

JUL 13 1962  
H. L. L.

## SLL's Fourth Conference call —

# 'NATIONALIMIZE BASIC INDUSTRIES'

EDITORIAL

### In Deakin's Footsteps

THE decision of FRANK COUSINS to oppose the lifting of the ban on Communist Party members holding office in the Transport and General Workers' Union is a blow at the unity of the trades union movement.

The ban, which refers for the sake of decency to 'Communists and Fascists', was introduced by ARTHUR DEAKIN at the start of the Cold War.

It was openly aimed by that arch-reactionary at weakening any opposition from the Left in the union.

Now, when attacks on militants and witch-hunts against the Left are on the order of the day for the employers, COUSINS' action brings aid and comfort to the bosses.

As this paper has consistently argued, the attacks on the former leaders of the ETU had nothing to do with ballot-rigging, but were part of a campaign against trade unionism, inspired by the capitalist press.

Now COUSINS, by implication, identifies himself with that campaign.

We have nothing in common with the methods by which the Communist Party has tried to oppose the ban. They and their camp followers in the unions have sought to curry favour with COUSINS and even with his predecessor TIFFIN, by damping down action in the TGWU which might embarrass the officials.

In the Covent Garden dispute in 1956, the bus strike of 1958 and above all on the docks, they have avoided criticising the actions of COUSINS, some of which were clearly against the interests of the rank and file.

In the recent attempt by the TGWU officials to crush the 'Blue' Union on Merseyside, CP dockers were well to the fore.

COUSINS repays King Street for its services by maintaining the ban at each biennial conference.

When he takes action against the Right wing, as at the Scarborough Conference, he deserves the support of all socialists. But when he behaves in the tradition of BEVIN, DEAKIN and TIFFIN, he must be firmly opposed.

Let us hope that the delegates to the TGWU conference defeat COUSINS' recommendation and wipe this undemocratic clause from their rule book.

## 'Fight the Monopolies!'

DELEGATES and visitors from all the important centres in Britain attended the Fourth Annual Conference of the Socialist Labour League which met in London on June 9, 10 and 11. The Conference concerned itself with the urgent international situation, the reorganization of the Fourth International and the construction of the revolutionary party in Britain.

Since a considerable number of delegates active in the Labour Party and the trade unions are being threatened with a witch-hunt by the Right wing, the conference adopted a strict security procedure in order to prevent political victimization.

Recent organizational decisions of the Gaitskellite leadership to expel left-wingers who oppose their policy were seen by the conference as a manifestation of the present crisis of British capitalism.

### Declining rate of profit

It was considered that the decline of the rate of profit as a result of increasing competition has now become the predominant tendency and it is this which is behind the growth of monopoly and the Common Market.

Wall Street imperialism is working might and main to drive its weaker rivals from the remaining world markets and spheres of influence. It was recognized by the conference that this was a transitional stage which must inevitably lead to an all-out offensive by the monopolists against the international working class.

Because of the out-of-date nature of its economy and the strength of the working class, Britain was especially vulnerable as a capitalist power.

The Tory pay pause could only be considered as a mild attempt to halt the decline in the rate of profit; much more serious attempts were on the way.

### Nationalization

Gaitskell's assurance that a Labour government would not nationalize ICI led to the nationalized airline BOAC forming a private company with Cunard-Eagle.

Gaitskell's attack on Clause Four was part of the Right wing's assurance to the mono-

polists that they would do their best to conform to their policies.

The conference unanimously carried a resolution urging the Labour movement to return to the traditional policy of nationalization of all the basic industries. Without such nationalization, there would never be a socialist Britain.

### Defend the Soviet Union

Conference reaffirmed its pledge to do everything in its power to fight the menace of the H-bomb and the preparations for a Third World War.

It recorded its determination to organize the British working class to defend the Soviet Union against world imperialism and noted with pride the struggle which the Socialist Labour League had waged over the past year against pacifists and revisionists who have tried to confuse the working class with the idea that the Soviet Union is the same as imperialist America.

It felt that the defence of the conquests of the October Revolution were an integral part of the struggle for socialism in Britain.

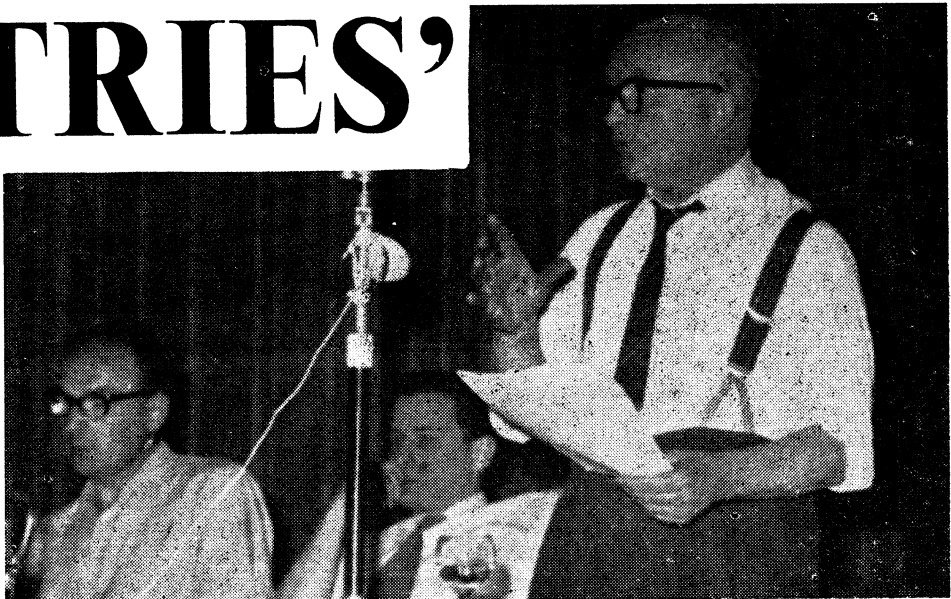
### Fight Imperialism on home front

Conference pledged itself to work for freedom of the colonial people by carrying out a consistent revolutionary struggle against imperialism on the home front. Just as every blow struck by the colonial people weakened the City of London, so every defeat of the British employers at the hands of the British working class strengthened the struggle of the colonial peoples for liberation.

Conference called upon the international Labour movement to come to the assistance of the Cuban Revolution by acts of international solidarity which would see that the heroic Cuban people were supplied with all the essentials of life denied them by the American blockade.

### Fight the witch-hunt

Much of the discussion centred on the effects of the witch-hunt inspired by the Radcliffe Report on the Civil Service Unions and



SLL Conference: left to right, Cliff Slaughter, Tony Banda (Chairman), and Gerry Healy

the right-wing leadership of the Electrical Trades Union. Several speakers insisted that the struggle for democracy within the trade union movement was inseparable from the struggle to break the trade unions from collaboration with the Tory state machine.

Conference unanimously condemned trade union participation in the National Economic Development Council and called for a united left-wing struggle throughout the trade union movement for more democracy inside the unions.

The fight against bans and proscriptions was seen not as a matter affecting only the Socialist Labour League, but as one which affected the entire Labour movement.

Delegates roundly condemned the policy of the Communist Party which condoned the witch-hunt against Trotskyists and other militants. The fight against bans and proscriptions cannot be waged by people who support the ban on some members of the Left wing

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## Ruhr Miners' Vital Decision

By Our Foreign Correspondent

MINERS in the Ruhr coalfield are now balloting to decide whether to strike in support of their claim for higher wages. One thousand five hundred delegates decided unanimously to hold the ballot at a conference in Dortmund last week. They also resolved to push their demand up from 8 per cent to a 10 per cent increase.

In view of the capitulation of the coal owners in the Saar in the face of a similar strike threat, the result of the ballot is generally expected to be in favour of strike action.

The Federal government has had to grant a 6 per cent rise to railwaymen, postmen and government employees. They, too, had decided to withdraw their labour if their demands were not satisfied.

The smashing of Professor Erhard's 'pay pause' is related to some of the headaches German capital is suffering from at present. The increase in food prices has coincided with a severe labour shortage over the past year.

More than 600,000 foreign workers — Italians, Spanish, Greek and many other nationalities are represented—are now employed in German industry, and more are being recruited all the time.

But there are still 600,000 more vacancies than workers to fill them.

At the same time, a factor in the increased militancy of trade unionists may well be a feeling that the German 'economic miracle' is coming to an end.

The March 1962 index of industrial production stood a little lower than that for March 1961, although there was a slight increase in April.

### SIGNIFICANT

Workers may be thinking of making the most of their bargaining power while they can. The decision of the Ruhr miners could be a spur to the whole Labour movement to take on the reactionary Adenauer regime.

Such a move by a working class that was smashed and terrorized for years would be a significant step forward in the European struggle.

## SLL Conference

● from page one

with whom they disagree politically.

The conference expressed its approval of the way in which the previous national committee had defended the Communist Party militants fighting the witch-hunt in the ETU during 1961.

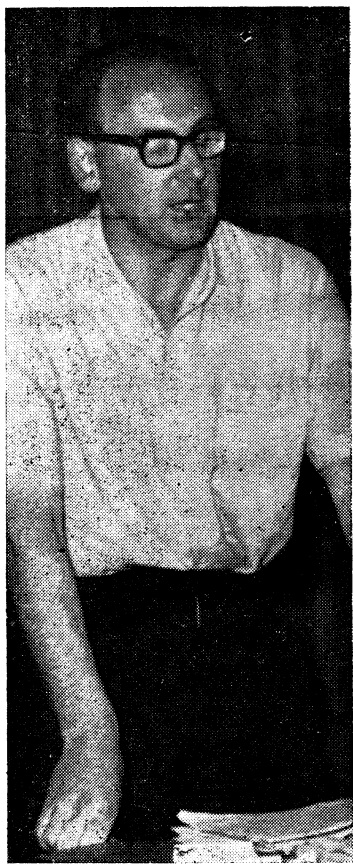
It called upon all members of the ETU to maintain this fight and to build up a united front in that union to prevent the victimization of leaders such as Frank Foulkes, who is now being hounded from office by the Right wing.

### Problems

The activity of the Socialist Labour League during 1961 was carefully examined in the light of the responsibilities of leadership. It was felt that there were some important problems which had not yet been answered satisfactorily.

These are to be the subject of further discussion inside the organization and the incoming national committee was instructed to prepare a report analysing these problems and suggesting a solution for overcoming them in the next period.

Whilst the Socialist Labour League is perhaps the best-prepared organization on the Left in Britain today, delegates



Cliff Slaughter

were concerned lest any feeling of complacency should creep into its methods of work.

In face of the constant attacks by the Right wing, it was considered extremely foolish for members of the League to become in any way complacent about the dangers facing the movement.

The great achievement of the conference was the concrete and real way in which the delegates faced up to the difficulties and tasks of the future.

### International discussion

Opening the first session, the Chairman, Tony Banda, said we were living in a period of great concentration of class power. The central point of the League's work was to

construct a party capable of representing the British working class.

'Trotsky lived long enough to pass over to us a great bequest,' he said. 'But we cannot rely on the old arsenal for ever. We have to re-equip ourselves.'

'The fact that Trotsky was a giant in our movement was in some ways a disadvantage. We have to measure up to the problems facing our movement.'

### THE INTERNATIONAL REPORT to the Conference was moved by Cliff Slaughter. It had been prepared, he said, in a period of renewed struggles in the world.

There was mass violence in Algeria. The French situation summed up both the decay of capitalism and the tasks of the working class.

'That capitalism should be able to stabilize itself in any way in this period is fantastic. It is only possible because of the rise of the bureaucratic caste in the USSR, the dominance of social democratic and Stalinist leaderships, produced by the uneven development of the advanced and backward countries, the consequent narrowness and weakness of the working class in the advanced countries, absence of strong revolutionary parties and of international working-class leadership and, following on this, the unchallenged dominance of opportunist middle-class groupings over the struggle of the workers and peasants of the backward countries.'

These, he said, had enabled capitalism to contain the great strength of the workers and peasants.

### Leadership

'The break must be in this question of leadership. In the history of the working-class movement there have been breakthroughs to the necessary consciousness.'

'This is the essential strength of the working class—to achieve consciousness of its historical role.'

He said that the working class is the only revolutionary class and working-class power is the only way of overthrowing capitalism. Only Trotskyists defend that today. Stalinism was a counter-revolutionary force; Stalin's theory of 'socialism in one country' meant socialism nowhere else.

Out of the struggle against Stalinism came the Fourth International, founded by Leon Trotsky in the 1930s. All the objective pre-requisites for the overthrow of capitalism were present, but the main problem facing the working class was, then as now, the crisis of leadership.

### Revisionism

'Marxism is a guide to action, an attempt to find the real needs and tasks of the working class. At each stage in the struggle there is a dire necessity to combat revisionism, i.e., those who suggested that our principles are no longer applicable. Kautsky in the early part of the century, and Stalin in the 1920s and 1930s represented revisionist trends of thought which had to be fought by the Marxist movement. This struggle continues today.'

Cliff Slaughter dealt sharply with revisionist trends in the Trotskyist movement. There were those, he said, who now believed

## Pious peace

THE extent of the political degeneration of the world communist movement can be measured by its position on the question of war when compared with that held in Lenin's day.

'The best way to prevent war is to do away with the means of warfare.' This platitude by Maurice Thorez is used by Jean Kanopa, one-time mentor of French communist intellectuals, as a text for an article on disarmament in the May issue of 'World Marxist Review'.

From the article we learn that in the struggle for peace, 'which is the prime task of all communists', disarmament is the paramount issue.

Its main thesis is that pressure from the working class and its allies—'peace supporters and the non-aligned countries'—can compel the imperialists to embark first on partial, then on general disarmament.

It offers the prospect of the resources released from arms

in the Menshevik theory of 'two stages' to the revolution.

This was really what was in the minds of those who, in talking about Algeria, spoke of the need to consolidate independence first and then go forward to the struggle for socialism.

'Isn't this the theory which Stalin and company foisted on to the workers of Egypt, Syria, India and China?'

Speaking about the debate on the nature of the Cuban state, Cliff Slaughter said that there had been a great step forward. There was the possibility of a workers' dictatorship arising out of the battle against United States imperialism.

But, for this consciousness, a great leap in organization and a relation to world forces was required. This meant a step towards working-class political independence in workers' councils led by a Marxist party.

### Cuban example

'In Cuba there are dangers of a bureaucratized state being erected on the ruins of the old bourgeois caretaker state, restoring bourgeois power against the workers, helped by the Stalinist bureaucrats.'

'This is the dominant trend in Cuba just now. To praise the situation in Cuba as a "confirmation of the Permanent Revolution" is treachery to Marxism. It is the opposite of providing a conscious leadership to the working class.'

'It is wrong to start from Cuba, an island of six million and use it as a model for a whole analysis. The world-wide revolution against imperialism is extremely varied, according to the admixture of forces in each particular country.'

'It is essential to get a view of the whole before drawing conclusions. The International Resolution of the Socialist Labour League tries to do this. It shows

## phrases on



Maurice Thorez: platitudes

spending becoming available to raise the living standards of the people.

It is clear that for Kanopa, as a spokesman for the Soviet bureaucracy, there is no question of a political struggle to over-

### by Tom Kemp

throw imperialism in the metropolitan countries.

'Peaceful co-existence' necessarily envisages a situation in which a disarmed imperialism divides the world with the Soviet rulers. It assumes, in fact, that the capitalist powers will increase their aid to the newly-independent countries.

'The capitalist powers,' he writes, 'will never agree of their

own free will to extend such aid. Only persistent struggle will compel them to assume their responsibility to the people they have robbed and exploited for centuries.'

The salting of an article of this kind with a few revolutionary-sounding phrases does not change its character. The perspective of putting pressure on imperialism to compel it to disarm and then, under conditions of detente, to intensify struggle against it, is entirely unrealistic, not to say anti-Leninist.

Kanopa, like other CP theorists, argues like a Jesuit. Quotations from Lenin are torn from their context to 'prove' his argument. Kanopa has to reach a certain conclusion and he does so regardless of the real line-up of world forces.

### MISLEADING

Intending to set the stage for coming World Peace Congress in Moscow, this article is highly misleading and dangerous. Who is going to be disarmed as a result of this policy? Certainly not the imperialists.

**But there is no doubt that the working-class movement will be disarmed in the face of imperialism if it contents itself with calling upon capitalist governments to reach a disarmament agreement with the USSR.**

the relation between the working class masses, the nationalist middle class and imperialism.

'Since our international resolution was accepted by Conference last year, it has been rewritten and published in the 'Labour Review' and adopted in its main line by the International Committee of the Fourth International.'

### Inspiring revival

Cliff Slaughter said that the line of the International Resolution had been confirmed by the objective events. In Britain particularly, the desperate drive of the employers to achieve a new stability and avoid the developing crisis was leading to sharper struggles within the Labour movement.

'This is bound to be given a new momentum by the inspiring revival of the class struggle in Spain and Germany.'

'In Italy and France, too, the strike wave mounts. Our specific contribution must be the construction of the revolutionary party here in Britain at the head of the working class, and particularly the youth.'

'But equally the Socialist Labour League has to try to take its responsibility in driving forward the discussion of those international political perspectives without which the impending struggles of the European workers will result in defeats, even greater than those in Germany and France in the 1930s.'

'These are not idle words. Violence and terror will follow slander and witch-hunting, unless the working class prepares politically.'

### Show the way

'That is the job of the Fourth International; to find and show the way from the great struggles now beginning in Europe and America to the final victory of the working class, the victory of socialism.'

● A further report of the Conference will appear in next week's Newsletter.

### 'THE PEACEFUL ROAD' IN SPAIN

'The Spanish Communist Party has made clear that it stands for a peaceful solution of Spain's difficulties and will work loyally with all those who are for such a solution and an end to the dictatorship.'

'The events of the past two months have shown that such a solution is possible and has the support of the Spanish people.'

—Sam Russell in the

'Daily Worker', June 12, 1962

### PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE?

'RUSSIAN GIRL COUNTER-ATTACKS WITH LOBS'

—Headline in 'The Times'

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# Kenya workers' great solidarity

## Mboya and Kenyatta show their colours

**D**OWN with Scabs and Stooges' was one of the slogans carried by the workers who came out on strike in Nairobi, Kenya, last week. Ten thousand were involved, including 4,000 employed in local government. They had previously been on strike for three weeks for an increase in wages to a 35/- a week minimum and for the dismissal of European supervisors, who had adopted racist and insulting attitudes to them. They had been persuaded by the union leaders to go back to work and an arbitration board had secured some small increases.

**by James Baker**

ference would be organized at once in which the Kenya Federation of Employers, the Kenya Federation of Labour, and the Ministry of Labour would take part.

The unions, he said, must learn 'patience', the employers must learn to be less 'arrogant', and the Ministry of Labour must be 'tactful but firm'.

Although the workers have called off their strike, it is clear that the situation in Kenya is by no means stable. The working class will not rest content with their present position.

It is clear that the present need of the Kenya workers is above all for revolutionary Marxist leadership. At the present time there are a number of leaders who are posing as militants, but who are merely making use of the working class in order to establish their own claim to become a Minister in the Kenya government.

It is clear, too, that there will be no real improvement in the condition of the working class until the land is nationalized and the workers control the industries.

This cannot be done by the Kenya workers and peasants

They came out on strike last Wednesday for further increases and for these to be made immediately.

The printing and kindred trades workers called for a recent increase in wages to be made applicable to all workers and not merely to certain sections.

The shoe and leather workers, together with employees in the taxidermy industry and the crane drivers at Mombassa docks struck, too, for higher pay.

Africans employed in the flour milling and the food and distributive trades came out with a demand for a 50 per cent increase in wages. The workers in the big tea, coffee and pyrethrum estates downed tools with demands for immediate increases in wages and the removal of racist bosses and foremen.

### 90 STRIKES

The strikers organized marches to the offices of the Kenya Federation of Labour; they demonstrated against blacklegs. They were joined by thousands of unemployed workers who live precarious lives in Nairobi's slum areas and who receive no unemployment pay of any kind.

For several days the life of Nairobi was almost brought to a standstill and the newspapers came out in reduced editions.

The Africans are in a militant mood. There have been 90 strikes this year, 12 in the last five weeks.

The stoppages have panicked the leaders of both the nationalist organizations. Jomo Kenyatta, President of the Kenya African National Union and Minister for Constitutional Affairs in the present Kenya government, at once condemned the strikers.

He called for 'national resolution on the part of all our peoples . . . The workers might have legitimate grievances, but they must be dealt with by peaceful means.'

He sent out police and riot squads to attack workers' strike pickets.

Ngala, President of the Kenya African Democratic Union also condemned the strikers. 'The economic position of Kenya could become chaotic unless the unions were told firmly that they were being used by certain politicians.'

Mboya, now Minister of Labour and formerly Secretary of the Kenya African National Union and the Kenya Federation of Labour, succeeded in getting the strikers back to work after making certain concessions. Information about the exact nature of these concessions is not yet available, but the most militant union, the printing workers', has won its demand in full.

Mboya announced that a Con-

## American Graft Case Opens

THE HOUSE of Congress inquiry into multi-millionaire Billy Sol Estes opened in Washington last week. Sol Estes built a huge agricultural empire from loans, double-dealing and friends in the right places. Numbered among his close associates are top-liners of the ruling class; signed pictures of Eisenhower and Kennedy hang in his study.

Officials of the Department of Agriculture appeared before the inquiry being conducted by the House Government Operations sub-committee.

Sylvester R. Smith, administrator of the Agricultural Marketing Service, said that the department had ordered an inquiry into Sol Estes' finances in October 1961.

A private accountant had been hired to assess his net worth as a basis for determining whether the bond on his grain warehouses should be raised from \$700,000 to \$1 million.

### INTIMIDATION

The accountant found that Sol Estes was worth \$13.7 million, but when the Agricultural Department asked to see his papers, he said, according to Smith, 'that he had destroyed the working papers after a call from an unnamed person in the Estes organization, and that he had not made an adequate audit of Mr. Estes' financial records.'

Also questioned was Carl Miller, an official in the Agriculture Department who had decided to let the Estes' bond stay at \$700,000. He had met Estes to discuss the bond and denied that he received any gratuities from the Texan financier.

He had since been transferred

## Vicious Sentences on BAOR Troops

Newsletter Reporter

**F**IFTY-TWO members of the British Army of the Rhine have been sentenced to stiff jail terms by courts-martial during the last month. Two of them have received sentences of five and three years for their part in disturbances in an Army mess earlier in the year.

The rest have been given from 28 to 56 days' detention for being involved in alleged fights in Minden with German civilians.

The Commanding Officer of the First Battalion the Cameronians has now imposed a 2 a.m. curfew on his men. Formerly they were allowed out on condition that they appeared on first parade at 8 a.m.

Despite official denials, it is clear that the court-martial of the privates concerned in the mess incidents were hushed up by the Army authorities. News of the case only leaked out several weeks after the sentences.

Labour MPs are taking the matter up and the privates are considering an appeal.

As any old soldier will appreciate, there can be little doubt that the major incident in the mess started over the age-old complaint of the sub-standard food dished out to private soldiers.

Despite the ritzy menus brought out for 'open days', the great majority of soldiers live on a diet of lumpy spuds, greasy eggs, frizzled bacon, fat meat and great variety of cheese dishes, all washed down by the incredible concoction that passes for tea.

Discontent with this fare is increased by the occasional glimpses of the first-class food which is served to officers and senior NCOs. The army, in many ways, is capitalism under the microscope.

### BOREDOM

Similarly, incidents between army personnel and civilians in German towns can be put down to the sheer boredom and frustration suffered by private soldiers, who, far from home, cool their heels for most of the time as they help defend the boundaries of NATO.

A full-scale inquiry must be demanded by the Labour movement into these vicious sentences, linked with the demand for the recall of British troops overseas and the closing of all foreign bases.



Kenyatta: smashed pickets

without the leadership of a revolutionary Marxist Party. The workers are ready for struggle and sacrifices. Their present leaders want only compromises and personal advantages.

The Kenya workers must fight to remove the present gang of opportunist scoundrels and self-seeking hypocrites who pose as national leaders, and develop from among their own ranks a new set of revolutionary leaders devoted to the cause of the working class and the peasants.

The peoples of Kenya will have available to them the assistance of the world Marxist movement in their struggle for a new leadership, for socialism and an end to imperialism and its hangers-on.

ON MONDAY, June 4, the Cunard Annual Report of the chairman, Sir John Brocklebank, contained this sentence: 'The first full year in the development of the Company's enterprise in the air has unfortunately commenced with what has probably been the worst financial year in the history of commercial aviation.'

On Wednesday, June 6, came the announcement of the BOAC-Cunard link up.

Cunard shareholders, in a few days, are brought from the depths of despair to the heights of triumph by the rescue operation arising out of the merger of their enterprise with the nationalized air undertaking.

Although not all BOAC's undertaking is to be acquired by the new joint corporation, what is left consists of the most unprofitable routes. Cunard are to participate to the extent of 30 per cent in the potentially profitable North Atlantic run.

Cunard had two Boeing 707s in its hands which were originally bought for the North Atlantic air routes but the firm was unable to use them for that purpose because they were refused the necessary licences.

Now the government, by this

## City Slants by colin chance

ingenious partial denationalization operation, has made it possible for Cunard to recoup its losses.

Most remarkable so far as Cunard is concerned is the way their shares have maintained their price in spite of the disastrous year both in its shipping and air operations, so disastrous that no

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### Rescue operation

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dividend is being paid this year.

Heavy recent buying has contributed to this share stability and this is extremely significant in the light of the announcement of the proposed merger.

What the government has made possible it has not, however, made inevitable. Clive Jenkins, general secretary of ASSET has said that his union has instructed its members at BOAC bases not to service any aircraft exchanged between BOAC and Cunard under the new

arrangements until the latter company bring rates of pay and conditions of employment into line with the nationalized corporation.

This qualified declaration of intent is a start, but only the whole Labour movement can stop the merger taking place. The Labour Party must declare that, when elected to power, they will dissolve the new company without compensation to shareholders.

The Tory government allows nationalization where it is difficult to make a commercial profit, for instance in the railway and mining industries.

Overall BOAC have sustained deficits in recent years but these are mainly attributable to the uneconomic routes which are still to be operated by BOAC alone.

In the spring we saw the amalgamation of British United Airways and British Aviation Services in a new £20 million combine, a substantial competitor of BEA.

This latest move represents another part of the plan to put public money into private hands.

**Big anti-Tory vote, but—**

# No Swing to Gaitskell

By Our Political Correspondent

**G**AITSKELL, Brown and Wilson are jubilant over Labour's gain in Middlesbrough West, but an analysis of the recent by-election results as a whole gives no real cause for complacency. At a time when Tory support is falling dramatically, Labour is not attracting dissatisfied Tory voters. Instead, they go to Liberal candidates, whose policy remains a secret as closely guarded as Gaitskell's.

At none of the nine recent by-elections has the Labour vote exceeded its 1959 general election figure. In only two cases, Blackpool and Middlesbrough West, has Labour's share of the poll increased.

At a time when thousands of people are angry with the government's economic measures, the percentage of the vote going to the Labour candidates is over 4.4 per cent down on 1959.

In West Derby, which polled on the same day as Middlesbrough, Labour's share dropped by 11 per cent.

Gaitskell's policy of eliminating the last remnants of socialism from Labour's programme and disclaiming any connection between the party and the working class, continues to lose support for Labour.

**DISILLUSIONED**

Instead of attracting the middle class 'floating voter', a policy almost indistinguishable from that of the Tories drives him farther away.

Disillusioned with the effects of Tory 'freedom', thousands of small businessmen, professional people and white collar workers look for an alternative.

Feeling the tremors of economic and social instability in capitalism, hard pressed by the growing power of the monopolies, the inhabitants of suburbia seek desperately for a change.



Gaitskell: eliminate the remnants

Labour movement demonstrates the power of the working class to transform society, the swing will be to the Right and not to the Left.

The experience of pre-war Germany and France demonstrates the way in which the monopolies can use middle-class desperation as a battering ram against the Labour movement.

Only a socialist alternative showing a real solution to their economic difficulties, can win the middle class to the side of Labour.

Meanwhile, Gaitskell and his friends drift closer to coalition with capitalism. The witch-hunt against the Left in the Labour Party, the Young Socialists and the unions is a vital part of capital's preparation for a new phase in the class struggle.

The possibility of a new election resulting in some kind of Lib-Lab alliance must not be discounted. Gaitskell's apparent lack of enthusiasm for his friend Wyatt's plan for an election pact with Grimond means nothing.

**ORGANIZE**

Thus, in a period when a strengthening of Labour's political organization is most needed, when the possibility of getting rid of the Tories is growing, the stage is set for a betrayal greater than 1931.

The tremendous power of the British working-class movement cannot be effective so long as the right-wing leadership retains its grip. The danger which this implies for the future of the workers of Europe is incalculable.

Despite the miserable performance of those grouped limply around 'Tribune' it is not too late for the Left to organize itself to get rid of Gaitskell and Brown.

This task is vital if the movement is to face and combat the dangers of the new situation.

**THE NEW YARDSTICK**

A South London newspaper, reporting that a Young Socialist branch had passed a resolution in support of an 'Aid for Cuba' Committee, rang up Labour Party headquarters for more details about this committee.

Said a Transport House spokesman: 'We have never heard of the committee.' To underline the point he added, 'It's certainly not been proscribed.'



Brother Brown: on the way?

This is the menace concealed within the Liberal vote. Without a strong lead from the working-class movement, this vote will turn from Mr. Grimond to some other, more violent, form of demagoguery.

The middle-class support for CND, especially among young people, and the rapid growth of white-collar unionism are two symptoms of a potential break with the past.

Snobbery, reflecting middle-class dependence on big business, will crumble under the impact of economic crisis. But unless the

## Tories Snub Nurses Again

**T**HE government has again refused to give nurses more than a 2½ per cent pay rise. The offer has been turned down by the union officials, who have also rejected any talk of strike action.

The management of the Nurses and Midwives Whitley Council offered a rise of £10 million, but only £3,333,000 now. That means 2½ per cent, or 6d. in the pound, which is in line with Selwyn Lloyd's 'guiding light' policy. This offer has already been turned down by the nurses.

Union leaders were told they would have to wait another three years before they got the remaining £6,667,000.

Secretary of the staff side of the Council, Miss Mary Davies, commented, 'We are pretty well back where we started. This has got us no further at all.'

Mr. William Jepson, general secretary of the Confederation of Health Service Employees, said they had been 'led up a tree'.

The Confederation is now balloting for strike action, but none of the other unions concerned in the talks are planning similar action and their officials have made it plain that they oppose any suggestions of stoppages to enforce the claim.

Although nurses are reluctant to take strike action, they are in an angry and militant mood. Such militancy must be taken up by the rest of the Labour movement.

A massive protest move by industrial and white collar workers in support of the nurses could force the government to reverse their decision and give an immediate and substantial rise to this cruelly overworked, underpaid but dedicated section of the movement.

## Builders Fight Victimization

Newsletter Reporter

**B**UILDING workers at Ford & Waltons, Fetter Lane, London, downed tools last week in defence of site organization.

The management, claiming redundancy, had transferred the labourers' steward, who was chairman of the works' committee, to another site. A crowded meeting decided unanimously to defend the steward and to remain in the canteen until the management agreed to keep the steward on the site.

The management refused and a resolution to stop work was carried with only seven votes against. Consequently the steward was sent his cards through the post.

**EXCUSE**

The redundancy was seen as an excuse to smash the site organization and preserve the bad wages and conditions. While craftsmen are paid a standing bonus of 1/- an hour, labourers, with a few exceptions, get 6d.

Attempts to iron out these disparities and secure a higher level of payment for the whole site have been strengthened by recent successful stoppages on the site by painters and carpenters.

The management were forced to make some concessions to trade union organization on the site. In return they demanded the disciplining of any stewards who took part in unofficial strike action.

● As a result of the strike the sacked steward has been reinstated on another site pending a meeting of the joint trade union-employer panel.

## Colour Bar Vote Splits Workers

Newsletter Reporter

**W**ORKERS at a Banbury, Oxfordshire, factory belonging to Aluminium of Canada have voted for a ban on coloured labour. Out of over 1,800 members of the National Union of General and Municipal Workers, 591 voted for the ban and 205 against. The rest did not vote.

This move to split trade unionists on racial lines was 'regretted' by the management who are now 'studying the situation further'.

The union is officially opposed to any colour bar. The kind of opposition put up in this case may be judged from the statement of a union official quoted as saying: 'There are men from all

countries working in the factory, and many of them fought against us during the war. Yet now we find there is a bar on these people from the Commonwealth.'

This incident underlines the danger of racist ideas spreading in the British Labour movement. It also demonstrates the inability of right-wing ideas to stop this disease.

Competition in the aluminium industry may well mean redundancy in the next period. It is vital to show how only a united struggle by all workers against the monopolies can protect jobs and living standards.

Everything which divides the working class and diverts it from its real enemies assists the employers. Racism can only be fought through determined working-class action, and not with pious moral phrases.

## A Vested Interest

'The Government (of British Guiana) have . . . given further information on the exercise of exchange control, which offers reassurance about the treatment of personal and commercial requirements.

'I know that many people still question the necessity and desirability of some of the new measures. The burden of the budget on people and business—on the Booker Group and our employees—is unquestionably heavy. There are real problems of administration and enforcement. But our views have been given a fair hearing by Ministers. We must now, in keeping with our oft-stated policy to work with and to serve the Government of the day, do all we can to work the new system well. If difficulties arise in practical experience we are sure we can discuss them with Ministers.

'The Government are faced with the complicated task of striking the right balance between protecting a precarious economy and encouraging investment from outside; and between short-term necessity and the obvious desirability of relieving the weight of taxation—and broadening its base—as soon as the state of the economy justifies it. The wrong balance, if it demoralises the individuals and communities upon whom the country's future depends, will defeat its own ends. . . .

'The Guianese Government's pre-eminent aim—shared I hope by all parties in British Guiana—must now be to restore confidence. In this they can certainly count upon Bookers. No one can gain from chaos and confusion in the country; everyone has a vested interest in mutual confidence and understanding.'

—From the annual statement of the Chairman of the Booker Group, Sir Jock Campbell

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