robert S. Smith (Lecturer in History, University of Ife), is published by Cambridge University Press in association with the Institute of African Studies, Ibadan.

Although this is not the main purpose of this very good book, "Yoruba Warfare in the 19th Century" explodes the myths and conceptions spread by imperialist apologists concerning pre-colonial Africa.

As the title suggests, the reader is given a factual and excellently documented analysis of the causes, courses and consequences of military conflict between the different Yoruba kingdoms. But it does more than this.

The Yoruba people number several millions. They are to be found not only in their homeland of Western Nigeria, but also throughout West Africa and as far afield as Brazil and Cuba, where their culture exerts a strong influence.

This culture has produced some of the world's masterpieces in sculpture, notably the bronzes and terracottas of Ife. Different kingdoms had sophisticated administrative machines, political, social and economic systems even if monarchical ones and feudalistic ones.

Although the basis of economic life was agriculture, commerce was extensive and far flung. Nor was the slave trade the all important trade, and cause of wars between rival kingdoms, as Victorian moralists pretended in their pratings about 'the white man's mission'.

Although sufficiently factual and well-documented to be an authoritative piece of work for any academic, the lucidity and vividness of its style prevents it from being in any sense a drab book, and it will be of interest to all those wishing to know more of Africa's past.

Brian Simister

Royal Arsenal Co-op. Row continues

FOR the second time within a few months the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies has ruled that the Arsenal Co-operative Society, Britain's third largest society, has acted outside its proper powers in a dispute with the membership. The first dispute was over the appointment of arbitrators to settle disputes between the committee and members.

The latest upset occurred when the committee refused to place a resolution for a boycott of South African goods on the agenda for a members' meeting. This was in spite of the fact that the membership had as recently as 1963 overwhelmingly rejected a recommendation by a Right-wing rules revision committee which would have excluded "political" resolutions.

This new setback for the general committee is encouraging for the more democratically inclined elements in the RACS. The next important event in the society is the election of seven full-time members of the general committee in March. Only a tremendous effort will secure the election of a democratically-minded committee.

Co-operators in the Royal Arsenal area who are out of touch with developments in the society are urged to contact "Co-operative Advance," a progressive pressure group within the RACS, which produces a bulletin regularly and can provide further information and a policy statement. Secretary: W. Fancy, 45 Greenvale Road, London S.E.9 (ELT 3499).

Mr. Brown also alleged that the so-called incomes policy would not mean the end of free collective bargaining. But this is just what it does do. There are a group of highly productive industries, like chemicals, steel and coal, where production per worker is above the average, increasing by more than the "guiding light" of 3½ per cent. per annum. Will the unions in those industries be free to bargain for a wage increase of more than 3½ per cent? Of course not.

J. Henderson

* A letter in the February issue of ASPD Journal.

INCOMES POLICY —

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Another View

AT the Labour Party Conference Mr. George Brown was warmly applauded when he gave voice to one of the oldest fallacies in the repertoire of the advocates of incomes policies. He told the Conference that they could not have planning for higher production, higher investment, higher exports, regional development, full employment, and stable prices and still keep an old-fashioned free-for-all in wages and other personal incomes.

It is high time that this silly and inaccurate analogy was dropped. There is no genuine overall plan for the British economy being elaborated by the Government and I venture to predict there never will be.

There is no plan for higher production in operation. Perhaps, sometime in the future, there may be an attempt to stimulate higher production. In the meantime, it is encouraging the banks to operate a restrictive credits policy which will discourage production. There is no plan for higher exports; not the vestige of a suggestion that the great firms will be organised to export more; nor is

there anything in the offing which suggests that there is to be real planning for stable prices.

Indeed, the situation is the exact opposite of what Mr. Brown indicates. Wages and salary increases will be kept within the straitjacket of the so-called "guiding light" of 3½ per cent. Neither the rise of dividends, profits, or ground rents are to be kept within any such limit at all. It is, in fact, only wages and salaries that are to be planned.

I notice that Mr. Leslie Cannon, of the E.T.U., is wondering what will happen to low-paid workers under an incomes policy. He need not. The lower-paid workers will be left out in the cold. The essence of an incomes policy with regard to wages is to keep them within the "guiding light".

If 3½ per cent. is the "guiding light", then that is the limit for an upward increase of wages. The idea that an incomes policy will hold back the higher-paid workers in order to give the lower-paid something above the 3½ per cent. is an absolute fantasy.