

# The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
Vol 8 No 15 October 10th 1967

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*tribute*

*to*

*Che*

# AFTER

# SCARBORO'

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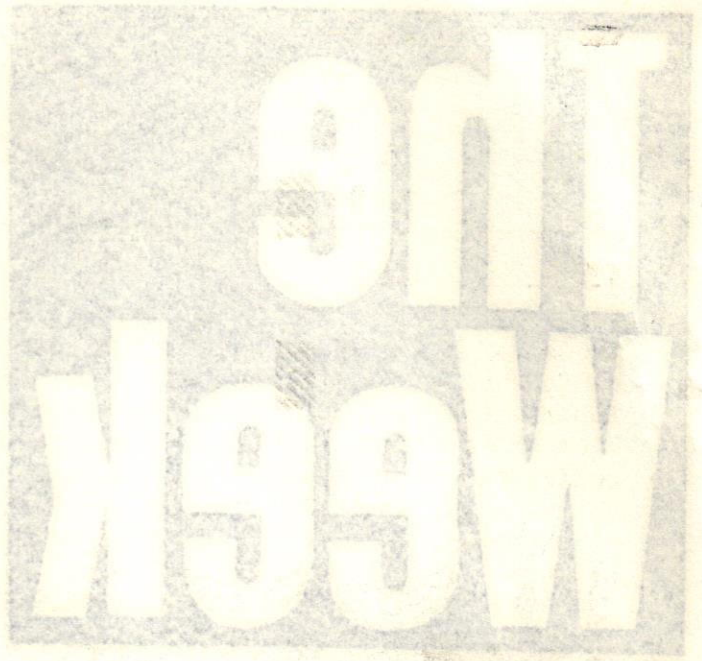
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Vol 8 No 15 October 1977

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## AFTER SCARBOROUGH

For the left as a whole, Scarborough was a disappointment. Although expectations varied, most tendencies and journals were confident that the Labour Party conference would following the TUC in voting against Government policy on most important issues. In fact, the Government was defeated on only one major issue, Vietnam, and came through with big majorities on two crucial questions, economic policy and the Common Market. Enough has been said about the mechanics of the voting - the switch by the NUM and Post Office Workers, etc. - to make clear how it happened. Not enough has been said about why it happened. This is a subject to which we will be returning in major commissioned articles. However, everyone from the newest of new delegates to Nora Beloff and other commentators has agreed that two things characterised the conference: firstly, lack of a real fight by the left, and secondly, the lack of meaningful alternative policies to those of the present leadership. Until these two things change we can expect no better than we achieved at Scarborough.

We think, however, that it would be wrong to be pessimistic: Scarborough was by no means a defeat for the left and there are other encouraging signs. The fighting spirit of sections of the working class - the dockers, motor car workers, etc. - is on the upsurge. We can confidently predict that the tendency for the number of working days lost in industrial disputes will no longer be on the decline. On the contrary, the tendency will be for a big increase. If the left links itself with these struggles we have the perspective of re-staffing and re-equipping the workers organisations. Likewise, the one significant victory at Scarborough must be used to the full. The left wing of the Labour Party must integrate itself fully in the various anti-Vietnam war activities - this is its only chance to win the allegiance of the thousands of young people spurred into action over Vietnam.

Politically, the left must resist the enticing temptation of abandoning Labour Party struggle. Those who "buried" the Labour Party at Scarborough should examine a few figures. They should compare the number of people they had on their tiny demonstration with the number of people inside that conference. Those who would "bury" the Labour Party in political terms should stop and think. They too should examine some figures. It will be interesting to compare the vote of the Communist Party at Gorton, fighting on a good reformist - if not revolutionary - policy, with that of the Labour Party, fighting on a policy of wage freeze. The remarkable thing will be how many continue to vote Labour after all the double crosses and betrayals. The Labour Party has been "buried" many times before. One has only to look back at past issues of Labour Monthly (especially those after the 1931 General Election) to read several funeral orations. We want to bury right wing social democracy - but this cannot be done verbally. Only when a decisive section of the working class has lost completely its illusions in right wing social democracy and - most important - sees a real and viable alternative will funeral services be in order. Until then we must work with might and main to build a left inside the Labour Party. Soberly assessed, Scarborough can be seen as a step in that direction.

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MERSEYSIDE DOCKERS STAND FIRM

from Pat Brain

The strike of the Liverpool dockers now entering its third week has surprised the Labour Government and the port employers by its degree of solidarity. The result has been the extension of the strike to the London docks once again.

There are now 18,000 Dockers on strike. The London dockers after working under the new decasualisation system for a few days and having the experience of the increased powers of the port employers over their jobs and in many cases receiving a cut in pay, have now joined the Merseyside strikers in their determinative struggle against the combined Government and employers offensive, aimed at reducing their standard and union rights. The trade union movement as a whole must back the dockers in this fight and the attempt of the bosses to use the Government in any open intervention to smash the strike must be resisted vigorously.

The question that screams out for an answer is why the hell is the Government utilizing their position to introduce a system of rationalisation which strengthens the private ownership of the ports. The demand that must be raised by the men, if it is to gain in this conflict, is nationalisation of the docks and following logically from this: workers' control. Under workers' control the problem of redundancy caused by increased mechanisation can be met by reducing the hours of the working week at the same take home pay.

PORTERS STRIKE FOR MORE PAY

from Mike Martin.

About 30 porters at the Lucas furniture works at Bow, East London, voted overwhelmingly to continue their unofficial strike in support of their demand for a pay rise of 6d an hour. The porters walked out following a lunch-time meeting on Tuesday, when it became clear that the company was unwilling to discuss the matter seriously. Officials from N.U.F.T.O. and A.S.W., urged the men to return to work so that talks could begin. However, the porters believe that the intransigence of the management rules out effective talks, and that in the absence of a firm offer, the strike must continue. It has been a bone of contention at the factory for many years that the porters rate of pay has lagged behind that of journeymen who are on a bonus scheme and who benefit from increased production, whilst porters do not. Work has virtually ceased at the works, which produces office furniture on contract. Lucas Ltd., have large contracts with a number of public authorities, including Sussex University, B.O.A.C., and the Central Electricity Generating Board.

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NOTE: Of interest to Socialist in the Midlands:  
The first issue of Nottingham Voice\* is now available from,  
41, Bramcote Drive, Beeston, Nottingham.

ALSO: October Issue of Humber-side Voice\* with articles  
on: Unemployment, Docks, Vietnam, etc. available from  
42, Pearson Park, Hull.

\* Subscription (in each case) is 9/- a year post free, or 9d per sample copy.

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Victimisation at Vauxhalls.

Messages of support have flooded in for Arthur Leary, National Union of Vehicle Builders union official, since he was dismissed by the union's executive last Monday. He has asked union members at the Luton works not to take sympathetic strike action. At an emergency meeting, the Luton district committee of the NUVB decided not to take part in any further pay talks with the company unless Mr. Leary is present as their representative. They have also sent a telegram to Alf Roberts, NUVB general secretary, saying they would not accept Mr. Leary's dismissal and still recognised him as East Midlands area organiser. Vauxhall Joint Works Committee has passed a resolution calling for his reinstatement as a member of the negotiating team. Local workers declare that Arthur Leary's sacking was a direct result of his steadfast support for Vauxhall workers in the current pay negotiations. The actual charge against him is that he circulated a document among delegates in his area which contained criticism of the union's leadership. Mr. Leary said that the executive knew of the document's existence when it was produced before the union's rules revision meeting earlier this year.

Second Stockport Week Planned.

A second one-day general strike in the North West is being planned following the breakdown of discussions about the procedure for the return to work of the men involved in the Roberts Arundel dispute. Last month the firm agreed to rehire the men on a progressive basis as the work built up. However, they have consistently refused to give a firm date for their re-engagement and it has become obvious that this was merely a ruse to get the factory operating again.

New Militancy Among Bank Staff.

More than 300 bank employees attended a meeting of the National Union of Bank Employees in Birmingham last Monday to discuss grievances with their managements. These include lack of national negotiating machinery, the "insult" of a 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ % pay rise from the Midland Bank and the demand for a five-day week. A past-president of the union, Mr. D. Ossie Davies, said that bank employees have undersold themselves. They satisfy 90% of the public they serve but are taken for granted by the management. The staff association which operates in individual banks to negotiate with the management are, in fact, instruments of the management, he said. If called upon, bank staffs should be ready to rally behind the union and strike for their demands.

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WORKERS'

CONTROL

The Report of the 5th. Workers' Control Conference, 1967

Edited by Tony Topham is now available at 10/- per copy p.p.

From: C.S.E., 1, Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, HULL.

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## DEATH PENALTY DEMANDED FOR HUGO BLANCO

Le'Monde reported on October 9th that the death penalty is required by the Prosecutor of the Peru Supreme Military Court against the peasant union leader Hugo Blanco who has come under the jurisdiction of the Court having been charged with murder, sedition and acts against private property.

Hugo Blanco who directed a movement of peasant revolt in the South Eastern zone of the country had already been condemned by Preliminary Tribunal to 24 years in prison, having made an appeal against this sentence, he will be judged in the final instance by a Supreme Military Court which will try his case in public hearing beginning October 10th.

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## TRIBUTE TO CHE GUEVARA

As we go to press the evidence seems to be accumulating that it was Che who was killed in Bolivia. We await further information, and hope that the reports are wrong. We will wait a while before we write an obituary and appreciation but let it be said that we consider Che Guevara to be one of the great revolutionary figures on a world and historical scale. If he is dead his ideas will not die with him and long after everyone has forgotten the name of Barrientos that of Che will be an inspiration. If this news is true we will, as Mao once said under very different circumstances, "turn sorrow into strength." Several activities are already planned which will take place regardless of what news we get from Bolivia.

Firstly: there will be a TRIBUTE TO CHE GUEVARA section on the October 22nd demonstration, in which portraits of Che will be carried. Full details in next week's issue.

Secondly, there will be a TRIBUTE TO CHE GUEVARA meeting on Tuesday October 24th at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall, Fitzroy Square, commencing at 7.30pm. Fuller details will be announced later. The meeting is organised by the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation.

Thirdly, there will be a SOLIDARITY MARCH TO THE CUBAN EMBASSY to pledge our support for the Cuban revolutionary state and the Latin American revolution. This will most likely take place after the above meeting in the form of a torch-light procession.

Fourthly, there has been already and there will be further PROTEST DEMONSTRATIONS OUTSIDE THE BOLIVIAN EMBASSY.

These plans are provisional and subject to change in light of further circumstances but of one thing let us have no doubt: we pledge our support for the lifelong work of Che and will do all in our power to further it.

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### "A COMMON ASPIRATION:

THE OVERTHROW OF IMPERIALISM, UNITES CUBA WITH AFRICA AND ASIA."

CHE GUEVARA'S address to the Afro-Asian Economic Conference in Algiers, 1965.

This important speech has recently been published in English by the B.R.P.F.  
1/3d post paid from 49, Rivington Street, E.C.1.

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The Algerian experience of self-management (autogestion) created great interest among socialists during the years 1962-65. Yet since the Boumedienne coup of 19th June 1965 there has been a long silence on the future of the experiment, accompanied by a general reluctance to analyse the Boumedienne regime in anything but the crudest terms as yet another African military coup. This article attempts to show how socialist ideas in Algeria have developed in two separate directions: the technocratic, central control ideology of Boumedienne, and the workers' control based ideology of the union.

At independence in July 1962 almost all the 1,000,000 European colonists, representing most of the entrepreneurs, administrators, technicians and skilled workers, left Algeria. Faced with the closure of many of the factories and big colonial, agricultural estates, the workers formed management committees in an attempt to keep production going. This was largely a spontaneous movement, aided only by the union - Union Generale des Travailleurs Algeriens (UGTA) and some FLN militants. This situation was legalised by Ben Bella in March 1963 and autogestion became one of the basic tenets of 'Algerian socialism'.

The left abroad misguidedly judged Ben Bella, on external appearances, as a militant socialist. In the three years of his rule he became isolated from most of the power groups in the country, playing one off against another in an attempt to weaken them all. The UGTA, broken in early 1963 took time to recover; the FLN, evolving neither as a mass nor as an avant-garde party, became a mechanism for his personal power; only the Army remained. Boumedienne and the army, having placed Ben Bella in power, had always remained behind the throne. In 1965 it became obvious that Ben Bella was manoeuvring to oust army men from the government, aiming to bolster his exposed position with a staged reconciliation with exiled right-wing figures like Ferhat Abbas.

The coup met with little resistance: the workers had become disillusioned with 'verbal socialism' and the lack of socialist measures; the peasants had not received the promised land reform; and the middle classes felt that Army rule would bring stability. Since 1965 there has been a definite attempt to deal with economic problems - mines, insurance, road transport, key banks and some oil companies have been nationalised, and the economy shows signs of recovery. However, incipient in this is an explicit swing towards 'state-capitalism'. State-financed and directed companies, required to make profits, and with minimal worker participation are in line with the regime's desire for efficient central control of the economy. Autogestion in industry is stigmatised for economic failure - due largely to lack of government aid. In some cases it is being absorbed in to the new structures. Under the recent nationalisation of road transport, those firms under autogestion will become part of the state transport company, their management committees becoming mere factory committees. Autogestion in the agricultural sector remains, as the lack of qualified technicians makes it impossible for the state to replace the workers as management.

The UGTA, from the start the only representative organ of the workers, is regaining its strength and is the only organised opposition to the government. In its attack on the technocratic, state-capitalist policies of the Ministry of Industry and Energy it is tacitly supported by the Ministry of Labour, run by the more left-wing administrators who went there after the coup. Boumedienne faced with an incipient split in his ministries was unable to intervene decisively in this summer's labour unrest that led to the threat of a general strike. The UGTA with its definite marxist, internationalist policy sees itself as a potential basis for a new left-wing party replacing the discredited FLN - a war-time front that failed, in 1962, to split into its constituent parts. The Palestine crisis, means, however, that any real confrontation will be delayed for some time.

THE ISSUES BEFORE THE IRISH LABOUR PARTY CONFERENCE - from an Irish reader

The following extracts are from a leaflet published by Socialist Forum, for distribution to delegates to the Labour Party Conference which takes place in Dublin this weekend. Socialist Forum is the Irish equivalent of the Centre for Socialist Education, in England.

"The developing crisis in Irish society has led increasing numbers of the politically-minded to join the Labour Party. They recognise that no just society is possible within the framework of Irish capitalism. They look to Labour to end the crisis accordingly. But how this is to be done continues to perplex them.....

"In these circumstances, a number of us, varying in background, but united in Socialism, are proffering an immediate programme to signpost for the Labour Party the road to the Workers' Republic.

"The Workers' Republic is an aim for all Ireland, not just for the twenty-six counties. However, if it is to be practicable, as such, it must be backed by thirty-two county movement transcending religious differences by its class analysis. Accordingly we put forward the demand that as a first step in this direction, the Council of Labour be composed of delegates elected directly by the rank and files of its constituent parties.....

"We have no hesitation in moving unswerving support for the National Liberation Front of Vietnam in its struggle against the ultimate imperialist power today - The United States of America.....

"More immediately relevant to Ireland is our motion opposing entry to the European Economic Community. Socialists must regard this organisation as being merely bigger (and no better) than the British market. However, at the same time, a Socialist cannot accept the xenophobia inherent in the propaganda of Sinn Fein. The achievement of Socialism will be maintained by a United Socialist States of Europe.

"The internal forms of the Workers' Republic are crucial to its importance as the only permanent opponent of imperialism. The petty bourgeois concept of orthodox Republicanism cannot withstand imperialism adequately. Only a society in which property rights have been vested in the people, as a whole, can initiate the struggle to end imperialism, since only such a society can withstand its enemy's offers.

"In the industrial field this entails complete control of all means of production by their former employees. This cannot be confused with the capitalists tactic of workers' participation in industrial decisions. This is simply, the placing of employee scapegoats to share the blame for decisions made by the capitalist majorities controlling the economy. This technique is used most obviously in the N.I.E.C.

"The other side of the picture is in the proposed anti-trade union laws brought to shackle the free action of the Trade Unions.

"Taken together, the above policies are reminiscent of the fascist Corporate state. The workers' task must be to oppose them utterly to maintain their freedom of action....."

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A CHOICE FOR THE CARTOON ARCHETYPICAL SLOGAN THEATRE?

by R.W.Muldoon  
(CAST Co-ordinator)

The problem of the Cartoon Archetypical Slogan Theatre today is that it is already too well known. It must seem strange that a socialist propaganda theatre should re-act to public recognition, but it is the case.

Two years ago, when we first started the troupe, we were faced with the challenge that there was no need in this country for a socialist agit.prop. theatre and that all that could be said in the media of theatre was being carried out by the established playwrights and theatre companies. Then, as now, we believe otherwise. We developed a tactic which has eventually led us to success and now predicament. CAST would go to a small folk club, meeting, demonstration or working mans club and from nowhere out of the crowd, unheralded, four actors would emerge, place three chairs in the centre and proceed to shock the room and to gain its attention by performing seemingly improvised scenes. These scenes would be well-known cliches of modern day life, alienated enough so that an anti-imperialist theme could emerge. After gaining the audiences unexpected attention the actors would finish with a screamed moral point and walk back into the crowd - no names, no pack-drill. In these two years the troupe has grown a reputation for doing this and gradually it became that we were billed and used as a draw for such meetings, culminating into a position where people actually to to see these plays; sit themselves down and almost say to us "shock us", "entertain us", "we have heard that you do so, now is your chance to prove it". Therefore, on such occasions this objectivity from the audience has led to the removal of the "effect of our work".

The "Protest Concert" on October 21st we fear will be just such a case. Of course 99.9% of the population of this country have not yet seen our plays and CAST plans to carry on using our original tactic (here we would make a plea to anyone who intends to use the troupe in the future to conform with our obvious need for the element of surprise).

The task that CAST now faces is that we have to find a new way of approach. It seems now that we must plan to go into a slum area of London and set up an entirely new approach, for we are quite sure that, from what we have learnt, we can develop, in a small way, a cultural arm for the new growing revolutionary consciousness which we optimistically believe is growing in some areas of our country. It will take years, but we hope to find a formula and, if this proves to be of use, it is our sole aim to share it with all who will find a use for it. Meanwhile, CAST needs help, especially in the untrained actor field. Anyone devoted enough to spend most of their leisure hours working with us and learning with us will be more than welcome.

Finally, I would like to say that of course the troupe is open to objective political discussion.

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V I E T N A M   C O N C E R T

Saturday October 21 - 7.30pm

King Georges Hall, Gt. Russell St. WC1  
(nr Tottenham Ct. Rd. underground)

JOHN ARDEN      ADRIAN MITCHELL      THE CARTOON ARCHETYPICAL SLOGAN THEATRE

"THE CRITICS" FOLK SINGERS

all seats 7/6 Tickets available now from 49 Rivington St. EC1 (or at door)

## "THE WEEK" AT SCARBOROUGH

Supporters of The Week were involved in a wide range of activities at Scarborough during the Labour Party conference. As readers will know a special edition of The Week was produced for Scarborough and nearly 400 copies were sold. On the Saturday prior to the start of the conference several supporters of our journal took part in the compositing procedures - others distributed to the introductory issue of Briefing. Sunday was a fantastically busy day: all the dozen or so meetings and demonstrations had to be covered with Briefing and the leaflet advertising the teach-in which took place that evening. The 35 supporters of The Week were kept extremely busy all the more so because they had various responsibilities in connection with the teach-in, and when that was over Monday's Briefing had to be written, typed, stencilled, duplicated, collated and stapled. Little wonder that it was 4.30 a.m. Monday morning before they were finished! All through the week, meetings had to be covered, Briefing had to be produced and then distributed next morning starting at 8.45. Sleep was a rare commodity. We feel that the effort was well worthwhile and that it helped to increase opposition to the Government's right wing policies. On issue - Vietnam - it is quite likely that it was the intervention of Briefing which swayed the vote. The delegates appreciated our efforts: quite apart from all the encouraging words and thanks, they donated getting on for £30 to the Briefing financial appeal. We have appended a selection of items which appeared in Briefing, we feel that they are of interest in and of themselves and that in addition they give a "feel" of the conference.

## NOTTINGHAM SCANDAL AFFECTS WHOLE PARTY (Monday)

The misreporting in the NEC Report about the Nottingham scandal is most serious for its constitutional implications. (See Report p.8.) The NEC claimed that under Clause VIII, section 4, they could take disciplinary action without telling Conference. The claim was false; all disciplinary action, by rule, must be reported back to Conference. When this issue was taken to Court, the NEC found it hand't a leg to stand on, and reinstated three of the 'disciplined' Nottingham members, agreeing to pay £310 as their legal costs. Not a word of this is in the Report. Worse, the NEC is still, apparently, claiming powers it has not got. To accept this Report would thus jeopardise democracy in the Party, and would bring in question the right of Conference to know of any disciplinary actions which are taken. It must be referred back and with it, the whole disgraceful farce of the expulsion of Ken Coates, who has still had no redress after two years of campaigning.

## ABSENT COMRADES (Monday)

The Government's unpopularity is clearly reflected in the opinion polls. A political party requires more firm evidence based on its own internal solidarity and cohesion by which to measure its standing and morale. This evidence is to hand. The NEC Report tells us that total Party membership fell by 104,281 last year. Individual membership dropped by 41,072. Trade union affiliation declined too. The Pottery Workers Trade Union and Lancashire Textile unions suspended payment of their political fund to the Labour Party, in protest against government policies. The massive Labour abstentions at the by-elections at Walthamstow (8000) and Cambridge (5000) add to the doleful record. There is only one way to stem this tide of disaffection and withdrawal. Stand up to the government, demand a reversal of its policies. This way we can hope for the return of those absent comrades. Otherwise the drift will continue unchecked.

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### CARRON'S LAW OR BOYD'S BLOOMER (Tuesday)

Even Bill Grundy of Granada commented on Chairman Boyd's heavy 'sleight of hand' yesterday. Key resolution in the Education debate was Composite 24 calling for reorganisation of 'secondary education on comprehensive lines and for 'public, direct grant and other fee paying schools' to be brought within the state system in the life time of the present Government. Put to the vote on a show of hands, delegates were clearly equally divided. Boyd declared the motion lost and refused repeated calls for a card vote. The Constitution, of course, says that "Voting at Annual Party Conference shall be by cards..." a fact which Boyd cooked up over lunch. Challenged on 'Boyd's Law' by the delegate from Bolton East, he was forced to accept the Conference Arrangements Committee's advice to hold the ballot on Composite 24 at the end of the afternoon session. The whole episode was a salutary lesson in party democracy - and gave a glimpse of the pressures and manoeuvres with which A.E.U. members have to contend.

### NO CONDITIONS! (Tuesday)

Chairman Boyd is seeking to establish a dangerous precedent in putting resolutions to Conference subject to reservations proposed by the NEC. If the mover refuses to remit, then the resolution stands or falls exactly as drafted and no amount of 'interpretation' can alter its meaning. Anthony Greenwood was one of the worst offenders yesterday aided and abetted by Bro. Boyd. No one should be in any doubt about Anthony's ability to play with reservations. 'Subject to reservations' he was for colonial freedom in Guyana and the near east. When he showed what the reservations were: gassing school-children in Bahrein, and giving Guyana to the CIA, he established a pattern which has made such equivocations world-famous as examples of hypocrisy.

### VIETNAM (Wednesday)

"Against the background of world poverty and the surging discontent of which it is now producing among more than half the people of the world. The Western nations have so far produced no policy to match the magnitude of events. That discontent and the revolt or revolution which it brings in its train, are as natural as the revolt of the Englishmen in the seventeenth century against the claims of Charles I, or the revolt of Frenchmen in the eighteenth century against the luxury of King Louis' Court or the revolt of the American colonists against the blind tyranny of George III. It is born of the same spirit which inspired the Chartists and the early Socialist movement in Britain. It will not be put down. The only reputable policy for socialists is to ally ourselves with the forces of social revolution and to prove by our deeds that our aim is not dominion, but honourable partnership."

HAROLD WILSON 1951.

"It was right to issue a warning to the Government not to go any further in the subordination of British policies to the United States...I believe at the moment the danger to a negotiated settlement in Asia is provided by a lunatic fringe in the American Senate....Asia, like other parts of the world, is in revolution and what we have to learn today in this country is to march on the side of the people in that revolution and not on the side of their oppressors."

HAROLD WILSON 1954

However Harold Wilson may have changed his views, the Labour movement is continuing to fight against the Labour Government's complicity with American slaughter in Vietnam. A few weeks ago a resolution at the TUC conference calling on the British

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Government to disassociate itself from American bombing of Vietnam was carried by a majority of 1,367,000. We cannot undo the harm that has already been done, or the slaughter that has already been committed, but as Socialists who have not lost our principles, we have a duty as Wilson would have said at one time, to stand by the forces of social revolution. A first step in this direction would be taken by the passing of today's resolution No.28.

#### HOW THE MACHINE WORKS (Wednesday)

Strange things happen at Compositing Meetings. One of the most curious from this year's deliberations in Valley Bridge School is that which emerged as composite resolution No.39, under the heading "THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT". The resolution stands in the name of Sheffield, Heeley C.L.P. and Abingdon C.L.P. If delegated study the original resolutions from these parties and compare them with the Composite they would be startled at the transformation. Sheffield's original resolution (No. 30 on the agenda) reads as follows:-

"This Conference reaffirms its support of the policies on which the Labour Government was elected. In doing so, it regrets the failure of the Government to break the power of vested interests both at home and abroad."

"It calls upon the Government in the future to resist more strongly the pressures of the Treasury, the City of London and foreign governments"

"It re-states its belief that only a government committed to economic and social justice at home, ready to extend public ownership and planning, and prepared to conduct an independent foreign policy, can overcome the deep-seated social and economic problems of Britain."

Similarly, Abingdon C.L.P. supported a resolution (No.33) which is severely critical of the Government's record and "calls upon the Government to pursue socialist answers to both foreign and home affairs...." Somehow, through the mysterious workings of "Compositing" this became. "This Conference expresses satisfaction at the achievements of the Labour Government and re-affirms its loyalty to our Party and its leaders." This opening paragraph is followed by some mildly-worded criticism of Government policy. Even in this mutilated form, however, the powers that be must have considered it damaging to the Government's image. It was placed at the end of Monday's agenda and what with greetings from His Worship the Mayor of Scarborough, fraternal greetings and speeches from the platform with no time-limit restrictions, by the end of the day this item had not been reached. This is just one of many ways in which the democratic rights of delegates are being eroded.

#### WHAT HAPPENED TO COMPOSITE No.34? (Wednesday)

There is general agreement among the Left that one of the issues that has to be resolved is: Where does power lie within the Labour Party? In Annual Conference? The N.I.C.? The Parliamentary Labour Party? Or the Cabinet? Perhaps it lies with none of these but with the much more humble Conference Arrangements Committee. Composite resolutions are drawn up with much trouble. Delegates make sacrifices to get to the venue of Conference a couple of days early in order to take part in the Compositing meetings. The agreed resolutions eventually appear in the Special Pamphlet. Then delegates are blandly informed by the Chairman that Conference Arrangements Committee had not even bothered to place such-and-such a resolution before him for discussion. This is just one more way in which democratic rights of Party members are filched away. If this procedure is allowed to continue unchecked Conference will be robbed of all dignity and meaning.

/Cont'd.....

Several years' campaigning has now been successful. By a very small margin the Labour Party Conference has followed the T.U.C. in calling upon the Government to dissociate from American policy in Vietnam. This is very fine, as far as it goes. Now the left must force a change of policy and advance a more definite policy of support for the Vietnamese people in their struggle.

Now that Conference has taken this line, every Labour Party in the country is quite free, in fact duty-bound, to join campaigns to force the Government to stop supporting American aggression in Vietnam. Wherever possible, local Labour Parties should affiliate to local organisations campaigning on these lines. C.L.P.'s must support demonstrations designed to bring about a change in Government policy. A fine start would be for there to be a mass of Labour Party banners on the October 22nd demonstration in Trafalgar Square (called in solidarity with the American anti-Vietnam war movement).

But there is even more to the question than that. Labour Party members must insist that the Government carries out Conference policy. The resolution on Vietnam cannot be cast into the dustbin; it represents the conscience of the Labour Party shocked by this Government's spineless support for Johnson's genocidal war. Everyone should support the various campaigns which have been started to fight for democracy in the party. The Sheffield Trades and Labour Council will welcome support for its Campaign for a Democratic Party, whilst Tribune and others who launched the Decisions Matter project will, no doubt, consider this to be one of the decisions that do matter.

#### PREPARATIONS FOR OCTOBER 22

On Monday, October 16 there will be a demonstration of draft resistance outside the American Embassy from 12.30 to 1.30pm. This is being organised by members of the Stop-It Committee and will help to publicise the demonstration in Trafalgar Square on Sunday, October 22. The American anti-war movement will be represented in Trafalgar Square by Allan Krebs, founder of the New York Free University. One of the Americans involved in the draft resistance demonstration will also make a short statement on October 22.

Supporters of the October 22 Vietnam Ad Hoc Committee in the Y.C.L. will be taking part in a demonstration organised by the Y.C.L. on Sunday, October 15. A march will leave the Roundhouse, Chalk Farm, at 1.30pm and proceed to Trafalgar Square via the U.S. Embassy. A van with a plentiful supply of October 22 leaflets and banners will be parked opposite the Roundhouse at 1pm. We hope that 40 or 50 supporters of the Ad Hoc Committee will take part in this demonstration to gain support for October 22.

Among the individuals in this country who have sent messages of support are Frank Allaun, M.P., Eric Heffer, M.P., Bill Jones (T&GWU), Lawrence Daly (NUM) and Hugh Scanlon (AEU). Speakers include Tariq Ali, Syd Bidwell, M.P., Allan Krebs, John Palmer, Ken Coates, Obi Egbuna and Ralph Schoenman.

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...has been successful...  
NALSO AND THE NEC REPORT . AN HONEST ANSWER WANTED (Thursday)

The Annual Conference of the National Association of Labour Students last April - five weeks after the NEC broke off relations with NALSO - reaffirmed its policy of working in, and co-operating with the Labour Party, and mandated its executive committee to re-open negotiations for a new agreement with the Party. The NEC have informed NALSO that initial consideration had been given to this request and the youth sub-committee will consider it further at its next meeting. This would indicate that the NEC had not decided to refuse NALSO's request up to now. Yet the recently started SALUS (Southern Association of Labour University Students), who have no base of support among socialist students and are groupings who have left the established Labour clubs in a few universities, are claiming in private that the facilities of Transport House, that NALSO used to enjoy, have been placed at their disposal. If this is so then Reg. Underhill and the NEC are not being honest with the NALSO or the Party. They must be frank and say whether they are prepared to talk with NALSO and try to work out a relationship that would be satisfactory to both the students and the Party, or whether they have decided to start a new student organisation while maintaining the pretence that they are considering re-opening talks with NALSO.

CLOSED SESSION (Friday)

Yesterday's Closed Session to discuss those sections of the NEC Report which the apparatus men and women do not want to expose to the full glare of publicity, evoked a lively discussion on "Disputes and Enquiries" and the Party's attitude to youth. On "Disputes and Enquiries", Clive Jenkins called for a change in the disciplinary machinery of the party. The NEC should make plans now for next year's Conference to introduce an Appeals Tribunal to which disputes could be referred. These plans should be published as soon as possible so that affiliated organisations and Constituency Parties could send in amendments and suggestions. The reference back of the section was moved by Mike Gerrard who questioned the constitutional validity of the expulsion of Ken Coates. He also pointed out that there was no reference in the report to the legal action which had cost the Party £310. The case for Ken Coates, he considered, was ripe for review and reinstatement. This position was supported by many speakers, including the delegate from Nottingham Central. Only the delegate from Nottingham West supported the NEC action. The delegate from Harcourt, while supporting the need for appeals machinery, deplored Party members and former Party members taking legal action against the Party. He did not say what he expected expelled and suspended members to do when they came up against the blank wall of bureaucratic obstruction baulking their legitimate efforts to get back into their party. An Appeals Tribunal on which the rank-and-file Party member is adequately represented would overcome this hazard.

There was lively criticism from Young Socialists on the section of the report dealing with "Youth Organisation". They demanded more say in their own organisation, the right to elect their own National Committee, control of their own paper and the right to discuss politics at Regional Conferences. "After all," as one delegate said, "that is why we join a political party".

Reference back was also moved on the section dealing with NALSO and the NEC was asked to re-open negotiations with this student body.

All reference back resolutions were declared lost on a show of hands.

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