

The Week

**YOUTH
AND
VIETNAM**

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

Vol. 7. No. 8. February 23rd, 1967

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***TRADE UNIONISTS
CHALLENGE M.P.s
ON FREEZE***

8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.7.

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8 Roland Gardens, London, S.W.1. Telephone: 01-834 1234 and 01-834 1235

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WAGE FREEZE: THE STRUGGLE BEGINS

The lobby of Parliament on Tuesday was a great success: thousands of trade unionists from all over Britain came down to London to impress upon their M.P.s the necessity of fighting the wage freeze and anti-trade union legislation. This activity is to be followed by a lobby of the trade union executives on March 2nd and a demonstration and mass meeting on March 12. We shall do all in our power to publicise these two events.

This activity must be seen as both a continuing one and one that escalates. To leave matters at the level of lobby after lobby, or demonstration after demonstration, will only lead to the same kind of frustration as has beset the anti-Vietnam war movement. The movement must set itself specific tasks which can be achieved and which will really matter. The slogan of organising to oust those Labour M.P.s who refuse to fight the wage freeze must be made quite specific.

THE C.I.A. AND BRITAIN

The disclosures about the C.I.A. financing of all kinds of movements and journals have important lessons for this country. Many international organisations are now suspect. Those people who said that the splitting of the international trade union and student movements at the height of the cold war was conceived in Washington have probably been vindicated. Our answer to this should be to start agitating for the re-unification of these movements. This question should be to forefront of conferences this year. A move to unite the world's trade union movement is of especial importance to Britain. As the process of Britain being integrated into the Common Market starts workers, will have to unite on an all-Europe level.

THE MARKET AND LABOUR

So naked is Wilson's attempt to solve the problems of British capitalism - at the expense of the workers and especially the poorly paid - by entering the Common Market, that even a section of the right wing has come out in opposition. This is to be both welcomed and carefully considered. The fact that a man like Jay can be the spokesman for opposition to Britain's entry is proof that a socialist answer to the Common Market discussion is vital. Mere opposition can be chauvinistic and retrograde. Opposition must be based on the eventual forming of a socialist united states of Europe and for unity of the European working class now.

Advertising in The Week: We have had many indications from advertisers that for its cost advertising in the Week is probably one of the most fruitful fields for getting pamphlets and journals sold. Advertising rates are available on application from 8, Roland Gardens, London S.W. 7.

WHY THE FIVE TEXTILE UNIONS LEFT THE LABOUR PARTY

by Pat Jordan

The decision of five small textile unions to leave the Labour Party is serious. The unions concerned, all members of the 86,000-strong United Textile Factory Workers' Association, are concentrated in the Blackburn area. In announcing the decision Mr. John Casson, secretary of Blackburn Textile Trades Federation said yesterday:

"Our intention is to make the strongest possible protest at local level in the hope that the Government might be made aware of our dissatisfaction with their lack of interest and consideration".

The five unions covering 8,000 workers are: The Weavers' Association, Power Loom Overlookers' Association, the Beamers, Twisters and Drawers' Union, and the Textile Warehousemen.

Commenting on the decision, the Times said:

"What has caused this strong outburst of feeling against the Government? It is partly fear of further mill closures, partly disillusionment because Government action on imports has fallen short of the promises made at the last election, and partly anger at being, in the words of one union leader, "fobbed off".

The plain fact is that the total volume of permitted imports has been pitched so high that in a period of recession the burden become too much for the industry to bear.

In their present mood the unions will demand proof of the Government's good faith and will at least expect some check on imports from Portugal which, by their concentration on a narrow range of house-hold textiles, have brought about the closures of some of the most efficient mills in the U.K. industry."

It is quite clear that this situation is only a foretaste of what will come if Britain joins the Common Market. A decision to force through entry without any provision for the affects on big sections of the working class - in fact, one might say directed against the working class - is bound to have big repercussions for the traditional structure of the Labour Party.

We can only hope that a left appears quick enough to head off the acts of despair like this and the decision of the Potteryworkers. Those who have argued against fighting the Wilson Government have a big share of the responsibility for these acts: had a fight been put up it is unlikely that the disaffiliations would have taken place.

FURTHER PICKET ARRESTS AT ARUNDEL FACTORY by Angela Armstrong.

Three more pickets were arrested today at the Roberts Arundel factory. Two were charged with obstruction, and the third with assault on the police, following five picket arrests yesterday.

William Anten, Stockport Labour Councillor, who is president of the Stockport district committee of the Amalgamated Engineering Union was one of those arrested.

The strike started 12 weeks ago when the firm sacked 144 workers in an effort to smash the union organisation. So vicisously anti-trade union is the management that they left the employers' federation in order to avoid meeting the unions. A campaign to get national support will be launched, details will be given next week.

U.S. BALANCE OF PAYMENTS WORSE BECAUSE OF VIETNAM WAR

Preliminary figures for the US balance of payments in 1966, recently released, by the Commerce Department, show that the position is worse than in 1965, and that the build-up in Vietnam completely reversed the improvement which had taken place since 1964. The Vietnam foreign exchange costs amounted to \$700M.

Official gold holdings fell by \$571M and the gold tranche position by \$537M largely because of payment of the gold portion of the increased US subscription to the International Monetary Fund. Against this, holdings of convertible currency, mostly sterling, increased by \$540M. This gave an aggregate decline of \$568M in official reserve assets.

The trade balance, however, was less healthy. Imports rose by 19 per cent to \$25,500M and exports by 11 per cent to \$29,200M. This reduced the trade surplus to \$3,700M from the 1965 figures of \$4,800M.

BOWDEN SAYS EAST OF SUEZ POLICY GOES ON from a special correspondent.

Britain will always maintain sufficient forces in the Pacific area to fulfil all her commitments, Mr. Herbert Bowden, the Commonwealth Secretary, told a Press conference in Melbourne on February 20th.

Mr. Bowden was closely questioned on the second day of his 10-day Australian tour about Britain's East of Suez defensive role. Asked what guarantees Britain could give her Pacific allies from a defence and moral point of view following the withdrawal of troops East of Suez, Mr. Bowden said that the British Government would take no steps which could in any way be regarded as going back on its commitment in the area.

Mr. Bowden said Britain was in close consultation with the Australian and New Zealand Governments on Pacific defence. Talks were being held on a "British fall-back position" - a base somewhere in Australia. Asked if this would be an expensive move, Mr. Bowden said it would all depend on the size of force kept in Singapore.

U.K. FALLS IN SHIP LEAGUE from an Economics Correspondent

World shipbuilding output reached a new record for the third year running in 1966, Lloyd's Register's latest Annual Summary shows this week. At 14,307,000 tons, it was 2,100,000 tons more than in 1965.

Japan's fantastic growth continued unabated with a 1,300,000 ton increase to 6,700,000 tons: about 47 per cent of total world tonnage. She beat her nearest rival, west Germany, by 5,500,000 tons. Britain, with output static at 1,100,000 tons, fell from third to fourth place, following Germany (1,200,000 tons) and Sweden (1,200,000 tons).

Next in order came Norway (537,401 tons), France (442,626 tons), and Italy (442,055 tons). Farther down the scale were Denmark (411,443 tons), Spain (398,056 tons), Poland (387,340 tons), and Yugoslavia (275,657 tons).

RALEIGH CHIEF PESSIMISTIC From a Special Correspondent

Mr. Leslie Roberts, chairman and managing director of Raleigh Industries, told members of the British Cycle and Motor Cycle Industries Association in Coventry on February 14th, that they were meeting in a time of acute national depression for the industry and there might be worse times to come. They had a few short years in which to put their house in order and to make the industry more efficient.

ATTEMPTS TO HINDER NEW ORLEANS KENNEDY INVESTIGATION from a U.S. reader

Mr. Jim Garrison, the New Orleans District Attorney who is conducting his own investigations into the Kennedy Assassination, has quickly rebuffed suggestions that he should hand over to the Federal Government all his information on the case. To Representative Gerald Ford, who was a member of the Warren Commission and who made this suggestion, Mr. Garrison replied "I'm running this investigation, not the President, nor the Attorney-General If they want to help me, I'll welcome their help, but I'm not reporting to anybody."

Mr. Garrison's claims to proof of a conspiracy must shake still further any public faith still remaining in the widely discredited Warren Commission Report. The American lawyer, Mark Lane, whose own book "Rush to Judgement" did much to focus attention on the contradictions and inconsistencies of the Commission's procedures and findings, has said of this new development: "It is extremely important It is possible that it will break the entire case wide open." He referred to the clues mentioned by Mr. Garrison as having appeared, without a follow-up, in the Warren Commission Report. "The F.B.I. had it and they did not do anything about it", he added.

The theme of Mr. Garrison's charges is that the assassination was the culmination of a conspiracy emanating from New Orleans where Oswald is reported to have been in contact with two Cubans a few months before the President's visit to Dallas. According to Mr. Lane, Oswald, together with the two Cubans, went to Dallas in September 1963, when they met the anti-Castro leader, Sylvia Odio. Oswald was quoted as saying that Kennedy should have been assassinated after the abortive Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba and that it would have been easy.

It is consistent with the pressure on witnesses which has always surrounded the F.B.I. investigation that these new developments are already running into difficulties. Mr. Jim Garrison has had to freeze the account from which his investigation is being paid, and it is reported that cheques drawn in favour of the investigators have been stopped. These actions were the direct result of the New Orleans newspaper disclosure, last Friday, that enquiries were in progress. Said Mr. Garrison at a subsequent press conference, "Arrests are now almost certainly months away, although they were probably just a few weeks away until the disclosures by local newspapers." He admitted that the investigation was now in financial trouble, but said that he might consider private financing.

47 CONGRESSMEN HAVE KIN ON PAYROLL

based on AP report.

At least 47 members of Congress have relatives on the congressional pay roll - some at salaries topping \$ 20,000 a year - a survey showed on February 20th. This assortment, ranging from wives and children to an aunt and a grandnephew - and even including two mothers-in-law - was turned up in an office-by-office check and confirmed by an examination of payroll records.

The highest paid of the relative-employees is Richard W. Yarborough, \$22,000 a year legislative assistant to his father, Sen. Ralph W. Yarborough, D., Texas. A congressman's salary is \$30,000 annually. The younger Yarborough is an attorney.

Under the auspices of the newly-formed Committee for Solidarity with the Victims of Repression in Peru, about 100 Londoners took part in a march to the Peruvian Embassy on Sunday, 19th February. Marchers carried banners demanding the release of Hugo Blanco, imprisoned leader of the Peruvian peasants, now threatened with the death penalty; an amnesty for all political prisoners in Peru; and an end to the police and military oppression of the labour movement in that country.

The march was preceded by a well-attended meeting at Marble Arch with Bill Molloy, Labour MP for Ealing North, as the main speaker. His fiery Welsh oratory drew a vivid picture of the servile conditions under which the peasants of Peru were living and toiling. He described the achievements of Hugo Blanco and his comrades in organising the peasants and how this won for them the hatred of the feudal ruling class. It was because Hugo Blanco taught the people to fight for themselves that he was now in prison and why the prosecution was demanding the death penalty.

The marchers with their banners, attracted a good deal of attention. Casual passers-by wanted to know "Who is Hugo Blanco?" Some joined the march as it proceeded along Park Lane and Knightsbridge to the Embassy in Sloane Street. Signatures were readily obtained for a petition to be handed in to the Ambassador and to be sent to the President of Peru.

Bill Molloy and Mrs. Harold Laski led the deputation but there was no-one in the Embassy to receive it. Bill Molloy, in a short address, explained that, rather than simply push the petition through the letter-box, he would personally arrange a definite meeting with the Ambassador to present it formally.

LETTER FROM THE LONDON SHOP STEWARDS' DEFENCE COMMITTEE

"Our committee has been in existence for a year. During this time we have seen the introduction of far-reaching anti-trade union legislation with further steps being planned; the Government's economic policies in the form of a wage freeze have taken an alarmingly anti-working class turn; and finally the courts are being used increasingly against striking trade unionists.

We have tried to do our part in combatting these disastrous policies and have been able to provide assistance in particular cases where requested. By means of meetings and pamphlets we have publicised the case against the wage freeze. The pamphlet, 'Incomes Policy, Legislation and Shop Stewards', published by the committee has sold over 9000 copies. Our latest venture, the publication of a bi-monthly magazine, Resistance, provides a means of exchanging experience and ideas between factories and industries.

We hope the efforts of the committee have been of value to the movement and would now like to appeal for your active and financial support. Donations are urgently needed to enable us to carry on. Please raise these questions with your union branch or shop stewards' committee with a view to a regular order for a number of copies of Resistance: this would be most helpful." Chris Davison, 83 Greyhound Road, London, N.17.

High rate of Negro deaths in Vietnam

The Times on February 16 had an interesting article which gave important information about the rate of Negro casualties in Vietnam. The key passages read:

"...Roughly speaking, about one American out of 10 is Negro, but in 1965 12.5% of all servicemen in Vietnam, and 14.6% of the battle dead were Negroes. In the first 11 months of 1966, the proportion of Negro Servicemen there had dropped to 11%, but their death rate had risen to 17.8%. A breakdown of available statistics shows that their death rate in the Army is proportionally much higher in this land war. Here is the table provided by the Defence Department. The proportion of Negroes in each service is given in the first column, and of combat deaths in the second:

Army	14.5 per cent	22.4 per cent
Navy	6.4 " "	Nil
Marine Corps	7.5 " "	10.8 " "
Air Force	11.3 " "	3 out of 38

"The rate of Negro voluntary reenlistment does not explain the high casualties of course. As every American knows, the draft system is most unfair. Negroes do not suffer because of their colour, but because they are more often poor. Fewer of them go to university where they can apply for deferment of military service. Once inside the armed services, they are more likely to be riflemen because they do not have the skills for technical, clerical and other non-combatant jobs.....The Negroes are not so very different from the poor Irishmen, Scotsmen, "Geordies" and cockneys who joined the British Army...."

U.S. puts foreign newspapermen under military control

There is a rare old rumpus going on in the newspaper world of Vietnam - On February 15 the United States mission in Saigon brought in a regulation bringing U.S. civilians and "third country" nationals under military jurisdiction. It took this step after denying its intention of doing so. It based this regulation which covers British, Australian and Korean troops and civilians - and many others - on a Congress ruling that in time of war the U.S. Army has broad powers over civilians "serving with or accompanying" military forces. Those affected include thousands of construction workers, seamen, correspondents and even entertainers. After the announcement there was a stormy press conference, during which British, French and Japanese correspondents objected in the strongest terms. According to press reports, both the Australian and British embassies have cabled home for instructions and legal advice.

U.S. scientists to probe chemical warfare

A special committee of American scientists is going to Vietnam next month to examine the effects of chemical warfare weapons. The committee, which is to be appointed by the board of directors of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, is also to visit Fort Detrick, the U.S. Army's chemical and biological warfare research centre at Frederick, Maryland. Last week, over 5,000 American scientists protested to Johnson over the use of chemical and biological warfare in Vietnam.

Very strong Trade Union support has been received for the new branch of our Campaign which has been formed in Burnley - the Burnley and District Vietnam Solidarity Committee. The sponsors of the committee, who signed as individuals, are:

Mr. L. McNamee J.P., Secy. N.U.G.M.W.
Mr. T.G. Tattersall, Chairman N.U.G.M.W.
Mr. M. Noble, B.A.
Coun. A. Robinson, Secy. A.E.U.
Mr. B. Holburn, Shop Convenor, A.E.U.
Coun. Mrs. M. Tomlinson
Coun. J. Wilson
Mr. A. Shaw, Secy., Nelson and Burnley Weavers Ass.
Mr. H. Keene, Secy. T. & G.W.U.
Mr. A. Park, Shop Convenor, N.U.G.M.W.
Mr. J. Entwistle, Shop Steward, A.E.U.
Mr. J.T. Normanton, President Nelson Weavers Ass.

The Committee's Aims are:

1. To publicise the plight of the Vietnamese people in their just struggle for self determination, and to campaign for support for the inclusion of the National Liberation Front in any peace negotiations.
2. To campaign for:
 - (a) an end to the British Government's complicity in Vietnam
 - (b) an immediate cessation of United States aggression in Vietnam
 - (c) the withdrawal of all foreign troops.

As their first major activity the Committee have organised a Vietnam "Teach-In" on Friday, February 24th at the Miner's Club, Plumbe Street, Burnley at 7.15 p.m. Trade Union officials, at least one local M.P. and representatives from local youth organisations will be taking part. Readers in the Burnley area should get in touch with the acting secretary, Lesley Marsden, 3, Telford Street, Burnley.

FURTHER SUPPORT FOR VIETNAM FREE SPEECH CAMPAIGN

Support being received from Members of Parliament for the Free Speech Petition is very encouraging. Signatures received up to the 22nd February include:

Frank Allaun, Ronald Atkins, James Bennett, Syd Bidwell, Robert Davies, James Dickens, Bob Edwards, Andrew Faulds, Eric Heffer, Arthur Lewis, Stan Newens, Stan Orme, Peter Jackson, David Kerr, Brian Parkyn, Ernest Perry, John Rankin and Ben Whitaker.

A number of M.P's have offered to collect signatures and we expect the Campaign to gather considerably increased support in the coming week. Petitions have been sent to all Labour and Liberal M.P's as well as to a number of Conservatives.

Signatures from academics are also coming in at an increased rate. Those universities represented so far include: Birmingham, Bristol, Cambridge, Durham, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Hull, Liverpool, London - Imperial College, Birkbeck, Bedford, and University College, Leeds, Leicester, Nottingham, Oxford, Reading, Sheffield and Southampton.

Among the increased Trade Union support received in the last week has been £1.0.Od. donation towards the Campaign from the David Brown Tractors Limited Shop Stewards Committee (Huddersfield).

A PROGRAMME FOR EUROPEAN YOUNG SOCIALISTS

The following is the text of a statement which has been issued as a draft to be discussed at the conference of European young socialist organisations which is being held in Brussels on March 11/12. Information about the conference can be obtained by writing to: Federation Nationale des Jeunes Gardes Socialistes, Boite Postale 630, Brussels 1, Belgium.

THE VIETNAM WAR

1. A large protest movement against American imperialism and supporting the Vietnamese revolution presently exists in the world. The vanguard youth organisations must play an important part in that movement, but it is necessary to co-ordinate their activities. It is for this purpose that the Spring Conference, 1967 is convened on the initiative of the National Federation of Belgium Young Socialists (FNJGS). The FNJGS considers that one of the main weaknesses of the movement in support of the Vietnamese revolution is precisely the absence of co-ordination. The present text, the general line having already formed the subject of a prior discussion during the meeting that followed the International Anti-militarist demonstration of the 15th October, 1966 in Liege, constitutes the basis for convening this conference.
2. The struggle of the people of South Vietnam against American imperialism and the ruling class of Saigon is not only a struggle of international importance: Vietnam is the key to the world situation, the decisive test of American imperialism against the colonial revolution and against the whole labour movement. At this time, facing one another is the international capitalist alliance directed by the American government (NATO, SEATO, Treaty of Manilla) and the Vietnamese revolution which is an integral part of the world-wide socialist revolution.
3. The victory of the National Liberation Front (NLF) over the American aggressors and their accomplices would stimulate the revolutionary movements of the world still suffering under colonial oppression. The purpose of our support is not for negotiations with the aggressor, but to contribute to the victory of the NLF.
4. Conversely, the success of the American aggression against the Democratic Republic of Vietnam and the defeat of the NLF in the south would endanger victories won from capitalism in long, bitter struggles. The defensive potentialities of the Socialist countries as a whole would be weakened by it. The peoples Republics of Asia would be directly threatened and, in particular, the democratic Republic of Korea and the People's Republic of China.
5. Therefore the American imperialistic intervention in Vietnam is the focal point of the general confrontation between the oppressed peoples of the world and international capitalism. It aims to impede any rupture in the actual Status Quo in favour of the revolutionary movement.
6. The duty, therefore, of the Vanguard youth organisations is to support in the most adequate way and with the most effective means the struggle of the Vietnamese people. Consequently any campaign of support must include the demand for the unconditional and immediate withdrawal of the imperialist forces, a demand which is included in the "5 points" of the NLF and in the "4 points" of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam.
7. A united front for assistance and action must be formed, including firstly the labour movement and the socialist countries, without exception. Every step of the imperialist escalation must be opposed with the world-wide escalation of the anti-imperialist struggle and with material assistance to the Vietnamese revolution.

The world-wide escalation of the anti-imperialist struggle primarily implies in Western Europe the escalation of the struggle against NATO.

THE STRUGGLE AGAINST NATO

1. The crisis of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation presents an opportunity for the labour vanguard to specify its political attitude towards NATO.
2. NATO, created in 1949 by the Treaty of Washington, is the military expression of the solidarity of the principal capitalist countries of Europe and North America, its economic expression being the OECD (Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development).
3. This alliance was constituted to prevent any change in the proportion of class forces in the European capitalist states, and to strengthen the potentialities of aggression of these states in opposition to the block formed by the socialist countries and therefore calling into question again territorial status quo defined at Yalta and at Potsdam in 1945 and creating a tighter co-operation between the European ruling classes who continue to exercise their domination over the colonized peoples of Africa.
4. The military and economic superiority of the U.S.A. in the alliance results in the U.S.A. determining the politics and the functioning of the alliance.
5. France, in regaining her power over military questions, has weakened the alliance which was conceived to work in an integrated manner and thereby implying that military questions are removed from the control of its partners. This withdrawal is the result of the place taken in the world by French capitalism. This is valued in the proportion that it establishes an objective weakening of the alliance in which the American bourgeoisie constitutes the central point.
6. Considering the ties between NATO, SEATO and CENTO, every fight against NATO becomes opposition to the aggressions perpetrated by the USA and her allies against revolutionary movements.
7. Consequently, the youth organizations taking part in this conference consider that the struggle against NATO is a struggle for the uni-lateral disarmament of their own bourgeoisie; they feel they must systematically avoid equating NATO, the Treaty of aggression, and the Warsaw Pact, founded in 1955 as an answer to the rearming of the West German bourgeoisie.
8. The possibility--completely theoretical if it is not considered in the framework of an anti-capitalist struggle--of dissolving NATO or of withdrawing from it in 1969, provides an opportunity of posing right now, as a real question, the problem of withdrawal from the alliance in all the member states.
9. As to slogans for a campaign against NATO we consider as essential due to their popularity among the soldiers, slogans which demand the withdrawal of foreign troops from one's own territory.
10. In any national campaign against NATO it is essential to denounce the direct or indirect complicity with the American aggression in Vietnam implied in belonging to NATO and the Atlantic solidarity.

N.A.L.S.O. EXECUTIVE EXPLAINS ITS POSITION

from a NALSO correspondent

The following statement was issued by the N.A.L.S.O. Executive Committee on February 12th. It is considered to be a necessary compliment to the N.A.L.S.O. release The Week published on February 9th.

"The attempts by the Labour leaders to stifle N.A.L.S.O. is part of their drive against the conditions of all students and their attacks on the wages and conditions of the working class. Whatever other issues are brought in to confuse the matter, we must be perfectly clear that this is really what is involved.

The policies of the Labour government are directly opposed to the interests of all students in Britain. The government proposes to solve the problems of sterling and the balance of payments crisis by policies which include cuts in education expenditure, notably on student grants. It has long been known that conditions in many training colleges are appalling, that the binary system produces a second class education for the majority of students and that the grants system produces a great deal of hardship and unfairness. The Labour government promised many changes in these things. Yet Crosland now says that students are too well off. The plan to raise the fees of overseas students from £70 to £250 distinguishes itself by the racist undertones that so often appear in the policies of this government. These policies represent the thin end of the wedge for a general offensive by the government against the conditions of all students.

"We fight the policies of the government on these questions not because we think that students should be privileged or pampered. We take this stand because a decent education, decent conditions for work and study and active encouragement of everyone to benefit from educational facilities is part of the sort of society that we want to see. The Labour government is clearly doing nothing to support these ends. That is why we are forced to oppose it.

"N.A.L.S.O. strongly believes that this government has turned its back on the mass of its supporters in the working class and socialist movement. It has decided to pursue policies which are clearly in the interests of the owners of wealth and against those of students and workers. Wage freezing and higher fees for overseas students are closely linked measures. The promises on which the Labour government was elected can only be carried out by an all-out attack on the owners of wealth and privilege. It is doing the opposite.

"The Labour leaders are determined to prevent any real opposition to their policies from being voiced and organised. In the past they have tolerated N.A.L.S.O.'s verbal protests. Hardly any of the grant which has now been so peremptorily cut off has been spent on the building of a political movement among students. Most of it has gone on uninspiring and unread Labour Party literature, or on the travelling expenses of committee members whom it was hoped would be attracted into the Labour Party machine. All too often in the past, the possibility of losing the grant has been used by the leaders of N.A.L.S.O. as an excuse for organising real action. A struggle for socialist

policies has thus been prevented, as the Labour leaders wanted. We intend to campaign on the policies agreed at the Special Conference in January. We refuse to be blackmailed by Transport House into going back on our principles.

"Left wing M.P.'s in the past have expressed the hope that N.A.L.S.O. would support them in their struggle against Wilson's policies. We express our full support for them in their struggle against leaders who have betrayed every principle that the Labour Party stands for. We, in turn, call on these M.P.'s to oppose the National Executive Committee's attack on NALSO.

"The reason we are forced to come out so strongly against the policies of the government is because it seems clear to us that the Labour leaders are betraying the principles on which the Labour Party was founded and the policies for which it should stand. We believe that we are defending these principles by fighting the Labour government. We place ourselves firmly on the side of those thousands of angry students who demonstrated against the government on February 1st, and on the side of the millions of workers who are being forced to fight the government for higher wages and improved conditions. That is why N.A.L.S.O. is giving full support to the February 21st Lobby of Parliament calling for Left unity against Wilson, for the repeal of the Prices and Incomes Act, for an end to unemployment, against increases in overseas student fees and for higher grants and the nationalisation of the basic industries. We should like to see those left M.P.'s who have supported us in the past give a lead in this struggle by demanding the resignation of the Wilson government and its replacement by a socialist administration.

"We call on all workers and socialists to support those students who will be on the February 21st lobby on the demands for higher grants and against the proposal to raise overseas student fees. We also call on all our members to support the day of protest on these questions on February 22nd. We appeal for financial support in this campaign and urge discussion on all of these questions faced by student socialists as a preparation for the biggest-ever N.A.L.S.O. annual conference in Manchester on 3-6th April. The N.A.L.S.O. E.C. is eager to send speakers to any clubs who wish to discuss any of the questions raised in the statement."

(Approved 12th February, 1967).

CEYLON STUDENTS TO STRIKE?

from a special correspondent

Ceylon students, through their organisations, have formulated a programme of 47 demands covering every aspect of student life. They are threatening to strike unless the Government meets these demands. Their biggest problems is the lack of bursaries in Ceylon. Education is free, but students have to find the money to pay for books, board and lodging. About 90% of all students have applied for bursaries, but all the Government has done is to make an appeal for public donations and talk about running a sweepstake. Another idea that they are playing around with is granting loans from the state-owned "people's banks." These would have to be repaid within five years of the student finding employment. This, of course, is not a very popular idea with the students and has if anything made them more angry.

I have just read the text of Fidel Castro's speech given at the meeting commemorating the eighth anniversary of the Cuban revolution and I think that readers of The Week will be interested to see what he had to say about Che Guevara:

"In the commemoration of this anniversary, we have in mind the memory of dear comrades like Camilo (applause), whose legendary portrait has presided over this meeting, and Major Guevara (applause) whose pictures have also presided over this celebration we send our special message of warmth and love, because it is something we feel very deeply, to Major Ernesto Guevara and his comrades, wherever they may be! (ovation). The imperialists have killed Che many times and in many places (hissing), but we are expecting that one day, where imperialism least expects it, a battle-hardened, healthy, fighting Major Ernesto Guevara will arise from his ashes like the phoenix (prolonged applause); and that some day we will again have very concrete news from Che (prolonged applause).

The issue of Gramma which figured this speech had a cartoon by the famous Cuban artist Nuez which showed an American eagle exclaiming, "Holy Smokes! The phoenix!" when it discovered Che shooting at him from a mountain top.

Also of significance is what Castro had to say about the Vietnam war:

"We have talked a great deal about Viet Nam, we have often analysed all that the heroic struggle in Viet Nam means (Shouts of 'Long live Viet Nam!'), what Viet Nam means for the world and for the liberation movements and for all the people harassed by imperialism: we have said that the battle in Viet Nam is being waged for all humanity, and that Viet Nam, victoriously and heroically standing up to the most powerful, aggressive and hated imperialists in the world, is also waging a battle for us.

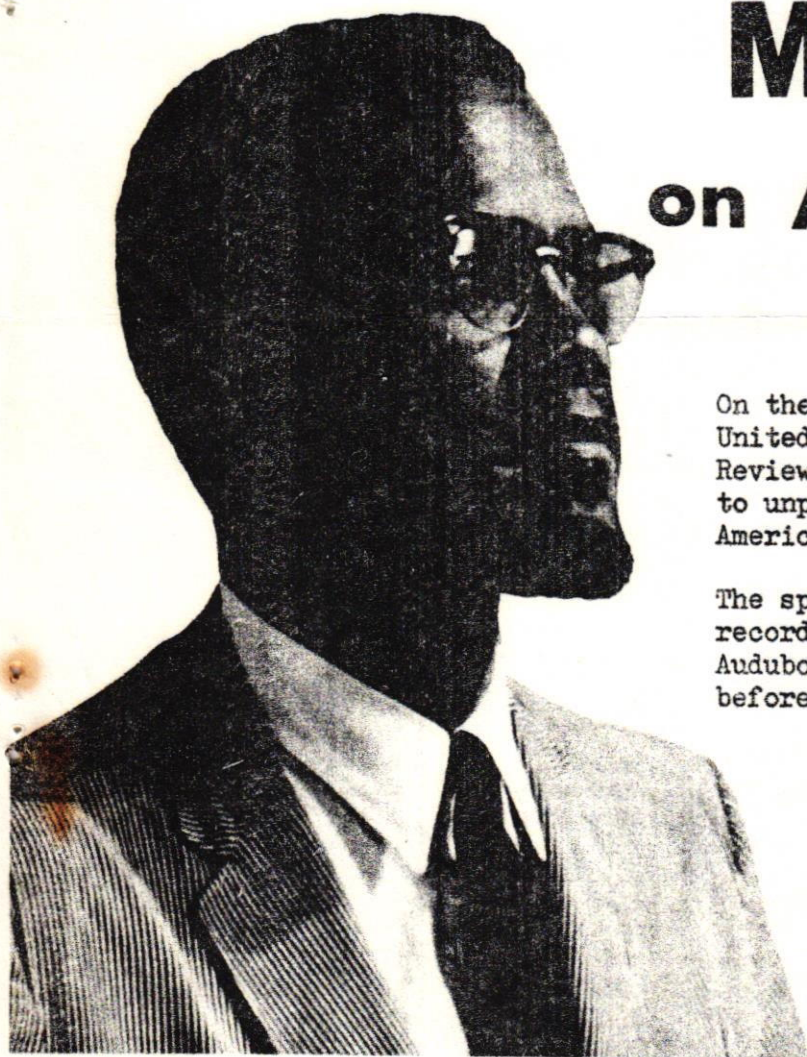
"The heroic struggle of the Vietnamese people has been creating a formidable political consciousness the world over, that has reduced the prestige of imperialism to the lowest level in all history. And this loss of prestige has been directly proportionate to the escalation of the war, and to the most recent imperialist crime of bombing the capital of Viet Nam. Viet Nam has rallied sympathy throughout the world, it has rallied the sharpest minds and the most radical pronouncements, such as those of Bertrand Russell and of Jean-Paul Sartre, and hundreds of other intellectuals in Europe, in Latin America, and everywhere in the world.

"It is not necessary for us to reiterate our fervent solidarity with Viet Nam, because it is something so natural and logical for a country such as ours, also threatened with similar perils, to feel the most profound solidarity with Viet Nam. For our country, which recognises that imperialism is the enemy of all the peoples, this bond with Viet Nam is facing a life and death struggle, a decisive struggle which is growing in depth and intensity.

"For this reason, rather than continuing with words, we would like to make a gesture that will say it all: that we dedicate this year to Viet Nam (Applause). We are going to call this year 'The Year of Heroic Viet Nam'. (Prolonged applause) This is what we propose to you: to call 1967 'The Year of Heroic Viet Nam.' (Everyone present raises his hand). (Prolonged Applause)."

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Malcolm X on Afro-American History



On the occasion of Negro History Week in the United States, the International Socialist Review devotes a special issue to the hitherto unpublished speech by Malcolm X on Afro-American History.

The speech has been transcribed from a tape recording made on January 24th, 1965 at the Audubon Ballroom in New York just a few weeks before his assassination.

The Malcolm X speech is published with an introduction by George Breitman, editor of the book MALCOLM X SPEAKS and author of the new work THE LAST YEAR OF MALCOLM X : THE EVOLUTION OF A REVOLUTIONARY.

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