

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

6^D

Vol 7 No. 17 27th April, 1967

CHE
GUEVARA
SPEAKS!

A.E.U. SLAPS

WILSON

71 Onslow Gardens, London N 10

Subscription: £2 per annum and pro rata

VOICES FROM THE CROWD
(Against the H-Bomb)

Edited by David Boulton
Introduced by Michael Foot

The revolt against nuclear weapons and power politics has been spectacularly led by some of the most celebrated writers and intellectuals of our time.

This brilliant and timely collection brings together the very best of the writings published during the campaign for nuclear disarmament in addition to newly commissioned material.

The contributors include: Albert Schweitzer, Bertrand Russell, Michael Foot, Sir Herbert Read, Marghanita Laski, Philip Toynbee, John Osborne, C. Wright Mills, Donald Soper, Jacquetta Hawkes, J.B. Priestley, Christopher Logue, Alex Comfort, Sir Richard Acland, Michael Scott, Alan Sillitoe, Naomi Mitchison, and many others.

NEVER BEFORE HAVE SO MANY BRILLIANT AND
OUTSTANDING NAMES BEEN GATHERED TOGETHER
BETWEEN BOOK COVERS.

Make sure of your copy of this first edition. We predict that in years to come this book will be a collectors' item.

David Boulton edits the CND newspaper 'Sanity'

Illustrated Publication Date: November 20th. 25/-

ORDER FORM

IMPORTANT: Make cheques or money orders payable to Sanity
Please supply.....copy/copies VOICES FROM THE CROWD 25/-
Add 1/6 for post and pack.

I enclose £ : :

BLOCK LETTERS: Name.....
Address.....
.....
.....

Published By: Peter Owen Ltd. 50 Old Brompton Road, London, S.W.7.

CONTENTS

PAGE	1	Editorial notes	PAGE	2	Women and the fight for socialism
"	3	Women & socialism....	"	4	Common Market discussion.
"	5	Hugo Blanco in danger.	"	6	£220,000 a year for 7!!
"	7	Workers' Control campaign.	"	8	Socialist G.I. witch-hunted.
"	9	Socialist GI witch-hunted.	"	10	Che on Vietnam.
"	11	Che on Vietnam.	"	12	" " "

THE A.E.U. SLAPS WILSON

The news that the Amalgamated Engineering Union's National Committee has voted against the Government's incomes policy is great news. Unless that unspeakable man Carron finds some way to manipulate the vote, the A.E.U. will be against the wage freeze at the T.U.C. and Labour Party conferences. This, together with the TGWU vote and others, is sufficient to ensure that a majority will go against the Government. Whilst we are aware of the contempt with which Wilson and co. treat such conference decisions, we should not underestimate the value of such votes in influencing the rank and file.

This decision underlines the importance of the round of elections now taking place in the A.E.U. Of vital concern to the left is to ensure that these elections are won by the forces opposing the Government. In the poll to replace Carron it is a shame that there are two left candidates. The reports which reach us indicate that the final vote will be between Boyd and Scanlon. It is to be hoped that no one will underestimate the importance of winning this election for the left. We trust that A.E.U. militants encouraged by their success at the National Committee will realise the key role that their union plays in the entire development of a left in Britain. A left A.E.U. together with the TGWU would create immense difficulties for Wilson and would, in fact, pose an alternative centre to Wilson and his Cabinet. The difficulties of having two left wing candidates should not impede this process. Our readers from the A.E.U. tell us that Reg. Birch is a good militant but that Scanlon is more likely to win.

CHE SPEAKS

The last time we published anything by Che Guevara rumours had it that he was dead. Many tendencies on the left slandered the heroic Cuban leadership without having any concrete information. We and our co-thinkers maintained that it was necessary to be objective and try to analyse in an all-round manner the evolution of the Cuban revolution. It is, therefore, with some pleasure that we publish this latest article of Che. We will be publishing the second part next week, and the whole as a pamphlet. We are more thrilled than we can express by the latest developments of the Cuban revolution. Isolated on the American hemisphere it expressed a selfless solidarity position with the Vietnamese revolution. Unlike Russia and China it has not got huge resources. Despite this it offers the most concrete support for the Vietnamese: the opening of second fronts against American imperialism. When the history of 20th century socialism is written this will surely be one of the most heroic chapters.

SOCIALISM AND THE EXPLOITATION OF WOMEN: The Week held a most successful forum on the women question last week in London. This week we have published some discussion material. More has been submitted and will be published in later issues. We intend to stimulate in every possible interest in this subject.

WOMEN'S EQUALITY - PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

While most people would agree that women do not have the same career prospects as men of the same class, many of them are convinced that this is due to some inherent biological or psychological factors and that since the majority of women do not actively strive to change this state of affairs, that the status quo is a natural phenomenon. It is important, however, to realise that people's attitude towards women stems from a social structure which has developed over many centuries.

The downgrading of women began about 4,000 years ago, after the agricultural revolution, when it became possible to produce surplus food for storage and barter, after the domestication of animals and the development of primitive crafts such as weaving and pot-making - all these tremendous steps in the progress of humanity being taken ironically due to the initiative of women. In these ancient societies men were usually hunters and women gatherers; whereas the man might return from the hunt empty-handed, the woman provided a reliable contribution to the family diet, and in turn her observations taught her how to artificially cultivate crops.

As areas developed unevenly competition developed between them for the possession of the surplus goods produced - for example between the poor mountain people and the richer valley people, and the acquisition of property became an important driving force in society. This led man - the warrior - to lay restrictions upon his wife to make sure that his own children inherited his wealth. Hence began the long era in which women have occupied an inferior social position.

Moving closer to the present, the industrial revolution with its great technological advances including the techniques of cheap mass production could have made it possible for women to regain their equality. The mass production of foodstuffs and the invention of many work-saving appliances should have made it possible for women to take a full part in the economic, productive and cultural activities of the country which nowadays take place outside the home. In the past women were farmers and craftsmen, as well as mothers, industry was connected with the home. Under capitalism, the home has become more and more isolated from society, thus the woman who remains at home is more isolated than ever before in the history of her sex.

But what of the others, almost half the women of working age in Britain are in paid employment (D.E.A. report Feb. 1967), this includes about one-third of the total number of married women. Tradition and social prejudices have decreed that these women should be mainly occupied in the less skilled grades of work. Also about one-third of all employed persons are women and yet they are by no means evenly distributed on the promotion ladders in the jobs in which women compete fully with men, nor do they get the rate for the job.

/Continued over

I think that during the coming period we will see more women working. It has been predicted by the Department of Economic Affairs in a report published this February, that by 1970 some industries are likely to be very short of workers and that it will not be possible to fill this gap without attracting more workers from the reserve of married women. This is a conclusion echoed by the Fabians and the Conservative Party in their recent publications. It is the responsibility of socialists to see that they are not employed on the same unfavourable terms as working women are at present, when it is estimated that only one woman in ten gets the rate for the job (Times 11.4.67).

There are still only a few areas where women are able to obtain equal pay for equal work, the most notable of these being teaching - whereas in the manufacturing industries full-time women workers get less than half the pay of men workers [£9-19-7 compared to £19-9-1]. It would be wrong to think that progress is inevitable in this field, for the figures show that during the last six or seven years the wages differential between women and men has widened. Although the correction of this position must be primarily the responsibility of women, it would be foolish for men not to realise that this is part of their battle for better working conditions - for a lowering of standards for any one section of the working class community is reflected as an overall loss.

A widespread campaign of propaganda and action is required, which will cover many fields of activity. For instance, an increase of union membership on the part of women is obviously desirable. At the moment, whereas about 50% of men workers are organised in unions only about 25% of women workers are members. What are the reasons for this? I would suggest that they are:

- (1) The occupational distribution of women - out of 8 million, nearly 2 million are in clerical work, over 1½ million in services and 1 million in sales i.e. shop assistants - all these areas have a traditionally low union membership - even among men.
- (2) An unwillingness on behalf of the unions to fight on specifically feminine issues - has there ever been a strike to force employers to provide a nursery for the children of women employees? Why aren't more factories and offices being asked to follow the example of The Building and Civil Engineering Holidays Scheme Management Ltd. of Crawley, who provided transport and time off for their women employees over 35 to be screened for cervical cancer. When must factories have a mass radiography unit visit them these days, it would seem a logical extension of health and safety schemes.

Another important step in the emancipation of women can be taken by an examination of the interests served by the traditional housewife and mother image. Because women and their husbands cannot bring themselves to admit the value and importance of a woman's work outside the home they underestimate its worth financially and women become a source of cheap labour which can be taken on and put off at the employers' fancy.

/Continued over

Although 90% of women working are doing so not out of interest but because they need the money, a husband still feels that he should be able to support his wife and family alone and the family is reluctant to engage in activity which would indicate that the situation is otherwise, e.g. strikes or the wife signing on at the labour exchange. So who benefits from this attitude - the employers only.

We must examine all the symptoms of exploitation and oppression and convince both men and women of their truth - this can often be done by analogy with other groups of second class citizens e.g. negroes, where the case can be seen more easily. Also we must publicise the contribution which women have made to the progress of humanity both the famous women such as Marie Curie, Svetlana Tsereschkova, astronaut and Mother Jones, trade unionist and the unnamed women, such as those who fought for and obtained the ten-hour working week in the U.S.A. and the women who built the many-storied houses of New Mexico and Arizona where construction is a feminine prerogative.

INTERNATIONALISM AND THE COMMON MARKET By Richard Cooper.

In the Guardian (20.4.67), it was reported that twenty five back bench Labour M.Ps. broadly on the Left and Left of centre, issued a statement supporting British entry into the E.E.C. They said they wanted to counter the impression that Labour's left-wing was united in wanting to keep Britain out. Their statement said that the unification of Europe, both economically and politically, had long been desired by those who believed that internationalism was fundamental to Socialist philosophy.

It is not surprising that various sections of the Labour Party should support entry into the E.E.C. In fact, it is the next logical step, to their efforts to rationalise British Capitalism in the interests of the British Monopolies, that they should then go on to seek its wider rationalisation in the interests of the huge international monopolies. What is disturbing is that they should try to delude themselves with the arguments quoting the internationalism of Socialism.

The internationalism, whose definition: that which is not nationalism, has no relation to Socialist philosophy or any other political philosophy, because it is a definition which has no political content whatsoever. The analogy is the internationalisation of the U.S. War of Aggression in Vietnam by the presence of Australian, New Zealand and South Korean troops and the possible introduction of British Troops in Vietnam proper.

Unfortunately, some of the other Labour M.Ps. are so permeated with this confusion of terms, that the latter is also a logical conclusion for them, and it has been public pressure alone which has stopped its implementation. The true internationalist position in Vietnam is the international support of the Vietnamese fighters against the U.S. Aggressors. The corresponding position with regard to the Common Market is: Support the working classes of Britain and E.E.C. countries against the forces of international monopoly capitalism.

WORKERS' CONTROL CONFERENCE from Tony Topham.

Over 1,500 circulars have so far been dispatched throughout the country, giving details and calling for delegates for the 5th National Conference on Workers' Control, to be held in Coventry on June 10th-11th.

Enthusiasm for the conference is reported high amongst steel-workers in Scunthorpe and Sheffield. It is very significant that the branches of the production workers' union BISAKTA, last month adopted the original "Voice" programme for workers' control under nationalisation, as their official policy. A new paper, containing details of all the developments of recent months in this industry, is in course of preparation for presentation to Conference. A special regional conference for steel-workers is being convened in Sheffield as a forerunner to the national meeting - probable date: June 4th. (Information on this from Peter Smith, 14 St. Andrew Rd., Deepcar, nr. Sheffield).

Interest in the docks industry programme is bound to grow in the coming political period, and it is vital that the conference pin-points the issue of workers' control in the controversy which will shortly develop about the Government's proposal to nationalise the industry. It is now expected that the Government measure will be introduced in the 1968-9 parliamentary session. The Tories are planning an old-fashioned anti-nationalisation campaign. The employers in the industry are already manoeuvring for a strong position, pressing ahead with amalgamations and mergers, and in some cases placing themselves under the protective wing of the existing nationalised docks sector, - the B.T.D.B. There is also clamour for "port users" - i.e. the shipping companies, the international oil companies, etc., - to be given dominant representation on the future nationalised estuarial Boards. The Government's position will undoubtedly be taken up around some concessionary form of workers' "participation". The steel-workers have shown how to go beyond this point, and it is vital that a really representative docks group should discuss a similar campaign, at the Coventry Conference. In this industry too, a new paper will be ready for presentation to conference.

At the centre of activity in the Midlands, Coventry and Birmingham CSE branches are working hard on the spreading of information about the conference, and thousands of additional leaflets are being distributed to the labour parties, shop stewards and trade union branches, in that area. Aircraft and car workers are expected to give the conference major support.

Amongst others, delegates from printers and foundry workers branches have already registered. Information about conference, and application forms, from 1, Plantation Drive, Anlaby Park, Hull.

EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL YOUTH SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE by Pat Jordan

The conference called by the Vietnam Solidarity Campaign, on April 22nd., to bring together members of various youth organisation to discuss how best to help the Vietnamese people was a great success. About 250 people, mostly delegates and observers from youth organisations, attended the day-long conference. A notable feature was the number of delegates from the Y.C.L. - another interesting feature was the number of ex members of the S.L.L. who attended. The discussion was on a high level and very positive. A full report is being compiled and will be published in next week's issue.

SOCIALIST G.I. FACES COURT MARTIAL - based on a MILITANT (U.S.) article

Pfc. Howard Petrick, a 21-year-old soldier stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, faces a threatened court-martial for the sole "crime" of expressing his socialist, anti-war views to his fellow G.I.s.

Petrick had been active in the Minneapolis anti-war and socialist movements prior to being drafted last July. Since his induction he has continued to express his rights as a citizen, expressing his views in opposition to the Vietnam war, and on the general political issues of the day.

Petrick's socialist, anti-war beliefs were well known to Army authorities at the time of his induction. In the summer of 1965 he had become active in the Minnesota Committee to End the War in Vietnam. His opposition to the Vietnam war led him to socialist convictions and he became a member of the Minneapolis Young Socialist Alliance and Socialist Workers Party. At the time he was first called up for induction, Petrick refused to sign the standard "loyalty oath" which is supposed to establish that the prospective draftee is not a member of one of several hundred organizations arbitrarily branded "subversive" by the U.S. Attorney General. Petrick refused to sign on the constitutional ground that such an oath violated his First Amendment right of free political association.

On July 13, 1966, he was inducted into the Army. He again refused to sign the so-called loyalty oath on constitutional grounds. Asked by an Army officer at the induction center why he was refusing to sign, Petrick explained that he did not intend to yield any of his constitutional rights while in the service and intended to continue to express his beliefs. The officer assured him that his constitutional right to do so would not be infringed upon in any way. Since his induction, Petrick has maintained a personal library of Marxist and other works to continue his own political education. At the same time has openly circulated anti-war, black power and socialist literature. Many showed serious interest in this material and in discussing the ideas in them. A number have expressed sympathy with Petrick's stand against the war and some also with his socialist viewpoint.

On March 20 Petrick was given a pass for a ten-day leave and during this period attended the convention of the Young Socialist Alliance. On his return to Fort Hood he found that his locker had been searched and literature removed.

That evening he was called in and a series of 70 questions were directed to him regarding his political beliefs and associations, his possession of anti-war literature and statements he had made while in the army. Petrick declined to answer these questions at that time. He was then assigned an Army attorney who advised him of the prospective court-martial. He told Petrick that the charges in such a court-martial would probably include "subversion", creating "disaffection" within the armed forces and making "disloyal statements." The lawyer said each count under these charges carries a maximum penalty of three years in prison. Since then he has been assigned to a new unit; his files are being held in a special category; he hasn't drawn his pay, and cannot obtain a furlough.

Petrick has made clear he will not yield to this pressure. In a statement he said, "This is a clear infringement of my civil liberties. I have never disobeyed an order and have fulfilled all my duties as a soldier. A G.I. is still an American citizen and has the constitutional right to read, discuss and subscribe to any political ideas." A Provisional Committee to

/Continued over

Aid Howard Petrick has been established to publicize the case as widely as possible in an effort to forestall further action against Petrick. The committee is appealing to all partisans of civil liberties to support Petrick's fight. It is directing special emphasis to the anti-war movement which as a clear and direct interest in backing Petrick since the move to curb his free speech is obviously aimed at curbing the expression of anti-war views.

The committee has asked that protests be lodged with Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara and copies be forwarded to the committee.

FREE SPEECH CAMPAIGN - from a special correspondent

'The Observer' editorial of April 16 supported the 'Free Speech for N.L.F.' advertisement. In the course of the editorial it was suggested that Roy Jenkins was a liberal-minded Home Secretary. A Yorkshire Labour Party (Haltemprice) found differently as this letter to the local 'Hull Daily Mail' shows: - Sir.-- The British people pride themselves on hearing both sides of the question. On March 1, the Haltemprice Constituency Labour Party sent the following resolution to the Home Office and to Mr. Jenkins.

"This constituency party notes with regret that we are unable to hear on TV and radio the views of the National Liberation Front and North Vietnam and we trust that no obstacle will be placed in the way of free entry of the spokesmen of the National Liberation Front who may apply for visas."

We had an acknowledgement from Mr. Jenkins and the following reply from the Home Office:-- "The Home Secretary has concluded, in consultation with the Foreign Secretary, that it would not be in the national interest to agree in present circumstances to visits by representatives of the South Vietnamese National Liberation Front."

On the same day as this letter was received, papers throughout the country carried news that Roy Jenkins said the ban on admission to Britain of Vietnamese NLF representatives was imposed because in consultation with the Foreign Secretary he concluded that it would not be in the national interest to agree to their entry in present circumstances.

The following questions come immediately to mind: (1) Who decided what is the 'public interest?' (2) Who is being protected by this humbug? (3) Is this a reasonable answer to a serious question and does it enlighten the enquirer? The NLF spokesmen have been heard freely in France, Belgium, Holland and the Scandinavian countries, where apparently freedom of speech is not regarded as a threat to the public interest -- N.B. Dickinson, secretary, Haltemprice Constituency Labour Party, East Yorkshire.

FREE SPEECH CAMPAIGN BLAZES AHEAD by David Robinson

Hundreds of letters have been received by the Free Speech Campaign since adverts appeared in the Guardian and New Statesman explaining the aims of the organisers. Many organisations, including some more Labour Parties, have written in support. At least two more M.P.s have also signed. Support has come from a very wide spectrum of opinion including members of the House of Lords, Young Liberal branches, Young Socialist branches, women's organisations, etc. There is no doubt that the next steps of the campaign: a public meeting and demonstration, and further adverts will command a lot of new forces.

VIETNAM AND THE WORLD STRUGGLE FOR FREEDOM By Ernesto "Che" Guevara.

The text of an article sent by Comandante Ernesto "Che" Guevara from "somewhere in the world" to the Executive Secretariat of the Organization of Solidarity of the Peoples of Africa, Asia and Latin America was made public by that body and carried by Prensa Latina in its bulletin of April 17.

Prensa Latina reports that it is to appear in the first issue of a new magazine called Tricontinental which will begin publication in Havana in June.

The slogan is to create two, three... many Vietnams. It is the time of the furnaces, and it is only necessary to see the glow." (Jose' Marti.) It is not twenty-one years since the end of the last world conflagration and various publications, in an infinity of tongues, are celebrating the event symbolizing the defeat of Japan. There is an atmosphere of apparent optimism in many sectors of the different camps into which the world is divided. Twenty-one years without a world war, in these days of maximum confrontations, of violent encounters and abrupt turns, appears to be a very high number. But, without analyzing the practical results of this peace for which all of us are prepared to struggle (misery, degradation, constantly increasing exploitation of enormous sectors of the world), it is appropriate to ask whether it is real. It is not my intention in these notes to give an account of the various conflicts of a local character that have occurred since Japan surrendered. Neither is it our task to cite the numerous and growing civil struggles that have broken out in these years of so-called peace. It is sufficient to offer as examples countering the excessive optimism, the wars in Korea and Vietnam.

In the first, after years of ferocious struggle, the north part of the country was left with the most terrible devastation in the annals of modern war: riddled with bombs, without factories, schools or hospitals, -- without any kind of housing to shelter ten million inhabitants. In this war, under the deceptive banner of the United Nations, dozens of countries intervened under the military leadership of the United States, with the massive participation of troops of that country and utilization of the conscripted south Korean population as cannon fodder.

On the other side, the army and people of Korea and the volunteers from the People's Republic of China were supplied and assisted by the Soviet military apparatus. The North Americans tried out every kind of means of destruction, excluding thermonuclear weapons but including bacteriological and chemical arms on a limited scale. In Vietnam fighting has been carried on almost uninterruptedly by the patriots of that country against three imperialist powers: Japan, whose power collapsed with the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki; France, which recovered its Indochinese colonies from this defeated power, disregarding the promises made in a time of duress; and the United States, in the latest phase of the conflict.