



ON THE MARCH AGAINST THE TORIES

ALDERMASTON 1962

by the Editor

EDITORIAL

CND Candidates — a step back

THE decision to form the Independent Nuclear Disarmament Election Committee is a step backward for the movement against the H-bomb.

The committee, including members of CND and the Committee of 100, is to prepare to stand nuclear disarmament candidates in by-elections. It hopes 'to appeal to members of all parties'.

This line of action will further separate the anti-H-bomb fight from the Labour movement. INDEC candidates will have the effect of siphoning-off votes and active support from the Labour Party and thus aiding the Tories.

At a time when all efforts should be devoted to uniting the opposition to this H-bomb, pay freeze government, Pat Arrowsmith, Michael Craft and their friends will be dividing the opposition. They will also be weakening the fight inside the Labour Party to get rid of the Gaitskell-Brown-NATO leadership. Already, Stoke Newington and Hackney North Labour Party is to discuss a motion for the expulsion of Hugh Brock, on the basis of his association with the move to put up candidates in opposition to Labour. The right wing are presented with a weapon to use against those who oppose the line of the leadership.

The Newsletter has argued since the beginning of the development of CND that the struggle to get rid of the H-bomb must be linked with the struggles of the Labour Movement.

However difficult this task may appear, there are no short cut ways of avoiding it. The power of organised Labour must be brought to bear against the threat of nuclear war.

However sincere the motives of INDEC may be, its formation will undo much of the work which has been done to win support for unilateral nuclear disarmament in the Labour movement. We hope its members will reconsider their decision and help to complete that work.

H-Bomb

Hypocrites (p. 2)

EASTER 1962 sees thousands of people on the march against the H-bomb, while engineering workers and many other sections of the Labour movement prepare to do battle with the Tories. At the same time, in Geneva, representatives of the major powers discuss yet another set of proposals for an international agreement to stop the testing of nuclear weapons.

On Christmas Island, American scientists, with the permission of the Tories, complete their preparations for a new series of thermo-nuclear explosions.

While more and more terrible instruments of mass murder are developed, the politicians manoeuvre in the effort to put the blame for World War III on to someone else.

The Socialist Labour League and its paper The Newsletter have supported the movement for unilateral nuclear disarmament and have been represented on every one of its demonstrations since its emergence in 1957.

As Marxists, we have striven to bring home the need to link this fight with the struggles of the organized working class. For us, the H-bomb is the highest manifestation of the decay of the capitalist system.

A society without a future, capitalism utilizes the scientific techniques available, not to benefit humanity, but to prepare to destroy it.

That is why we see in the Labour and trade union movement the only force which can stop the drive towards nuclear war. Individual protest or summit talks appear to us to be irrelevant to the problem: how to get rid of an outmoded social system?

Diversion

The Communist Party, arguing for 'pressure' on Macmillan to force an international meeting of heads of state are diverting attention from this question.

The Tory government manufactures and tests H-bombs, because it represents the class whose social system these bombs are meant to protect.

Today, the Tories are in difficulties. Their economic measures are meeting with resistance from trade unionists. Engineering workers are balloting to decide on a national strike for higher wages and shorter hours. A decisive 'Yes' vote will mean that a major section of the Labour movement will take on the Tories and the employers.

We are all fighting the same enemy. A united struggle of CND and the Labour movement, given correct leadership, could force the Tories out of office. The fight

against the H-bomb is inseparable from the fight against the pay freeze.

The same leaders of the Labour Party and the Trades Union Congress who fear an all-out attack on the employers and their government, are also supporters of the NATO alliance and its war preparations.

All those who want to see the world freed from the shadow of the bomb should join us in our efforts to organize the opposition to Gaitskell and his friends and to connect the fight for peace with the fight for socialism.

Join Forces

If the mighty Labour movement and CND join forces to remove the Tories from power and replace them with a Labour government committed to the nationalization of the basic industries and the arms industry, then the prospects for peace and the end of the threat of nuclear destruction become a definite and inspiring reality.

Stop Cuba Blockade!

SUPPORT for the Cuban Revolution and resolutions of protest at the US blockade are beginning to stream in.

Croydon Labour Party Management Committee has passed a resolution, moved by Young Socialist delegates, and is now arranging to raise the matter at other Management Committees in the area.

Ward Labour Parties and trade union branches are going on record for the protest and sending money.

The Political Committee of the South Suburban Co-operative Party (third largest in the country) will have before its next meeting a resolution calling upon it to support the Surrey Aid to Cuba Committee.

In view of the support already received, the Surrey Committee has plans to broaden and extend its work in the coming weeks.

The Executive Council of USDAW have been asked to place on the agenda at their conference



'The Socialist Labour League and its paper The Newsletter have supported the movement for unilateral nuclear disarmament and have been represented on every one of its demonstrations.'

Labour Youth Fight for Militant Policies

By ALAN WEST, Our Labour Correspondent

IN a year that has seen the resurgence of the Right wing at the Blackpool conference and the rout of the 'lefts' around 'Tribune' and VFS, the one bright spot in the ranks of the Labour Party has been the youth organization—the Young Socialists.

The Young Socialists meet in London this Easter for their second annual conference and the resolutions on the agenda show that the success of the struggle against the Right wing and for socialist policies in the Labour Party will depend to a considerable extent upon this militant youth movement.

Gaitskell and company recognise this fact. They see their vision of a few thousand young people recruited to revitalise the decaying electoral machine being replaced by the ogre of a mass youth movement fighting with socialist policies.

To stave off this awesome

possibility, the past year has seen an intensification of the witch-hunt against left-wing Young Socialists and further attempts to stifle political discussion in their ranks.

Undaunted, however, the Young Socialists have waged an enthusiastic battle against the Tories in recent months and in many areas have succeeded in building their branches by recruiting large numbers of young workers and apprentices.

The agenda contains a hefty majority of motions in favour of socialist policies: for unilateral nuclear disarmament, for nationalization of the basic industries, land and housing, for control of the Transport House 'youth' paper, and the rights of independent papers, for a better deal for apprentices and for withdrawal of British troops from the colonies. Against the immigration bill, conscription, the Common



Market, the pay pause and the collaboration of the trades union leaders on the National Economic Development Council.

The prospect for such a mass movement depends upon the willingness and determination of the elected leadership of the Young Socialists to turn the rank-and-file's policy into a national campaign against the Tories.

Expose the H-Bomb Hypocrites!

by Tom Kemp

MANKIND faces the threat of destruction in a nuclear war. Such a war differs from all past wars in that initial striking power will be decisive: it is essential to get in the first blow on the enemy's towns, launching sites and warning systems. There will not be years, or even months, to carry through industrial mobilization.

Each major country, separately, or with its allies, aims to have a fully-prepared striking force based on a balanced assortment of weapons.

The technique of war changes at breath-taking speed. Last years' weapons are already obsolete. A fantastic commitment of highly-trained scientists and technicians and research facilities accompanies this arms drive.

Nuclear weapons delivered by ballistic missile, perhaps

launched from satellites, mean:

- 1 Little or no warning of attack; warning time is actually diminishing.
- 2 No pretence of singling out 'military' targets; indiscriminate massacre of a kind from which all but the most blood-thirsty would have shrunk in former times.
- 3 The whole target area will be destroyed, desolated and rendered uninhabitable for years.

The first strike and fall-out effect of an all-out nuclear attack on Britain might leave alive 9-12 million people. These people would face a slow death from famine, epidemic, radiation sickness and moral, as well as physical, decline. A relapse into barbarism, perhaps cannibalism, would be a matter of days.

The present civil defence effort is ludicrous, a symbolic showpiece to kid people that something is being done. Yet, if it is maintained, nuclear war is being considered as a possibility.

What the H-bomb hypocrites—Macmillan, Gaitskill, Brown and company—do not tell you, is that to meet this problem a colossal proportion of the national resources would have to be mobilised.

At dispersed points throughout the country, depots containing food, drugs, raw materials, machines, blueprints, text books and supplies of all kinds would have to be established in radiation-proof shelters. The survivors would be able to open up these stocks to begin to rebuild something like the life of an advanced society.

But no government has seriously considered providing for the survival of civilization as the necessary complement to weapons of offence. Heavy taxes, controls, industrial mobilization, in short a veritable siege economy would be required now. The conclusion must be that the British and American governments have not seriously prepared to survive the nuclear war for which they arm.

Such men are irresponsible hypocrites with no right to control the destiny of mankind.

The real problem is how to put them out of harm's way. That can only be done by eliminating the system which has produced them.

Nuclear war has social roots. Its possibility today arises from the world-wide challenge to capitalism, which cannot afford to see its field of operation further reduced by successes of the colonial liberation movement or the working class.

In this situation the posses-

sion of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union is an incontestable right as far as socialists are concerned. Does anyone seriously believe, for example, that Cuba could have held out against American imperialism if the Soviet Union did not have equal or superior nuclear striking power?

The possession of nuclear weapons by the Soviet Union, while defensible, is the expression of its own contradictions. There are no economic forces which impel the Soviet Union to expand. In fact there are certain circumstances under which its rulers would be prepared to do a deal with Kennedy and sacrifice many Castros.

The political degeneration of the Russian Revolution has left power in the hands of men for whom the bomb is a substitute for the mobilization of the working class against capitalism and a means to push the capitalist world to make a deal along the lines of 'peaceful co-existence'.

These men, the bureaucracy, cannot defend the Soviet Union in the only real way, by the mobilization of the international working class.

Peace, and the struggle against the H-bomb, are political questions. They mean contesting the right to rule of the ruling class in the capitalist countries and calling on the Russian working class to unseat the bureaucracy.

Political struggles are essentially struggles of classes. That is why an effective struggle against the bomb can only be carried through when the working class is brought in.

On the other hand, the political struggle against the bomb is far from being devoid of human and moral significance, since what is at stake is nothing less than the lives of hundreds of millions of people, perhaps the fate of mankind as a whole.

We must expose the H-bomb sham, expose the lack of provision for civilians in a nuclear war and hammer the H-bomb hypocrites. We must expose the system which produces, and can only be defended by, weapons of massacre and genocide.

The growing revulsion against the H-bomb must be linked with the need to bring the working class into action against capitalism on an international scale.



'Each major country, separately, or with its allies, aims to have a fully-prepared striking force based on a balanced assortment of weapons.' Pictured above is the 'Honest John', an American divisional support weapon with a 13 cwt. atomic bomb warhead—the first free-flight, overland missile to be tested by the British government.

Kennedy's Big Steel Squabble

by CYRIL SMITH

JUST a year after the attempted invasion of Cuba, President Kennedy is once more being hailed as a radical opponent of Big Business. What is the real significance of his attack on the steel companies and his prevention of the rise in the price of American steel?

The administration was especially worried because of the balance of payments problem, which has been troubling the dollar for some time now.

Kennedy had to try to hold back wage increases. He first intervened in wage negotiations last autumn, when he stepped in to stop a strike in the motor industry.

At the same time he contacted the steel manufacturers and asked them not to raise prices and to begin their 1962 wage negotiations early. In this way, he hoped, they could reach a 'non-inflationary, wage settlement.'

When talks started in February, he persuaded the union leaders to agree to a settlement involving a 2½ per cent wage rise, mainly in the form of 'fringe benefit'. They had already been talked into dropping the claim for a shorter working week for steelworkers.

Enlisted Union Support

Kennedy's Labour Secretary, Arthur Goldberg, played a big part in these activities. He had previously been legal adviser to the steel union bosses. Thus Kennedy, like Selwyn Lloyd, was enlisting the support of union leaders to impose the pay pause.

The sudden announcement that US Steel and the other major companies were going to raise steel prices by 3½ per cent was a blow to his attempts to hold down costs. He replied by public denunciation of the steel barons, and the threat of legal action.

The price rise was cancelled. Far from being an attack on the interests of US capital, Kennedy's action was directed to safeguarding them. Just as Roosevelt did in the 1930s, the government was defending the needs of Big Business as a whole against the particular require-

ments of one section of the ruling class.

This 'victory' will be used to prevent further wage increases for American workers. The trade union movement in the United States faces a number of struggles with the employers in which the true class position of John F. Kennedy will be made very plain.

Gromyko Visit behind Djilas Arrest?

THE ARRIVAL in Belgrade of the Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko last Monday is undoubtedly related to the re-arrest of Milovan Djilas. Gromyko was welcomed at the airport by all the diplomats of the East European countries, except those of Albania.

This is the first official visit by a Soviet leader since 1958, when the dispute between the Russians and Yugoslavs broke out anew.

Djilas' arrest was intended to forestall the American publication of his book 'Conversations with Stalin'. The publishers have now announced their intention of continuing with the production of the book.

It contains a picture of Stalin as a cruel autocrat, based on meetings with the author between 1944 and 1948, when Djilas was a leader of the Yugoslav CP and government. No doubt some of his reminiscences would be somewhat embarrassing at this particular moment.

For example, Stalin is reported in January 1948 to have supported a scheme for Tito to move troops into Albania.

'You ought to swallow up Albania, the sooner the better', he said. A few days later he changed his mind. A few months later he broke with the Yugoslavs.

Djilas' right-ward political development is no excuse for Tito's attempt to silence him by police action. Socialists should press for his immediate release and the maintenance of his right to express his views.

Let Escalante Speak!

FIDEL CASTRO's attack on 'sectarianism' among leaders of the former Cuban Communist Party has now received backing from Moscow. A 'Pravda' editorial on April 11 said that this criticism 'shows the strength of the Cuban revolution'.

Castro, in a speech on March 26, had selected for special mention Anibal Escalante, a founder of the Cuban CP. He was blamed for a large number of mistakes and 'an incorrect and disdainful attitude to the young cadres of the revolution, disbelief in their forces'.

Escalante had been appointed acting secretary of the new Integrated Revolution Organisation, formed by Castro's July 26 movement and the Cuban CP. However, at the time of Castro's attack, he was in Prague, having been removed from his post 'by unanimous decision of the leadership'.

So far, nothing has been published of his point of view. No one knows just what 'sectarian and dogmatic' views he has expressed. No congress of the IRO has yet been held to discuss these, or any other questions.

All friends of the Cuban Revolution must be disturbed at these developments. The issues under dispute must be brought into the open, so that decisions can be reached which will best serve the interests of the Cuban workers and peasants.

Wanted: A Plan of Action Against the Tories

by Bob Shaw

DURING the last few weeks Scottish industry has lurched into the red with a series of sackings, closures and redundancies. More than 5,000 men are to lose their jobs.

The old shale oil industry in East Lothian is to close down. It was kept going by a government subsidy which is now to be withdrawn.

The ancient North British Locomotive Company, which has doddered on for a couple of years on loans from the banks and government, is to go into liquidation. One of its main creditors is the General Electric Company which is currently amongst the group of electrical firms lobbying the Tory ministers in its own interests.

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Rolls-Royce have announced the immediate redundancy of 3,000 workers in its Scottish factories. The trouble at Rolls is traced to cut-backs in engines for the government's military programme. Jet engines are no longer part of advanced military technique.

These sackings come on top of the closures in the pits and railways. They provide some explosive material for the discussions at the annual conference of the Scottish Trades Union Congress which opened at Aberdeen on Wednesday.

On the agenda for this conference are many resolutions which express grave concern about the condition of industry in Scotland.

They call mainly for the direction of factories and other work to Scotland by the government. None call for nationalization or put forward a policy for a national plan drawn up by a Labour government.

But if the Scottish trade union leaders are not clear about what is happening in Scottish indus-

try, then the engineering workers are beginning to realise that the sackings are being carried out according to a definite plan.

New industries are being opened up: by BMC at Bathgate and by Rootes Motors at Linwood, Renfrewshire.

At Bathgate, BMC are now in need of unskilled and skilled labour for work on production lines turning out trucks. Their factory stands only a few miles from the old shale industry, now redundant.

One thousand workers are ready to be taken on at cheap rates by BMC.

Rootes are to employ 8,000 men and intend to transfer 50 per cent of their car production to the Linwood factory which starts work in September this year. They are open to applicants for skilled and semi-skilled engineering jobs at rates of pay 3/- to 4/- per hour less than the rates in England.

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These rates are official and signed by, amongst others, Boyd of the AEU Executive.

The men from Rolls-Royce and from the North British Loco will be seeking jobs in a few weeks, ready for Rootes and BMC to pick up.

The Rootes management are to be rewarded for their role in breaking the strike at the British Light Steel Pressings Co. last year!

The hand of the Tory government is clearly in evidence behind these dealings. Conditions in Scottish industry are to be depressed and unemployment through closures will be the weapon which will be used.

Wage rates are to go down so that workers in Coventry, Birmingham and London can be attacked. All this must be

ready and under way by the end of the year, when Britain enters the Common Market.

There are nine resolutions opposing the Common Market on the agenda of the Scottish TUC conference. The General Council is sceptical on the question but undecided.

When it comes to breaking strikes, however, these people show marked determination.

The Scottish workers not only need resolutions opposing the economic plans of Toryism. They also need a policy to fight and replace it.

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Foremost in such a policy must be a determined fight against sackings, for the nationalization of the engineering industries and the operation by a Labour government of a national economic plan.

Gaitskell Goes on Sitting

Newsletter Reporter

MR. GAITSKELL, wearing specially re-inforced trousers, is continuing to sit on the Common Market fence. The leader of the Parliamentary Labour Party is a faithful supporter of the ruling class, but when that class itself is torn by fierce arguments over the merits of 'going in' or 'staying out', he is left dithering and undecided.

Last Saturday Mr. Gaitskell told a meeting of the Fulham

Labour Party (and what that party has done to deserve this doubtful privilege is not yet known) of his latest line on the Market.

In true democratic spirit, this new line is not discussed by the rank-and-file of the Party or even, it would seem, the NEC. It is instead the result of a few tete-a-tetes by the Froggal Group.

In fact, of course, there is no line. Until the ruling class can settle its differences Mr. Gaitskell will be left chewing his finger-nails.

At the meeting he announced that he intends to make it his business to ensure that the Labour Party sees the Common Market issue steadily and as a whole. Whilst he realised that the charge of sitting on the fence would continue while the party retained its non-committal attitude, he felt it would be far more damaging to reach a decision based on inadequate or partial information.

More facts were needed, he said. These would be obtained by private discussions within the Shadow Cabinet and the Parliamentary Party, together with 'pointed interrogation of Ministers'.

'CAREFUL BALANCE'

'This is a matter to be settled not by slogans and headlines, emotions and prejudices, but by cool, well-informed consideration and a careful balance of the arguments for and against.'

But while Mr. Gaitskell awaits his orders, the rank and file of the trades unions are showing an unfortunate determination to take a prejudiced attitude to the problem.

Seeing the Common Market as a further attempt to attack the conditions of the working class, many trade union conference agendas contain motions strongly opposing Britain's entry.

Mr. Gaitskell sits on the fence, facing right, waiting for a friendly hand-down from his masters. Behind him, the forces of the Labour movement prepare to bring him down in a rather less gentlemanly fashion.

Tories Attack Schools

By A Newsletter Correspondent

THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, Sir David Eccles, has introduced severe cuts in the school building programme of the London County Council's education committee.

The committee's plans for 1963-64 included 23 new schools costing £3,320,000. The Minister has cut this programme to 12 new buildings at about £1,900,000.

This decision is consistent with Tory policy. In their 10 years of office the shining products of the public schools (!) have shown little enthusiasm for plans to improve the conditions of pupils under the State education system.

The latest move is just another in the long line of swingeing cuts into the proposed plans of local government bodies.

The reaction from the Labour-centred LCC is a typical squeak of indignation

from those Morrisonian gentlemen who spend their lives registering shock and surprise, like human seismographs, at the activities of the right honourable members of the government.

'We are disappointed', says the schools planning sub-committee of the education committee. A spokesman added that the decision underlined the 'urgent need for greater overall spending on education.'

The decision will be fought, no doubt, in the time-honoured way of sending a deputation to the Minister, who will express concern and regret but will say that unfortunately he is unable to change his mind at present.

PART OF THE ATTACK

This decision must be answered by the Labour movement, for it is very much a part of the present Tory attack upon working and lower middle class people who rely upon 'free' education for their children.

Coupled with demands for nationalization of industry, land and building must be one calling for the complete abolition of privileged education, a rapid expansion of the school building programme and more university grants for students. (The latter have also been severely pruned by the Minister.)

First sweets and now schools come under the Tory attack. What next? Nurseries and pre-natal clinics, perhaps.

a still greater burden on the working class.

This attack on working class standards becomes more and more blatant. And it becomes more directed. Even the sacred cow of 'free competitive enterprise' goes by the board in the desire of the capitalists to get a return on their capital.

Lord Chandos, speaking at the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland last week, said: 'It is equally understood that, if for reasons of immediate gain, the smaller competitors start cutting prices in order to gain more of the big man's business, they must face the consequences of a price war, which will lose them a great deal of money and possibly lose them their existence.'

The tendency, reflected by the Economic Survey, of workers' declining purchasing power will continue, unless there is a strong challenge from organized labour.

When trade union leaders participate in the National Economic Development Council they do so knowing that the Tory government are plotting new ways of redistributing income in favour of the wealthy.

They make the task of organized labour a thousand times more difficult.



Lloyd: transferring the cost to the working class.

effects result in workers being compelled to work considerable overtime to enjoy the benefits of the so-called affluent society.

By the end of 1961 the index of retail prices had risen by 4½ per cent over the previous year. Wages and salaries in the second half of the year increased by only 1 per cent. Behind these statistics lies the fact that workers' spending power fell drastically. The continuation of the policy of 'wage restraint' coupled with the new price increases in basic commodities and services will mean

City Slants by colin chance

The big shift

From November the price of house coal will rise by 20/- a ton, but better grade fuel will be relatively cheaper and lower grade relatively dearer than before.

A massive increase in railway fares will become effective within the coming weeks. The cost of postage and telephone calls have only recently been subject to increases. Gas, electricity and national insurance charges have all risen within the last year or so.

All these costs are outside the province of the Budget. Yet they are all, in reality, imposts levied by the government, because the services covered by them are indirectly controlled by the government.

On the other hand we have seen in the last two Budgets provisions aimed at increasing the purchasing power of the wealthy. Last year Lloyd's drastic reductions in surtax resulted in those earning up to £100 a week being taken out of the range of this tax.

This gradual process of transferring cost increases from the richer section of the population to the poorer has been going on since 1955 and its cumulative

LABOUR REVIEW out now

the Spring number contains articles on France, Cuba and Lenin's Philosophical Notebooks, together with a Spring books section. 2/- (postage 6d.) from New Park Publications.

Unite against the bomb!

Jack Gale's important article in last week's Newsletter, explaining the need for CND and the Labour movement to integrate their struggles, is now available as a pamphlet. 3d. (post 3d.) from The Newsletter.

Write to: 186A Clapham High St., London, S.W.4.

Industrial Newsletter

SCANDAL OF THE NUS Seamen Fight for Democracy

By REG PERRY

THE current election for a new general secretary of the National Union of Seamen spotlights once again the fight to bring democracy into that union which rank-and-file seamen have been waging for some years.

The conduct of the election and the ballot procedure disclose a more scandalous situation than anything which the Right wing and the High Court claimed existed in the Electrical Trades Union.

All those who screamed for democracy in the ETU—including the national press—have been noticeably silent about the situation in the NUS.

This is not surprising. The NUS has for years been one of the pillars of the Right wing in the TUC and the Labour Party. The union's rules and organizational structure were tailored to the requirements of both the employers and the Right wing by Havelock Wilson and Sir Thomas Yates.

Main Contestants

The two main contestants in the ballot are Mr. William Hogarth, the acting general secretary, and Jim Slater, a seaman from the North-East coast who played a prominent role in the 1960 strike.

Mr. Slater is supported by the National Seamen's Reform Movement, which was formed during the strike to fight for better working conditions and union democracy.

The handicaps that face Jim Slater are formidable. After the greatest difficulty in securing nomination, he now cannot issue an election address to the members until authorised by the Executive Council.

Meanwhile 'The Seaman', the union magazine, has carried a three-page article by Hogarth attacking the Seamen's Reform Movement as 'communist stooges'.

In order to vote, a seaman has to register his application with his local union office. His stamped book is then sent to head office at Maritime House in London.

IRIS

Here it is checked by three appointed scrutineers and by the three trustees of the union. They are Mr. Ernest Goldsack, an NUS member, Ernest Jones, OBE, the old Right-wing president of the NUM, and Jack Tanner, CBE, the president of the reactionary organisation 'Industrial Research and Information Service' (IRIS).

This Paper is your Weapon

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The headquarters of IRIS are also at Maritime House, so Mr. Tanner is always on hand for his advice.

In a union with a widely dispersed membership and where union dues are deducted from wages by the Shipping Employers' Federation, the odds are clearly stacked against anyone not supported by the official machine.

Members with under five years' membership are accorded one vote; with five to 10 years' membership, two votes; with 10 to 15 years, three votes; above 15 years, four votes.

Liberal Support

It is rumoured that the Liberal Party is assisting Jim Slater and the Reform Movement in its campaign for democracy. But democracy in the Seamen's Union is conditioned by the terms of employment of seamen, the 1894 Shipping Acts and the requirements of British imperialism, which constantly has in mind the needs of a shipping fleet in time of war when the greatest discipline is desired.

The Liberals are incapable of struggling successfully in this union because they stand to retain the capitalist system which is at the root of the NUS bureaucracy.

Seamen do not want a government inquiry into the union as the Liberal's industrial officer Miss Manuella Sykes has continuously demanded.

The mobilization of the rank-and-file around a policy to defeat the employers and the Right wing is the only way in which seamen can put their house in order.

NUR PORT WORKERS TO STRIKE

THE NATIONAL UNION of Railwaymen announced on Monday that its 10,000 members employed in ports by the British Transport Commission would be called out on strike from midnight on April 29.

The call for strike action follows the refusal by the Transport Docks Board of Management to accept a claim for a reduction in the working week from 44 hours to 42. The reduction in hours would have been in line with the new hours worked by ordinary railway workers.

The employers' rejection of the demand is clearly an indication of their reluctance to tread on the toes of the private dock employers

Don't work with non-unionists says 'Blue' Chief

FROM OUR MERSEYSIDE CORRESPONDENT

FIRST round in the battle being fought on Merseyside has gone to the rank-and-file dockers. The plans of the Right-wing district secretary of the TGWU, Mr. P. J. O'Hare, to split the strength of the dockers in the face of the attack by the employers and the government by calling for a closed TGWU shop and thus declaring members of the National Amalgamated Stevedores and Dockers 'non-unionists', have been put off for a further week.

One of the conditions for the resumption of work after the recent Merseyside dock strike put forward by Mr. O'Hare was that only members of the Transport and General Workers' Union should be employed.

The TGWU does not recognise the NASD—the 'Blue' Union—although this militant body has constantly fought for 100 per cent trade unionism on the docks, with freedom to join either the 'White' or the 'Blue'.

IMPRESSED

NASD speakers in recent weeks have repeatedly stressed this point. Dockers have been impressed by both the NASD's record and their recent leaflets distributed to explain the case and it is clear that it is the growing support for the rights of the 'Blue' Union that have forced O'Hare to postpone his decision for another eight days from last Monday.

A meeting attended by 2,000 TGWU dockers last Sunday heard Mr. O'Hare say that the new date for the closed shop had been made in order to give the employers notice of the union's intentions.

O'HARE'S CLAIM

He claimed that 3,000 to 4,000 men had rejoined the Transport Union in the past fortnight and that there were now only 533 'non-unionists' on Merseyside.

At a NASD meeting also held last Sunday, 400 dockers passed a resolution supporting the aim for 100 per cent trade unionism on the docks, with the right for every man to join the union of his choice.

The General Secretary of the

NASD, Mr. R. Barrett, has stressed his union's intention not to work with non-unionists in a circular addressed to all members working in Manchester, Hull, Birkenhead and Liverpool from the Executive Council.

CIRCULAR

The circular says:

'... If allocated to an Employer and upon reaching your allocated job your Book is returned to you, report immediately to your Officer the following:—

Your name and number, the Employer, and the name and position of the person who returned your Book to you and the reason for being put in possession of your Book and returned to the Control Point.

When doing so get proof that will stand up absolutely in fact, in order that the Executive Council can consider the action Industrially or Legally that it can take on behalf of the Member or Members concerned.

The NAS & D are equally concerned with Dock Workers being fully paid up Members of Trade Unions, and INSTRUCT that Members of the NAS & D will not work with men not in possession of Trade Union Cards.'

What will Mr. O'Hare's answer be to that? Or perhaps he does not permit himself to read 'non-union' literature?

ANSWER

While he manoeuvres to aid the employers and split the union militancy on Merseyside, the rank and file must answer him by going forward to defeat the employers and the Tories with the slogan: 'White and Blue unite against the Tory pay pause!'

INDUSTRIAL ROUND-UP

By ALAN WEST, Our Labour Correspondent

who are at present in dispute with the unions over a claim for hours and wages.

Both sides of the railway workers dispute visited the Ministry of Labour on Tuesday, but no progress was made.

RUMOURS OF STRONG 'YES' FROM SCOTS ENGINEERS

CHIEF TALKING point amongst the delegates to the Scottish TUC Conference was the rumour that there had been a high vote in the ballot being organized by the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions for a national strike in support of their hours and pay claim.

Some people are hinting at a 75 per cent vote with an overwhelming majority in favour of the strike.

Feeling against the Tories and the employers is running so high in Scotland that many engineering workers are saying that they will come out on strike whatever the decision of the Confed.

BEA STRIKE TALKS

MR. GEORGE SCOTT, national officer of the ETU, visited the Ministry of Labour on Tuesday to give a first-hand account of the dispute involving British European Airways and airline technicians.

Talks to end the dispute failed after four hours of discussion at

Pay Pause Angers Nurses

By M. Shaw

IN addition to the disgust felt by all nurses at the offer of a 2½ per cent pay increase, midwives employed by the Nottingham City Health Department are further angered by the amount of form filling and paper-work they are now required to do besides their normal nursing duties.

Their threatened 'paper strike', a refusal to comply with any more form filling, was only called off when the Finance Committee agreed to investigate their grievance.

It is small wonder that there is a chronic shortage of both hospital and district midwives. In addition to the normal period of nursing training, the midwives must complete an extra two years' course and pass the qualifying examination.

Their reward is a wage which bears no relation to the responsibility they have to undertake, and the Nottingham midwives now feel the extra clerical work is the last straw.

The offer of a 2½ per cent increase in pay was regarded as an insult by the 400 nurses and sisters from Nottingham hospitals who attended a protest meeting last week.

They were highly indignant when Tory MP Peter Tapsell asked them to be patient a little longer. A probationer nurse expressed the feeling of all of them when she cried, 'We cannot work to rule, we cannot go slow, we cannot strike, and we certainly are not prepared to be patient any longer.'

The nurses agreed with the National Union of Public Employees Divisional Organiser, W. Griffiths, that it was useless going to arbitration since the policy of arbitration tribunals was determined by the government's pay pause policy.

It was stated that the present wage for a staff nurse after three years' training and six years' experience is £12 12s. 3d. The nurses are claiming increases which will bring their pay up to £16 7s. a week for a staff nurse and scales ranging from £900 to £1,500 a year for sisters and a maximum of £2,200 for the matrons of the biggest hospitals.

The nurses ignored the entreaties of the Tory MP and decided to appoint an action committee representing all the hospitals in the Nottingham and Mansfield area, which is to be charged with the task of mobilising public support for the nurses' pay claim.

London Airport on Tuesday. The electricians were sent home last week after refusing to service aircraft unless they received 6d. an hour increase.

BEA aircraft are also affected by the work-to-rule being conducted by aircraft inspectors and maintenance supervisors who belong to the Association of Supervisory Staffs, Executives and Technicians.

BEA officials were confident of maintaining a full flight schedule over Easter by using every available plane once. That is, planes that are not used in winter and planes used by pilot training classes will come into service.

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