

# The Week

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A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS  
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# WHITHER THE LEFT IN 1968?

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THE  
WAGON

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR THE WEEKEND  
By [illegible]

WHETHER  
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IN 1968?

## CONTENTS

Page	1	Editorial (1)	Page	2	Editorial (2)
"	3	Industrial notes.	"	4	Tories think Labour useful.
"	5	Electricians to strike.	"	6	Housing in Hammersmith.
"	7	The TGWU and the CP.	"	8	Never trust the boss!
"	9	Unemployment fears.	"	10	Economic notes.
"	11	U.S. students face crackdown.	"	12	U.S. notes.

### WHITHER THE LEFT IN 1968

How did the left fare in 1967? By-and-large, one must say that the left did not rise to occasion, with very bad results for the movement. The successes gained by the left were few in number and it was quite unable to halt Wilson's evolution to the right. However, during 1967, a very important development took place which may very well change the relationship of forces in the Labour Movement in 1968: the rise of the trade union opposition.

As we have noted before, there is very little chance for the revival of the left in the Labour Party unless people can be attracted into activity by the prospect of a real fight against the right wing. Unless the present drift is halted whole sections of the working class will become alienated from the Labour Party. The by-elections and the rise of Scottish and Welsh nationalism show this very clearly. Under present circumstances, when there is no viable alternative to the Labour Party, the drift of sections of the working class away from their traditional party will lead to apathy and demoralisation. The urgent need is to create within the framework of existing workers' organisations a real alternative to Wilson and his Cabinet. This is a necessary stage in the road to a militant mass socialist movement in this country,

But a possible contender is now on the scene: the TGWU has now been joined by the AEU in opposition to the Government's policies. Their combined vote amounts to some 2½ million at the Labour Party and TUC conferences. This represents a challenge which could lead to an opposition which would be capable of appearing an alternative to the right wing. But there are dangers in this very situation: the very strength of the trade union opposition could lead to militants abandoning the political struggle. The huge resources at the disposal of these monster unions could lead some to think that all the eggs of the left should be put in this particular basket. Again, and of decisive importance, there is the problem of ensuring that the trade union opposition fights on a firm programme. It should never be forgotten that many of the left trade union leaders voted to help the Government to put its "devaluation-without-wages-increases" policy across.

The decisive thing in 1968 will be whether or not the existing left - trade union, left M.P.s, constituency members, etc. - seeks to organise the rank and file, particularly the militant workers and the young, for a fight against Wilson's policies. If the left does this and creates the necessary forms of organisation to carry out this fight, the existence of the huge block vote against the Government will create a very favourable basis for it. The moves to create a Campaign for a Democratic Party, to link up industrial struggles, to bring the struggle of the tenants in to the Labour Movement, etc., must all be supported. It is the function of papers like The Week, the Voice journals, and industrial publications to help to organise and link up these struggles and introduce a programmatic basis for them. If all this is done, the prospects for the left in 1968 can be very good.

## PERSPECTIVES FOR THE VIETNAM WAR IN 1968

Talk about invading Cambodia merely amounts to another attempt by the Americans to escape the military impasse in which they find themselves in the swamps and jungles of South East Asia. Indeed, with casualties of U.S. personnel exceeding 115,000, American imperialism is no nearer its goal of "pacifying" that part of the world. In an election year, Johnson is sorely in need of some type of 'victory.' All actions taken to date by the United States have been justified to the American public by the State Department as being necessary to bring the war to a quick resolution. Because of the super-human efforts of the Vietnamese people, all this has been in vain. Instead, the Vietnam issue in 1968 promises to rend apart American capitalist society. It has led to profound social unrest with virtual civil war in the black ghettos and the development of the biggest anti-war movement in the history of that country.

In 1968, the war in Vietnam promises to become more openly and more publicly "a land war in South East Asia," something which the military experts advised against since it would require the use of nuclear weapons and would result in the intervention of the Soviet Union and China. Already 50,000 American military personnel are conducting operations in Laos and Thailand, where the central Government has lost control of several provinces in the North East to the guerillas.

If the Americans succeed in invading Cambodia with impunity, we can be assured they will then invade North Vietnam. The ruling circles in the United States calculate that having got away with so much, a little more of the same medicine will bring greater dividends. The war machine has its own logic. The only way it will be stopped is by a world-wide counter-escalation of the anti-war opposition. The struggle to get the Labour Party to come out against the Americans is a major task in 1968. The political acquiescence and moral complicity in the Vietnam war on the side of the Americans is not just a "negative" policy but a direct contribution to the American war effort as valuable as that of the Australian and New Zealand governments. The fact that both the Labour Party conference and TUC have come out against this policy eases our task.

With growing unrest on the industrial front this year, it will become that much easier for anti-war activists to gain the ears of Labour Party members and trade unionists to win a repudiation of Wilson's policy. At the end of last year we caught a glimpse of the possibilities and means to achieve this - the organising of a united-front opposition to the war as typified by the October 22nd demonstration. Many trade unionists participated in this. There were several Labour Party constituency banners. More such participants are needed on the next demonstration.

What better way to start 1968 than by pledging to make the next action a greater success. The Vietnamese people themselves have given the lead - they have officially appealed for solidarity demonstrations to take place on the week of March 17 to 24. The Week gives its full support to the call by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign for a meeting on January 11 to organise an Ad Hoc Committee to plan the action. It is only by making Wilson aware that tens of thousands of people are opposed to his line, and that they are prepared to take to the streets to prove it, that we can have any success.

STAN NEWENS SLATES HARLOW A.E.I. CLOSURE from a special correspondent

At a mass meeting of workers of the Associated Electrical Industries plant in Harlow, Mr. Stan Newens, the local M.P., denounced the plans to close part of the factory. He said that the most alarming feature of the proposed transfer of work to Leicester was that it was announced before any proper consultation with the trade unions or representatives of the workers at the plant. It was not enough for G.E.C. to be responsible to its shareholders and to be concerned to maximise their profits. In his opinion the ultimate need was to nationalise the industry with industrial democracy but in the meantime G.E.C. must be made to take public interest into account. The closure threatened the whole character of Harlow, New Town, which relied upon the provision of suitable local employment.

Also speaking at the meeting, Mr. Charlie Adams, the worker convenor, announced that shop stewards and union officials had asked the Harlow Council to get the G.E.C. decision reversed. Another speaker, Mr. Ron Halverson, A.E.U. District Secretary, told the meeting that A.E.U. members in Leicester - where some of the work is to be transferred - had been asked not to undertake any work normally done at Harlow. He pointed out that "Profits in A.E.I. have been higher each year but they have been achieved by ruthless slashing of 8,700 of the labour force. We should fight for this decision to be rescinded, there must be no sackings," he added.

At the end of the meeting, the 600 workers present voted overwhelmingly to ban all overtime at the plant. The meeting voted unanimously to deplore the decision to transfer the process control plant to Leicester, thus making possible large-scale redundancies. The resolution added: "We have noted the complete lack of prior notification or consultation on this decision, which clearly indicates a contempt on the part of the company for their workpeople, the trades, and the welfare of the town, and we demand that the company gives immediate assurances of security of employment to all of its employees in Harlow."

NORTHOLT TGWU BRANCH CALLS UPON PHILIP TO SET AN EXAMPLE from a Northolt reader

Northolt 1/1564 TGWU branch discussed the so-called putting Britain first campaign at its last meeting. It passed a resolution condemning the campaign as a fraud. It also called upon Frank Cousins, as secretary of the Transport and General Workers Union, to lead a campaign against this attempt by unscrupulous employers to increase hours with no pay.

The resolution is to be circulated and copies sent to Frank Cousins, Harold Wilson and the Duke of Edinburgh. The resolution has a special message for "Prince" Philip. It calls upon him to help to save Britain by donating Buckingham Palace to the country. He should apply for a Council House, the resolution added.

A VERY IMPORTANT MEETING

On Thursday, January 11th, the VSC has convened a meeting to establish an Ad Hoc Committee to prepare for the March demonstration. The meeting will take place at the Toynbee Hall, Commercial St., Near Aldgate East Tube Station and commences at 7.30. Make sure you are represented!

Despite the growing disillusionment with the Labour Government, as revealed in by-elections, local government elections and public opinion polls, the Tories are not obviously pressing for a general election in the very near future. This might seem strange but, from the Tory point of view - which is the political expression of British capitalism - there is still much for the Labour Government to do.

As a rule, Tory politicians are careful to conceal that there is a division of labour when it comes to the job of running British capitalism but every now and then one of the more unsubtle Tory spokesmen lets the cat out of the bag. One such is Charles Curran, columnist in the London Evening News and former Tory M.P. In an outspoken article on December 29 he wrote:

"Agreed the Government is not perfect. There are many drawbacks to having Labour in power. But there is one advantage as well. It is simply this: Labour can do some of the things that need to be done in Britain far more easily than can the Tories." (My emphasis - CVG).

What are the things which Labour can do so much better than the Tories? Curran makes no bones about it. A Labour Government, according to this spokesman of British capitalism, can attack the workers' standard of living much more ruthlessly than a Tory Government would dare to do! To undermine the welfare state has long been a Tory ambition and in this they have the full support of the international financiers to whom Britain is in pawn. The most effective way of doing this would be to re-introduce the means test. The Tories, writes Curran, were scared of these two words. They dared not tamper with the set-up. This, Curran optimistically hopes, is one of the "sacred cows" which Mr. Wilson is now ready to sacrifice.

Next he wants the Government to tackle the Health Service. It was, after all, a Labour Chancellor of the Exchequer, Hugh Gaitskell, who drove through the legislation under which the Tories were able to re-impose prescription charges. Now Mr. Curran wants Roy Jenkins to do the same - and to go even further - to impose a consultation charge whenever a sick person goes to the doctor. Thirdly, he wants to stop subsidised school meals and here again he would like to see some sort of means test in force.

This article reveals the Tory mind. They attack the unemployed, the aged, the sick and the youth. But what is even more revealing is that they confidently expect the Labour Government to do their dirty work for them. To the catalogue above, Curran could have added anti-trade union legislation which no post-war Tory Government would have dared to introduce. Curran concludes that the British people will take these attacks lying down. Here he must be shown to have seriously miscalculated. If some Labour politicians are prepared to sell their political soul to save a dying capitalism, the rank-and-file in the unions, in the Labour Party and the left in Parliament must be prepared to resist and to launch a counter-attack.

Britain could be "solvent" almost overnight if the Labour Government had the courage to cut defence expenditure drastically, cash overseas investments and nationalise the import and export trade.

CONTRACTING ELECTRICIANS TO STRIKE ON JANUARY 9th from an ETU correspondent.

Despite threats of dismissal and intimidation from both the employers and the union, 4,500 members (police figures) turned out in the magnificent demonstration in London on November 10th, 1967 against the new contracting agreement.

Informed reports of two recent meetings of the JIB confirm the employers didn't take too kindly to Cannon's assumptions re the proportion of members to be graded approved electrician and we hear the employers walked out of the meeting. The rift was to be temporary however, because after the demonstration the employers reluctantly agreed to the ETU suggestion that it was going to cost them a little more than was envisaged to get the agreement through. It can be assumed then that the number of members graded approved might quite well be a little higher, but then what a small price to pay for the subjugation of the union.

In the Sunday Observer, 26th November 1967, Cannon says that power is more important to him than money. For someone who has just received a thirteen pound a week increase and sold out the contracting industry at the same time, it is difficult to see which item has proved to be the most corruptible!

Contrary to the terms laid down in the notes of the JIB the employers and the union have now connived at delaying members receipt of the employers recommended grading until as late as possible. In the light of this and because of the intimidation and threats made against our members, it has been decided by the Joint Action Committee to postpone the one day stoppage planned for 12th December until January 9th, 1968 when we propose to hold a one day stoppage and mass demonstration at the union H.Q., Hayes Court, West Common Road, Kent at 2 p.m.

All members are urged to support this demonstration and we invite support from E.T.U. members in other industries who may well find themselves victims of similar agreements in the near future.

INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION GROUP FORMED IN EDINBURGH

A successful first meeting of a new discussion group, the International Discussion Group, was held in the Trades Council Club in Edinburgh on the 14th of December, 1967. The Group aims at discussing mainly International issues, at a high level, with relatively small numbers of people. Twelve people, from the University, V.S.C., and L.P.Y.S. attended the meeting, and after drawing up plans for the future of the group, a panel of three members was asked questions, and a lively discussion on Greece, the Labour Government, and Scottish Nationalism, ensued.

Future subjects for discussion include, Black Power, Cuba, India, the Labour Party, and a tape recording of Ernest Mandel's speech on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. It is also planned to invite other left-wing organisations in the city, the Y.C.L., the Workers Party of Scotland etc., to discuss their political ideas. Any "Week" reader in the Edinburgh area who is interested in the Group should contact the secretary:- Bob Purdie, 15 Hillcrest Avenue, Bennoch Road, Kirkcaldy.

## HOUSING IN HAMMERSMITH

by Henry Montague

At a meeting on the 13th December, the Labour controlled Hammersmith Council resolved to express its deep concern at the sale of housing properties belonging to the Greater London Council. The resolution stressed that in the opinion of the Council the sale of Council housing meant losing vital social assets. Imagine the surprise of local party members who read in the West London Observer of 28th December that Hammersmith Council may decide to sell an estate in the Borough.

The property in question is a block of luxury homes at Mylne Close, in the exclusive Upper Mall area of Hammersmith's riverside. As stated previously in The Week (Sept. 11. 1967) the estate was erected by the old Metropolitan Borough Council, who apparently felt it would be better not to mix working class families with the other residents in the area. The rents, including rates, range from £9.14.6. to £12.7.8. a week, which automatically excludes applicants from Hammersmith's housing waiting list. If Mylne Close was included in the Borough's general housing pool, it would mean lower rents could be charged and the rebate scheme would apply. But it appears that rather than face this prospect the ruling clique in the Council would prefer the property sold. The Chairman of the Housing Committee, Cllr. G. Simpson, said to the West London Observer that the possibility of the estate eventually being sold to tenants, "could not be ruled out".

The feeling in the local Labour Parties is that this is another indication of the lengths to which those in control of the Council will go to outbid the Conservatives. The situation has reached the ludicrous stage when the M.P. for Barons Court, Ivor Richard, on the right-wing of the Parliamentary Labour Party, has written to the Leader of the Council asking that pending rent increases throughout the Borough (in some cases of more than 16s. a week) be deferred. Mr. Richard's efforts did not meet with any success. Cllr. Simpson described the Borough's rent scheme as, "just and sound". He said there was no reason for not proceeding with the increases.

Labour's fortunes have been on the wane in Hammersmith. In January 1967 they lost a Council by-election to a Liberal and in March held the White City Ward, consisting mainly of Greater London Council dwellings, by a very much reduced majority. This was a preview of the Greater London Council elections in April when the three sitting Labour Councillors with majorities of about 15,000 votes were swept from office. At the time a leading London Labour Party official blamed defeat on the activities of left-wingers in the Hammersmith Party. Local socialists have argued that the housing policies of the Council will inevitably lead to rejection by the electorate. Perhaps those in control don't care! If control of the Council is lost, they can again blame the left-wing!



Attention to the TGWU rule banning Communists from holding office has been drawn by the case of Jack Dash. At first it seemed likely that he, and the other members of the Communist Party who had been elected by their workmates, would be allowed to take up the post of shop steward. In other industries, notably motors, Communist Party members have been able to act as shop stewards because the Deakin-imposed rule has been interpreted as applying to full-time posts only. The left wing of the TGWU is determined that this rule will be thrown out this year. This is rules revision year for the TGWU (this occurs once every six years) and rumour has it that Frank Cousins may come out in favour of lifting the ban.

In 1949, when the TGWU was dominated by the extreme right-winger, Arthur Deakin, that the union brought in a rule banning members of the Communist Party and fascists from holding office. The latter point has always been regarded as a not very successful attempt to disguise the anti-communist nature of the move. Speaking at the 1962 rules revision conference, Frank Cousins denied that the rule had been introduced because of the cold war and referred to the "unrest fomented by Communists in the union." He said that he was not prepared to hand over the strength of "this mighty organisation" to an outside body, whether it was the Labour, Communist or any other party.

However, when Ray Gunter made his famous "red plot" speech, Frank Cousins was one of the first to pour scorn on the whole idea of industrial unrest being caused by "outside agitators." The logic of this position and that taken by other "responsible" trade unionists, even George Woodcock, is that the last remaining vestiges of anti-communist legislation in the trade union movement should be discarded.

It would be a big step forward for this rule to be thrown out and would have many good effects. Once the TGWU no longer applied the ban it would be easier to get it lifted in other union organisations. The lifting of anti-communist rules in the TGWU would be a step towards the lifting of all bans and proscriptions in the whole labour movement. Cynics are already saying that the TGWU bureaucracy would like to have Jack Dash and others holding office because this enable officials to have a stronger grip on their activities. This argument completely neglects the fact that the decisive thing is the support which any left winger has from the rank and file. And, anyway, we need to fight for the democratic rights of trade union officials too. Just how this can be done when there is mass rank and file support was demonstrated by the winning back of the job for the left wing Vehicle Builders' organiser. Another more significant argument is that certain mergers with other unions which the TGWU leadership would like to pull off will be impossible whilst the rule exists. A case in point is the move towards merging the Tobacco Workers' Union (which has Communist Party members holding full-time jobs) and the TGWU. However, providing union members do not lose any of their rights because of the merger, our only yardstick should be that of whether or not the new set up would be a more effective weapon for workers' struggle.

The ending of the ban on Communists holding posts in the TGWU would be an important move towards strengthening the traditional unity of the trade unions in Britain. This in turn will assist in efforts to help to unify the movement in other countries, especially on the continent.

## NEVER TRUST THE BOSS!

by Dave Windsor

Three years ago, the firm of Richard Sutcliffe, engineers of Horbury, near Wakefield, Yorkshire, announced a jobs-for-life scheme. Workers were promised employment for life in exchange for easing restrictions on demarcation rulings, working overtime as and when the company required and limiting tea-breaks. Had he heard about this, no doubt Prince Philip would have sent the workers and firm a telegram of congratulations.

That was three years ago. 1968 began with a message from Mr. Gerald Sutcliffe, chairman of the jobs-for-life firm, to the workers. It appeared that something had gone wrong. The company's staple business with the National Coal Board, he claimed, had dropped by more than half. The decline had come faster than expected, and new products which the company was developing had not had time to take up the slack. This had compelled the company to review the whole of its labour force at its Horbury, Ossett and Castleford works.

All of this was an introduction to an announcement that two hundreds employees are to lose their jobs. The cutback represents a reduction of just over one-fifth of the total work-force.

1968 has seen the start of a scheme by employers to take advantage of British capitalism's economic crisis to kid workers into making sacrifices "in the national interest." No doubt there will be many variations on the "half-hour-for-no-pay scheme." With lessons like the Sutcliffe swindle to draw upon, there is little doubt that the majority of organised workers will give these schemes the bird.

## NOTTINGHAM BUS MEN WILL BACK NATIONAL STRIKE by a Nottingham reader

Shortly after it was announced that the Prices and Incomes Board had come out against the £1 a week wage increase award to municipal busmen, two meetings were held in Nottingham by corporation bus employees to discuss the matter. Resolutions were passed unanimously by the crowded meetings instructing their national union officers to "take all possible steps" to see that the £1 award is paid. Another resolution was passed pledging full support for "any militant action decided upon on a national scale."

The local corporation is so afraid that there will be another bus strike that the chairman of the city's Transport Committee, Alderman William Dyer, has hinted that he will try to find ways around any ban which the Government puts on the payment of the award. He stated that he would seek a mandate from his committee to take this action when it next met.

The meetings passed resolutions congratulating Mr. Ray Thorpe, the local TGWU organiser, for the work he put in during the eight weeks' dispute. Many of the busmen told me that they were extremely pleased with the support given to the busmen during their work-to-rule and strike by the local paper Nottingham Voice. This paper made the dispute the main front page story in its December issue and its supporters held meetings and sold copies of the papers to bus queues for the purpose of explaining the busmen's case.

Many union journals have reviewed the position in their industries in their January issues. The Builders' Standard, for instance, notes that unemployment in the building industry is higher than it has been for many years, and the outlook is bleak.

The journal of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives forecasts that the "winter may be grim for building operatives," due to the effects of hold-ups and the economic slowdown. It records that high unemployment has persisted for well over a year. Only once has the out-of-work figure fallen below 80,000 - in November 1966, at the start of the current depression.

It says that if Government policies continue which bring about unemployment then "a revision must be made of the amount of unemployment benefit to which our lads are entitled."

"HP RESTRICTIONS WOULD HAVE DRASTIC EFFECTS" - HOOVERS  
from a London reader

Hoover, the domestic appliance manufacturers, warned the Government last week that plans to cut back home demand in domestic appliances could have drastic effects on the country's economy and send unemployment figures soaring again. A statement from the company said: "Any further intensification of the hire-purchase restrictions or the increase of purchase tax would not only have a crippling effect on the industry, but would not be justified in the country's economic interest."

The major proportion of the manufacture of washing machines in this country - around 70 per cent - is undertaken in Wales and Scotland, both areas of high unemployment. The Hoover factory at Merthyr Tydfil, Glamorgan, is working at only 50 per cent of its capacity and the one at Cambuslang, Lanarkshire, at 60 per cent. There is thus surplus capacity of both workers and plant and any further fall off in demand could result in redundancies.

Hoover points out: "The home demand for washing machines in Britain is running at only about half that in comparable Western European countries, and from which intense competition is being experienced in the export field. In the Common Market, output of washing machines is running at approximately 4 million units per year. In Italy alone, in 1966, their output at 1.9 million units was nearly treble that of the UK. It is high volume production of this order that results in lower unit costs and generates funds for investment in highly mechanised production methods. The success which stems from these two factors can be measured by Italian achievements in the export field, in which sales in 1966 amounted to 730,000 units compared with 392,000 in 1965.

"In the absence of tariff-free access to the Common Market, it is vital that at least the British home market should have stability and sufficient volume not only for lower unit costs but to justify the long term investment which the industry requires."

Whilst these arguments are no doubt exaggerated to put more pressure on the Government, they certainly ring true. Wilson and his colleagues would have no excuse to say that they haven't been warned about the effects of their policy.

SOME FEATURES OF BRITAIN'S ECONOMY IN 1967 by an economics correspondent

(1) RAPID INCREASE IN IMPORTS OF MANUFACTURES

At the time when the figures for the balance of payments for October and November came out there was a great deal of talk about the docks' strikes being to blame. Figures which have come out subsequently show that the main culprit was a huge increase in the import bill. Ironically enough, it was the import of those goods which Britain is supposed to produce most competitively which caused the trouble.

Nearly half the rise in the import bill was accounted for by a jump of £177,000,000 in the purchase of machinery and transport equipment. The two manufactured goods categories also showed alarming increases in imports in the first 11 months of the year. Together they rose over £121 million - more than a quarter of the total rise in the bill. The most notable jumps were in imports of iron and steel (up £30 million), of textile yarns and fabrics (up £23 million), and of professional and scientific instruments (up £18 million).

For the rest these figures are interesting. They show that personal consumption was not basically responsible for the rise in imports. They also cast a light on the "patriotism" of businessmen (who now are pushing the phoney extra-half-and-hour-for-no-pay scheme). When it comes to the crunch these flag wavers buy in the cheapest market.

N.B. All the figures in the item are for the first 11 months of 1967.

(2) BANKRUPTCIES REACH NEW RECORD

1967 saw a huge increase in the number of business concerns going bankrupt or being liquidated. More people and companies failed than in any year since the war. The High Courts in London made 1,006 winding up orders against companies in 1967 compared with 793 in 1966 - a jump of 27%. At London bankruptcy courts 975 people had receiving orders made against them in 1967. There were 802 in the year before and 758 in 1965. Detailed figures for the whole of Britain are not yet available, but reliable estimates put them as being between 11 and 14 per cent. above the figures for 1966. The chief victims of effects of Wilson's deflationary policies were small builders, electrical firms, haulage contractors, and the rag trade. Most experts expect the trend to continue in 1968.

(3) TAKEOVERS UP AND MORE VICIOUS

The savage battle which led to the take-over of A.E.I. (which has already meant massive redundancies) was part of a trend. The Times Business News of December 29 complained that "1967 has unquestionably been the year when the sadly tattered 'Queensberry Rules' for the conduct of bids were finally and openly hurled out of the window." The paper gave some figures of the extent of takeovers in 1967: "Over £450m. was involved in fewer than 20 of the biggest...bids during 1967. This is almost as much as the annual average for the previous three years.... Since bids of over £10m. form only the tiniest tip of the takeover iceberg, the total sum involved could well be in the region of £1,000 m..."

The U.S. News and World Report, which often reflects the opinions of the most militarist wing of the U.S. ruling class, predicts that a "crackdown" on students who demonstrate is on the way. In its January 1st issue in an article entitled "Crackdown starts on Student Riots" it notes that: "The biggest revolt of students in the history of American college life is now sweeping across the nation's campuses..." "For a close look at what is happening staff members of U.S. News and World Report went to the scene of action - the campuses of some of the largest universities in the U.S." One might think that this is the report of a new battlefield in the Far East!

"We're in real trouble", the journal reported a veteran professor at a major Midwestern school as saying. "We've never had this kind of violent, totalitarian" (sic) "assault to deal with before, and we're not set up to handle it." Apparently the use of napalm would be frowned upon. The journal continues: "In the past, college administrators and law-enforcement officials have been inclined to treat campus rioting with tolerance. But now there are increasing signs that a crackdown has started. Among them:

- More students are being expelled for disorderly conduct. Slack rules on campuses are being tightened.
- On the theory that trouble comes from outside, legislatures have begun to cut down on the number of out-of-state students permitted to enter their public universities.
- Parents and influential alumni are calling for a showdown not only with students, but with faculty members who sometimes lead marches and sit-ins."

However, the journal says: "At the universities, however, it is predicted that demonstrations by student activists will continue and grow larger until the Vietnam war is ended." A surprisingly frank admission.

Explaining what the demonstrations are about the journal states: "What students are demanding, basically, is an end to the draft, termination of the war in Vietnam, and more 'student power.' Student power, to them, means the right not only to make their own rules for life on the campuses, but to take over the actual running of universities..." The college authorities interviewed by the U.S. News and World Report reporters had a fixation about "outsiders". According to them: "Activists appear to get some central direction from radical student organisations. And a striking feature of the current scene is the way a small band of agitators bounce from Berkeley to Madison to Harvard to stir up trouble." It seems to me that this story has a familiar ring they must have been reading Ray Gunter's speeches.

"It's the intruder we're mostly concerned with - the outside students and dropouts," says John T. Bonner, Jr., executive dean for student relations at Ohio State University. This statement sums up his attitude. Among the crackdown measures the journal quotes with approval are: "...the board of agents of state universities in Wisconsin has just adopted a new code of conduct covering unlawful assembly and off-campus trouble-making. The code asserts the right of universities to discipline students for misconduct no matter where it takes place.... In California, the board of trustees...has directed that college police forces be beefed up and has instructed college authorities to call for police help..."

## IN THE UNITED STATES IT WASN'T IN THE NEWS-- THE LOSS OF HILL 875

An ironic footnote can be added to the history of the battle for Hill 875, which cost American soldiers over 1,000 casualties and raged for nearly a week in the latter part of November. The following brief Agence France-Press dispatch was discovered by I.F.Stone in the Dec.4 London Times:

"Dakto, South Vietnam, Dec 3 -- Hill 875, which was captured 10 days ago, after a 5-day battle that cost 158 American lives, has already been abandoned. U.S. parachute troops who had been guarding the peak about four miles from Cambodia have returned to Dakto after blowing up the massive bunkers and fortifications on and around the summit.

"No explanation has been given for the withdrawal. Of all the numbered ridges which earned fleeting fame during last month's big battles, only Hill 1338 remains in American or South Vietnamese hands.

"The others have been abandoned after attempts to destroy the bunkers which protected them..."

Stone states in his Dec 18 Weekly, "We saw the same dispatch in the Paris Le Figaro but in no U.S. wire service or newspaper, not even in the New York Times which subscribes to the French press service.

"Why is this news withheld from the U.S. public? So it cannot ask why so many lives were spent on taking hill the enemy can now reoccupy? If they aren't worth holding, why were they worth capturing? What happens to the fable they were of such strategic significance they had to be taken at any price?"

A number of good question -- and so far the only answer seems to be the one an anonymous infantry officer gave the Wall Street Journal: (The Valley) doesn't have any strategic value. Neither does the hill."

## STAUGHTON LYND --ANTI-WAR LEADER WINS PASS-PORT BACK AGAINST TRAVEL BAN

An important victory for freedom of travel was won this Dec 20 when the U.S. Court of Appeals ruled that the State Department could not enforce its travel restrictions by refusing to issue pass-ports to persons who travel to certain "off limits" countries. The ruling came out of an appeal brought by Staughton Lynd, former professor at Yale University, who had his pass-port revoked after he visited Hanoi in 1966.

A peculiar aspect of the decision was that it specifically stipulated that while present federal statutes do not give the State Department the right to control a person's travel, it can say where that person may or may not take his pass-port. Thus the State Department can require a person to leave his pass-port in an "approved" country while he ventures into a restricted area.

Despite the ruling, the right to travel is still in great danger because the Johnson administration is already pressing Congress to pass a bill making it a crime punishable by a year in jail and a 1000 dollar fine to travel to banned countries like Cuba, China, or North Vietnam