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THE BULLETIN

An Information Service
 for
 Socialists

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Letter to Readers

These week we have put our thoughts down about the Scarborough Conference from the point of view of first impressions. We shall return to this theme next week after having heard reports of the Conference and after having had extensive discussions with participants. Also we shall suggest what implications the results of the Conference have for the left wing.

We have to apologise for the fact that the Housing Supplement has not been produced yet - work is in hand the delay will not be too long. Perhaps in one sense the delay will have been a blessing in disguise because some excellent material has come to hand in this last week or so.

We make our regular and customary appeal for names of potential subscribers. Again we must report some successes and, in particular, appeal to the new subscribers. Our method is to send samples copies of the Bulletin to potential subscribers for a week or two and then ask them if they want to subscribe. Results, whilst not sensational, have been encouraging and very useful.

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assessment is by looking at the way the Stock Exchange, that sensitive barometer of business opinion, behaved during the week. We quote from the Financial Times of October 5th, which stated:

"The new Stock Exchange Account which began last Monday has been bouyantand the main share indices have moved into new high ground for the year. At 333.8 the Financial Times industrial ordinary share index shows the substantial gain over the week of 7.0. It is now at its highest since June, 1961 and only 9% below its all-time peak of 365.7 reached on May 15th, 1961. The rise has been well spread and it can be seen that, over the market as a whole the impact of the Labour Party Conference at Scarborough has not been harmful" (our emphasis)

It went on to say that the only negative effects of the Conference on share prices had been on property and steel. The former being dull because of the fear Labour would take action against speculation, and the latter being affected by fear of the "renationalisation bogey" did not rise as much as expected. Apart from this business circles expressed no worries.

Wilson's final message to the country from the conference had 3 points: (1) Labour would restore (sic) a sense of purpose to British industry; (2) it would restore a sense of social purpose and justice to our national affairs; (3) by its ability to bring fresh, new, dynamic ideas to international affairs it would restore Britain's position in the world. Very nice - but let us compare this with what Macmillan promises in his pamphlet "Acceleration", issued immediately after the Labour Party Conference and on the eve of the Tory Party circus. He promises "An efficient Britain, second to none in the development of new industries..", "A just Britain, whose prosperity is widely shared.." and "A go-ahead Britain.." Virtually the same - only the platitudes differ - no wonder big business is not worried.

For Wilson, Scarborough achieved certain things: firstly, it established him as the undisputed leader of the party; secondly, it effected a reconciliation between Wilson and the old-guard right wing; thirdly, it established the image of a united party -- another result was Brown's return to number two position in the party, just as he was in Gaitskell's days. Of course, all these relationships are temporary - perhaps even ephemeral - but between now and the election there will be tremendous pressures to keep the ranks closed. Anyone who breaks the apparent unity will risk being immediately out on a limb. Only the impact of a sharp crisis will break this mood.

But this wasn't the only aspect of the Conference - the voting figures for the 7 constituency section seats on the national executive are instructive. Anthony Greenwood and Barbara Castle who for most Labour Party members symbolise the left, came first and second - Greenwood getting 758,000 (an increase of 54,000) and Castle 729,000 (an increase of 78,000). Also significant was the drop in votes received by John Stonehouse (183,000 to 69,000) reflecting no doubt the dirty, witchhunting role he plays in the London Co-op.

Once in office, Labour will face problems which will require more than Wilson's adeptness at tactics to solve. Cut-throat competition for export markets will impose a tremendous strain on Britain's trade position, Swiss bankers will try to exert pressure through their holdings in Britain to stop Labour 'endangering' the pound, and the colonial revolution will not cease because Labour is in office. The near unanimous vote on the incomes policy will mean nothing when the unions are presented with the bill for rationalising British industry. The crisis of policy which has dogged the Tories in their years of office will effect Labour as well. The differences so carefully papered over will emerge again. In the unlikely event of Labour again losing, the sound of Wilson's ovation will give way to that of the pitter-patter of the feet of hundreds of right-wing rats as they desert the sinking ship. Either way, the objective conditions for the emergence of a mass based, deeply-rooted left wing will be favourable.

UNION SUPPORT FOR HOUSING CAMPAIGN

1766 Support from many quarters in the trade union movement has been forthcoming. We haven't as yet full details, but we can report:

- (1) That Harry Weaver, President of the National Federation of Building Trades Operatives, has agreed to be a sponsor for the campaign;
- (2) That the staff of the Association of Cinematograph and Theatre Technicians office in London have signed the petition form.

YOUTH LOBBY OF PARLIAMENT IN NOVEMBER

The London Youth Section of U.S.D.A.W. is sponsoring a lobby of Parliament on the question of youth unemployment, to be held November 12th. Nearly a thousand trade union branches, trades councils, youth organisations, etc. have been circularised on the question. The demands being made are:

- (1) Government action to direct industry to hard-hit areas; and every employer to take the full apprentice quota;
- (2) Establishment of trade training centres; and the lifting of all bans on world trade.

This lobby should not be confused with one which has been decided upon by the Northern Federation of Trades Councils. The actual date of that lobby will be decided upon at the next meeting of the federation on November 2nd. Despite the rather restricted nature of demands put forward by the November 12th lobby, it will present an opportunity for young socialists and members of the Labour Party to contact and meet young trade unionists and others who are coming into political action.

TWO EVENTS FIXED FOR NOVEMBER 3RD.

The joint N.A.L.S.O./M.C.F. demonstration against the repression of students and others in the Portuguese colonies and Portugal is now due to take place on November 3rd, instead of November 2nd as announced in our last issue. The reason being that it was impossible to book Trafalgar Square on the 2nd. However, this clashes with the widely-publicised 'March against Apartheid' due to take place 2.15 p.m., on the third. No doubt an attempt will be made to try to resolve this clash.

ENGINEERS LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO RECRUIT MORE WOMEN AND YOUTH

The A.E.U. has started a campaign to gain members amongst the estimated 750,000 unorganised women and young workers in the engineering industry. Ernie Roberts, A.E.U. Assistant General Secretary, said in a statement issued on October 2nd that the aim was to bring the union's membership up from 1,000,000 to 1,250,000. A new paper, The Way which will be edited by Ernie Roberts, will be distributed through the branches, shop stewards' committees, etc. 70,000 copies of the first issue have been printed. Booklets are to be issued explaining the rights of apprentices and youth, women and young girls, and a new film explaining aspects of the union's structure and activities is planned. It is hoped to use the campaign to establish many more Junior Workers' Committees.

ANTI COLOUR BAR MOVES CONTINUE IN NOTTINGHAM

There have been fresh incidents in the colour bar at the public house in Nottingham, the Admiral Dundas. A West Indian Labour Party Councillor, who went in with a Labour Party delegate to Scarborough and his wife, was refused service on the grounds 'we don't serve mixed company'. Another West Indian member of the Young Socialists who went in with his girl friend, a member of the University Socialist Society, was also refused service. The Individual Members Section of Co-op Party, on hearing at its last meeting that two of its members has been discriminated against asked the Political Committee to take action. The Political Committee of the N.C.S. has now decided to raise the matter with the City Labour Party.

NUMBER OF DURHAM MINERS TO BE CUT BY 4,500 IN 1964

Speaking on September 25th at Newcastle, Dr. William Reid, chairman of the Durham Divisional Coal Board, said that pit closures and reorganisations will cut the number of Durham miners next year by 4,500. His estimate is a little less than that of the current year, which will be about 5,100. He said that it was no use ignoring the fact that Durham is an elderly coalfield and that the so-called reserves in some pits include areas of coal which are quite unworkable because of thin, faulty seams and the quality of the coal. Some of the displaced men would have jobs found for them within the coalfield, but he hoped that more men would take advantage of the inter-division transfer scheme. In 1962, and so far this year, 2,300 Durham miners had gone to jobs in Yorkshire, the East and West Midlands and South Wales coalfields.

THE ECONOMIC LEAGUE ISSUES A DENIAL

The Economic League, that body which is financed by big business to carry-out propaganda against strikes, 'reds', nationalisation, shop stewards, etc., is upset - the story has got around that they support the Tory party. On October 4th, they issued a statement which said:

"This allegation is completely without foundation. On no occasion during the 44 years of its existence has the Economic League contributed a single penny to the funds of the Conservative Party, or acted in any way as a channel for the conveyance of funds. Nor has the Economic League ever received any contribution, direct or indirect, from the Conservative Party."

SOLDIERS PAY FOR BURNED UNIFORMS ALTHOUGH NO NEGLIGENCE

The Observer of October 6th reported:

"70 soldiers who lost their No. 2 dress uniforms in a barracks fire at Arborfield, near Reading, in August, are having their pay stopped to pay for their replacement. The fire occurred when many of the men were on leave. There is no question of negligence.....Last week the soldiers were made to sign forms accepting liability for the loss, which in some cases exceeds £20. Their pay has been cut to 35s. per week. (in addition, married men will still get £3 or £4 allowances each week.)

"Feeling in the unit affected - the regimental depot of the Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineers - appears to be running high. A recommendation for ex-gratia compensation is understood to have been made by a unit board of inquiry; but it must now go to Southern Command and then to the War Office. The process may take weeks." (our emphasis)

NO RELEASE FOR ANTI-WAR SEAMAN

from Peace News 4/10/63

John Dixon, a 20-year-old able seaman in the Royal Navy who holds pacifist views, has failed to secure release from the Navy on conscientious grounds. On Monday, September 23, he saw a conscientious objectors' tribunal but he learned the following day that he would not be released by the Navy. On Wednesday, September 25, he was sent to the Far East.

On hearing that his appeal had been turned down, John Dixon wrote: "I will never again lift a finger to run the Navy." This means that once again he will have to go through long periods of imprisonment, but this time it will be in the Far East....

John Dixon's case reveals the arbitrariness of military regulations, which make no adequate provision for conscientious objection. He joined up in 1958 at the age of 15 for 9 years. His engagement, therefore, ends in 1970. He told the Peace News reporter last June, that when you are 15 "you don't know your mind - I knew almost nothing about nuclear war."

TWO TO THREE HUNDRED DIE EACH NIGHT ON CALCUTTA STREETS

1768 The Guardian of September 26th carried a despatch from Alistair Cooke who, as part of a round the world tour, visited Calcutta last month. He was obviously very shocked by what he saw - we reproduce some of the most relevant extracts of what he wrote:

".....But of all the abstract nouns, poverty is the one that in Asia assumes a wholly new scale and immediacy. For your own sanity you very soon learn to accept, and to pass by, the nightly bundles of rags, shored up against dark tree-trunks in the country and the buildings of the cities, which occasionally stir and stretch and turn into prostrate human beings.

"There is no reliable count of the people who sleep in the streets of Calcutta (in fact, the official estimate of the population lurches between $2\frac{1}{2}$ and 4 millions), but in a city where over half the population is migrant, where 64% of the men and 52% of the women are illiterate, and where there are not quite two hospital beds for every thousand inhabitants (against the still inadequate 10 beds in Britain and the United States), the street is all the usual things, but also a haven, shop and refugee shelter. A quarter of the people live in slum huts, and almost 80% of these house five families with a common privy and a water tap (where they are lucky enough to have either), and living room for each human of about 7 feet by 5.

"Every night the ambulances clatter around the rough streets, and when a body with thighs like bamboo poles refuses to be kicked into protest, it is turned over and found to be dead and hauled off to the mortuary. Two to three hundred a night of such corpses is the grudging figure.

".....By the light of day we went to the railway station. Not 20 yards from the platforms crowds of ragged families were camped on the stone flags. With one hand a young mother stirred a rusty pot of rice over a few smoking twigs and with the other she held an infant, no bigger than an embryo, to a breast as shrivelled as an old hot water bottle. Beside her was a rotted bag of what, for want of a meaner word, had better be called possessions.

"5 other naked children, weighing anything from 10 to 50 pounds, fiddled and yawned around her. Outside and opposite the station are the bustees, the dark and ferocious slums. By any Western standard they are almost impossible to describe. They are hovels about 6 feet by 8, roofed over with dingy plywood, sometimes draped with sacking....

"Many of them have a few commodities stacked on a tilted board: cakes, cigarettes, betel-nuts leaves, "Coca-Cola" bottles. You peer as close as your conscience and your stomach will let you, and inside the black interior there are two families, maybe a dozen writhing humans. Here they eat, sleep, talk, play, give suck, excrete, brood, and copulate.

".....One half of all the households of the city are so-called "messing families" of stray males. And yet this is a city whose per capita income is 70% higher than the national average. It now stands at the princely figure of £45 a year, and may go as high as £53 in 15 years."

BRITISH FIRMS IN INDIA DO WELL

The same day as the above article appeared, the Financial Times carried the chairmen's statements of two British firms in India: The Bazaloni Tea Company and Malayalam Plantations Limited. The former reported: "Although the North India crop for 1962 was lower than in previous years our Company was fortunate.....Some very good prices were obtained....our crop realised £446,409 which was an increase of some £22,000....With expenditure remaining steady the profit on Revenue Account increased from £108,825 to £125,428." Malayalam reported: "The profit before tax was £1,322,428 compared with £984,918 for 1961/2 and, after tax, £513,817 compared with £33,398. A final dividend of 15% (making a total of 20% for the year) is recommended."

WHY PEOPLE LEAVE JAMAICA

The following facts appeared in a pamphlet, Why Tolerate Poverty and Oppression? issued by the Unemployed Workers Council of Kingston, Jamaica.

More than 300,000 men and women are without a secure means of existence in Jamaica -- some permanently without jobs, some finding jobs for only a few weeks of the year. More than 60,000 families lack homes while 250,000 other families live in over-crowded rooms under extremely unhealthy conditions. Nearly half the families in Jamaica have only one meal a day.

Throughout the country hundreds of young and old beggars wander. Prostitution, involving girls as young as twelve, is rampant. More than 71% of the children born in Jamaica are illegitimate. Out of a population of 1,700,000, some 1,200,000 are recorded as attending the country's public health institutions, which gives an indication of the disease-ridden conditions. More than 80% of the children above the age of 5 never have milk.

More than two-thirds of the country's 400,000 children between the ages of 5 and 14 lack shoes. Today Jamaica has 169,000 above the age of ten who cannot read or write, an average of one out of six. For the past 8 years some 7,000 children reaching the age of seven have had no schools to go to.

A common daily occurrence is the seizure of furniture and other belongings because of the failure of families to keep up time payments. Economic crimes such as burglary, house-breaking, shop-breaking, fraud, general theft and traffic in narcotics, which stood at 24,680 reported cases in 1959-60 rose by 5,035 in 1960-61 and 3,019 in 1961-62 -- a rise of more than 32% in two years.

Coupled with this is a steep rise in the cost of living. From December 1959 to December 1962 the cost of living went up by 20% more than the rise in wages. Profits plundered by an alliance of foreign imperialists and native capitalists rose from £60,000,000 in 1956 to £100,000,000 yearly by 1962. During the same period wages rose from £84,000,000 to £142,000,000; but this is accounted for mainly by an increase in the work force of 50,000. Yet almost 20,000 workers were "retrenched" from industry during this same period.

TATE AND LYLE SUBSIDERIES REPORT EXCELLENT PROFITS

Caroni and West Indies Sugar, both controlled by the £76 million Tate and Lyle group, have reported excellent profits. Caroni, an £8 millions concern based on Trinidad, is raising its dividend from 3½d to 5d per share. Net profits have more than doubled from £410,667 to a record £979,484 after paying £373,779 more tax at £663,857. West Indies Sugar, a £6½ millions company operating in Jamaica, returns to the dividend list with an interim of ½s per share and forecasts 8d final. The chairman of West Indies, who is also vice-chairman of Tate and Lyle reported that a record crop has been harvested in Jamaica - where W.I.S. has 25,000 acres of sugar cane and a spare 2,500 acres for bananas. On the stock exchange, Tate and Lyle shares climbed 1s 6d to 55s, Caroni jumped 9d to 5s 3d and West Indies Sugar 5s 3d to 24s. Although these results partly reflect the embargo by the U.S. administration on Cuban sugar, it is clear that vast sums of money are sucked out of the Caribbean countries by British big business.

CUBANS NATIONALISE ALL BIG ESTATES

The Cuban government proclaimed, on October 4th, a law providing for the nationalisation of all estates over 5 caballerias (approx. 166 acres) of land. Explaining the reasons for the decision, the law declares: "....The existence of a rural bourgeoisie is incompatible with the interests and aims of socialist revolution. It is necessary to establish the definite base for the development of our agriculture, with the combined efforts of state agricultural and cattle-raising farms and small peasants....."

1770 Circles within the British China Friendship Association who are sympathetic to China in the current dispute have been drawing attention to a neglected aspect of the Test Ban Treaty. They allege that the partial nature of the treaty (i.e. the fact that underground testing is not included in the ban) enables the United States now to press ahead with the development of so-called tactical nuclear weapons because it is precisely the underground tests which are required for such development. These tactical nuclear weapons are, of course, primarily designed for use against liberation movements in the underdeveloped countries. A recent Observer report gives certain circumstantial support to an argument that might otherwise appear simply to be pro-Chinese apologetics. On 29 September, Nora Beloff wrote concerning United States' policy in Vietnam:

"The present American Democratic leadership flatly rejects any parallel between the present war in Indo-China and the previous French enterprise. One of the most prominent of President Kennedy's advisors who accompanied General Maxwell Taylor on one of his earlier missions to Vietnam approved Democratic opposition to Dulles' proposal for dropping A-bombs to save the French at Dien Bien Phu.

"But he added he would not have the same objections to using nuclear weapons, if the military situation required it, in the present anti-Communist conflict. "This is different," he said, "it isn't an imperialist war" (Observer 29th September, 1963) (our emphasis)

RUSSIA REVISING AGRICULTURAL POLICY

from Financial Times 1/10/63

Faced with a very bad harvest this year which has already forced them to look to Canada and the U.S. for grain, the Soviet Government appears to be in the process of revising its entire agricultural policy. Mr. Khrushchov seems to have abandoned his reliance on extensive farming of the cold and ill-favoured lands of Siberia and Kazakhstan, and to have turned instead to irrigation and a much greater use of fertilisers, designed to make more intensive use of the warm, black-earthed regions of South Russia and the Ukraine.

Almost the entire front page of Sunday's Pravda (Sept. 29th) is devoted to reporting a visit by Mr. Khrushchov to Krasnodar, centre of the North Caucasus region of South Russia. Near the start of the report is written in black type - "Irrigated lands and fertilisers - these mean guaranteed high yields, these are our wealth." This statement is used for the paper's headline. A statement of this kind in Pravda has almost the force of an official declaration of government policy.

The most striking innovation of Mr. Khrushchov's farm policy has of course been the cultivation of the huge virgin lands of Siberia and Kazakhstan. These lands, first tilled in 1954-55, soon started to bring in about 40 m. tons of grain a year - an addition of about 40% to the previous harvest totals. But yields from the virgin lands have been declining throughout the 60's. Cold weather has caused much trouble, but still more serious has been the effect of the dry conditions which are normal, not exceptional, for that part of the world. Reports this year have hinted at a further fall in catastrophic fall in yields, and it looks as if the earth there is in the danger of drying out and becoming a dust bowl.

Thus it looks very much as if the Soviet Government has decided to "write off" the virgin lands and start an entirely new policy of intensive farming in the European part of the country. Tass newsagency quotes Mr. Khrushchov as saying that Soviet industry aimed to produce 35m. tons of mineral fertiliser in 1965 and 100m. tons in 1970. Weather conditions this year had been unfavourable. "We found ourselves in a rather difficult position and must draw the necessary conclusions," he added.

PROCESS OF SOCIALISATION CONTINUES IN ALGERIA

Most readers will have already seen the nationalisation of the lands of the remaining colons, but this is only part of the story. Action is also being taken against a would-be capitalist class in Algeria. Last week 3 enterprises were nationalised in Algiers: The large olive oil refinery "Tamzali" and two hotels — "Oasis" and "Touring Club." The refinery was owned by the Kabylia industrialist Tamzali who bought most of the olives grown in the Kabylia region for his refinery and who had, therefore, a strong grip over the economy of that region. Kabylia, which is a mountainous coastal region from the Mitidja lowland near Algiers to the Philippeville area, is the headquarters of the military rebellion.

Earlier the Motor Coach Company of Blida Ltd. was "put under the protection of the state" by the authorities in accordance with the May 9th decree on maintaining order and social security. Established 45 years ago, this company carried out business in the Sahara and the Mitidja, a fertile plain south of Algiers. At the time of nationalisation it possessed more than 80 motor coaches and employed 340 workers.

Ed Note: We shall carry material next week on the military rebellion in the Kabylia.

OVER HUNDRED SPANISH INTELLECTUALS PROTEST TO FRANCO OVER TORTURE

The text has recently become available of a letter signed by 102 Spanish intellectuals which has been sent to General Franco's deputy, General Munoz Grandes, and his Minister of Information Senor Fraga. The letter declares that according to eye-witness reports, a captain of the Spanish fascist security services and a captain tortured many miners in Sama de Langreo, even castrating a number of them and causing the death of one miner. The letter gives the names and addresses of about a dozen miners, and of two women, and describes the tortures they suffered. Among the 102 signatories are Academicians like the former Rector of Madrid University, Dr. Lain Entralgo, 8 professors of the university, Prof. Jose-Luis Sureda of Barcelona University, Prof. Ierno Galvan of Salamanca University and the former Dean of Faculty of Political Science in Madrid, Dr. Valentin Andres Alvarez.

The signatories also include a number of Spain's leading writers, poets, painters, actors, cinema producers. They demand a full-scale inquiry into their charges. The letter was sent to all foreign news agencies in Madrid and to all correspondents, but although the Spanish press has suppressed it, its contents have become widely known.

based upon a Daily Worker report.

REPRESSION IN VENEZUELA

from Hsinhua 6/10/63

The Venezuelan pro-U.S. dictatorial government of Betancourt has in the last few days arrested 23 M.P.s of the Communist Party and the left-wing Revolutionary Movement. In addition, more than 300 members of the two parties. The Minister of the Interior, Manuel Mantilla announced "emergency measures" against the Communist Party and the left-wing Revolutionary Movement on September 30th and cancelled the parliamentary immunity enjoyed by the M.P.s of the two parties....The police have raided the headquarters of the Central Workers Trade Union and arrested 145 workers. The Office of the Communist Party in Caracas has been closed....In the states of Anzoategui, Monagas and Zulia many legislative assembly members have also been arrested.

ANOTHER PIRATE ATTACK ON CUBA: A Cuban sawmill on Guin Island, near the town of Naracca on the Northeast coast of Oriente Province, was attacked by a ship at 2.50 a.m. on October 1st. A communique issued by the Cuban Ministry of Revolutionary Armed Forces announced that the mill was destroyed and that the ship fled northwards after the attack.

1772 Considerable changes in the structure of employment took place in Sweden during the fifties. In agriculture and forestry the number of employees decreased by 30%, whereas industry and trade increased their employment by some 15% and services and construction by 20%. These changes have brought about a migration of population which has created very serious problems for the depopulated regions, mainly located in the North. Contrary to the general belief it is not Sweden's big cities which have mainly absorbed these workers on the move. So far as manufacturing is concerned the share of the big cities has gone down owing to the fact that many firms have moved to small towns. Quite a wide range of areas in the middle and southern parts of Sweden have had a marked increase in the number of people employed in manufacturing. When the population falls below a certain level it ceases to be possible to maintain schools and public services to reasonable standards; this in turn accelerates the migration and within a short period of time almost depopulates whole areas.

In order to prevent such developments a government committee was set up in 1959 and this committee has recently published its almost unanimous report. In summary, the recommendations are for far-reaching economic help by the State: The total subsidies suggested can be roughly estimated at 800 million Kronor (approx. £55 Million) over a five-year period, apart from other measures.

The largest part of this 800 million Kronor would be intended for credit guarantees. Another 175 million Kronor, the committee suggests, should make up a State loan fund to which industry and trade could apply for credits. This is the only major point on which the committee disagreed. One of its members felt that examination of the loan applications as well as the extension and supervision of the credits should be entrusted to existing credit institutions, which he felt could handle this more efficiently and inexpensively than a State fund. The remaining 150 million Kronor would be used for construction or purchase of buildings.....

HIRE-PURCHASE DEBT CREEPING UP AGAIN

The hire purchase debt has now reached the end-1961 total of £927 millions. The figure had gone down (owing to government policy) to £872 millions in February of this year. The Board of Trade Journal, October 4th, reported:

"Both hire purchase and other instalment credit sales by household goods shops and new credit extended by hire purchase finance houses in August appear to have been at least maintained at, or perhaps advanced slightly above, the higher levels which have prevailed since the spring, after allowing for the normal seasonal decline expected for the time of year. Total debt outstanding rose by £9 millions to £927 million during the month.

".....Sales on credit by furniture and furnishing shops were about 2% higher than a year ago, and for April to August, broadly the period since new h.p. etc, agreements for additional furniture could be added to existing agreements without further down payment, the increase was 3% on a year earlier compared with a fall of about 5% in January-March. For multiple retailers the increase was 7% in April to August compared with the corresponding period last year.

"In the hardware, radio, electrical goods, etc., category of shops instalment credit sales were about 5% more than in August last year, compared with no change in July and a small rise in June. For the household goods departments of department stores, however, new instalment credit business in August was a little lower than a year earlier. Debt outstanding to household goods shops in total rose by £4 millions in August to £319 million at the end of the month.

".....New credit for industrial and building plant and equipment was nearly one quarter higher than a year earlier, compared with a rise of about one fifth in July. Debt outstanding from hirers, etc, to finance houses rose by £5 millions in August to £608 million. Amounts owing by retailers under block discounting arrangements were unchanged at £47 million....."