

The Newsletter

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TGWU leader bows to right wing

AUG 27 1962

COUSINS' BIG RETREAT

EDITORIAL

The blood relations

IN recent weeks there has been a sharp renewal of racist activity in the London area. Various do-gooders and liberals have made announcements about the need to introduce legislation to curb these demonstrations. They conveniently ignore the real culprit, the Tory government and its Immigration Act.

The fascists are becoming more active because they feel strengthened by the Immigration Act. They feel that the time has come to whip up racialism and they are heartened by the number of people who are now threatened with deportation by the Home Office. The publicity given to British subjects from the 'Commonwealth' who are being deported helps the cause of fascism.

As is usual on such grave matters, the Right wing of the Labour Party is silent. They are aware that many of the racials inside the party are staunch supporters of Gaitskell, especially in the youth movement.

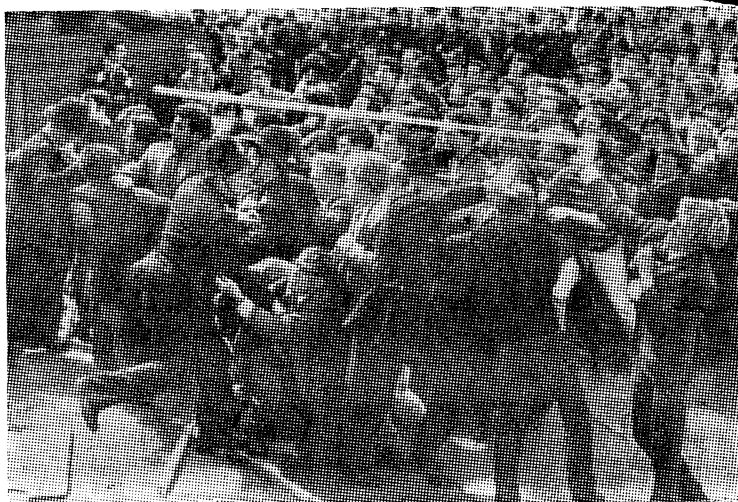
Why is it that Gaitskell and Brown cannot take a few minutes off from their junketing trips to the United States and from their disciplinary committees to give an unequivocal undertaking that one of the first acts of a Labour government will be to repeal the Immigration Act?

The violence at the fascist demonstrations can be laid at the door of the Tory government. Merely to bring in legislation to curb demonstrations is to avoid the issue and take steps which will rebound against the working class.

We would remind those who talk about such legislation that the Hitler movement was also illegal for a period, but that did not stop it from coming to power.

It is right that thousands of young people should demonstrate against the fascists. They instinctively feel that only action on their part can halt the threat of the racials. If fascism grows and the danger becomes acute then it will be essential to mobilise the Labour movement to drive the fascists from the streets.

The board of school governors in Coventry are right to sack Colin Jordan. The National Union of Teachers instead of defending him, should immediately expel him from the union.



London Labour beats Fascists

Newsletter Reporter

'**M**OSLEY Speaks' said the posters on London's Underground, but 10,000 Londoners, many of them YCNDers and Young Socialists, proved them wrong last Sunday. The people assembled in Trafalgar Square determined to stop the Union Movement—formerly the British Union of Fascists—from holding its much-publicised rally.

The square was full long before Mosley's lieutenant Hamm opened the meeting at 3 o'clock. As his first words crackled from the microphone the shouting began.

The chant of 'Mosley Out! Down with fascism!' drowned the voices from the platform shrieking about 'red rabble'.

More than 300 police held back the crowd from storming the plinth as tomatoes, shoes, pennies and abuse were hurled at the fascists. The hatred and contempt felt for fascism and racialism were expressed on all sides.

At 3.20, after the police cordon had been broken several times, the police decided to close the meeting. Fighting then broke out as fascists, shoulder to shoulder with policemen, tried to protect the plinth while their placards and banners were taken down.

SCUFFLING

The square was cleared, but scuffling went on in the surrounding streets for some time. Meanwhile a crowd of people demonstrated outside the Union Movement headquarters in Vauxhall Bridge Road. A large squad of police, including Mounties with long batons and sandbags, used their usual methods to disperse the demonstrators.

Inside, Mosley—who had not reached Trafalgar Square before the meeting was closed—held a press conference. He denounced the 'suppression of free speech by a communist mob' and announced his intention of holding a further meeting on September 23.

Despite this announcement, the government has made clear its intention to permit the square to be used by Mosley. The British

National Party, another racist group has booked the square on September 2.

But the Committee of 100 were not allowed to hold a meeting there a few weeks ago, on the grounds that they intended to call for civil disobedience. This, apparently, is more dangerous to 'free speech' than preaching racial hatred.

PLAIN

In the House of Commons on Monday, the Minister of Works, Mr. Ripon, made it quite plain whose side the government is on.

Refusing to use his powers to ban meetings in the square as a means of censorship over political opinions, he said it would be regrettable if a group of people attending a meeting for the purpose of 'making trouble' ensured that the organisers would not be allowed to hold other meetings.

'It was clear before Sunday's meeting began that there were a number of people in the square determined to break it up.'

56 arrests were made in the course of the afternoon. They were all of anti-fascists. Many people were injured by the Mosleyites and their police protectors.

SERIES

This was only the start of a whole series of occasions when fascism will have to be fought by the Labour movement. It was a good beginning, but harder battles lie ahead.

To win these will require firm organisation and a clear understanding of what fascism is and how it menaces the Labour movement.

No fight on H-Bomb this year

By Our Political Correspondent

FRANK COUSINS, who called on young people to carry on the fight against the H-bomb after the Labour Party conference last year, is now retreating before the right-wing attack. His decision to join the National Economic Development Council, his support for the attack on the Communist Party leaders of the ETU, his refusal to lift the ban on CP members holding office in the Transport and General Workers' Union and the announcement that he will not fight for unilateral nuclear disarmament at the TUC and the Labour Party conference this year are all decisions that have weakened the Left in the fight for socialist policies.

Today, on the eve of vital industrial struggles, Cousins finds himself discussing economic problems with the Tories and the employers on NEDC.

It is no use Mr. Cousins saying he will use this position to press forward the interests of trades unionists. Everybody knows that the Council was set up to commit the TUC to backing Tory economic measures.



Cousins: helping the witch-hunt

The same purpose

Even if it is now under new management, NEDC will still be used for the same purpose by Maudling when difficult decisions have to be made in relation to the Common Market negotiations.

Cousins' place on NEDC has helped the Right wing leaders to cover up any sell-outs they may be preparing. Instead of organising the might of the TGWU to help smash the Tories and their pay pause, Cousins finds himself aiding their protectors in the Labour movement.

Of course, all trades unionists must support the TGWU motion for September's TUC which calls for an inquiry into provisions for health and security of industrial and clerical workers. 'Fringe benefits' of this kind, if fought for, can help to protect the living standards of workers.

Evade the fight

But this will undoubtedly be used as means to evade the fight on wages in the coming months. And the decision to back down on the fight for unilateralism will weaken the struggle for socialism and demoralise many rank and file militants who, at this crucial time, may turn elsewhere for leadership.

The failure of Cousins to lift Deakin's ban on Communist Party members or to oppose the witch-hunt in the ETU and the

Young Socialists is directly related to his retreat on the industrial front. The attack on the Left by the press, Catholic Action and the Labour Right wing is part of a campaign to disarm the working class at a time when socialist leadership is most vital.

His successful effort to maintain the ban at the Rules Revision Conference was a blow against the Left and a boost for the witch-hunters.

'Blue' boast

Of course, the cringing attitude of the CP and its supporters in the union only helped the Right wing. One individual from Liverpool openly boasted of the CP's role in helping the attack on the 'Blue' union on the Mersey docks.

Now, it is announced, the TGWU is not going to raise the question of the H-bomb at the TUC and their resolution at the Labour Party conference is only concerned with the issue of tests 'by any country'. This will

● cont. p. 4, col. 1

SUMMER BREAK

The Newsletter is closing down for two weeks for the summer break. The paper will not be published on August 4 and 11.

'THE RISE OF FASCISM CAME AFTER A WAVE OF REVOLUTIONARY ACTIVITY BETRAYED BY THE LEADERSHIP'

FASCISM makes use of the misery of the most crushed sections of the working class, together with the frustrations of the middle class. It is wrong to see only its anti-Semitism and racialism. To desperate people it can appear to present a programme for real, even revolutionary, changes.

Fascism in Britain will present a so-called 'policy' for dealing with very real problems, like housing and jobs. It will present it in what looks like a militant and even a 'socialist' manner. It is no accident that Mussolini was once on the Left wing of the Italian socialist movement and Mosley on the Left of the British Labour Party.

Even the anti-Semitic propaganda of fascism is often couched in terms which appear to attack Big Business—attacks on 'Jewish financiers', 'Jew monopoly', for example.

Fascism thus makes an appeal to middle-class people who feel themselves crushed by the strength of the big monopolies. In these circumstances, the middle class will not be repelled by 'extremism' but, on the contrary, could be attracted by the apparent determination of the fascists to see the job through.

One of the more effective aspects of fascist propaganda is its attack on the established parties as complacent, ineffective and outdated.

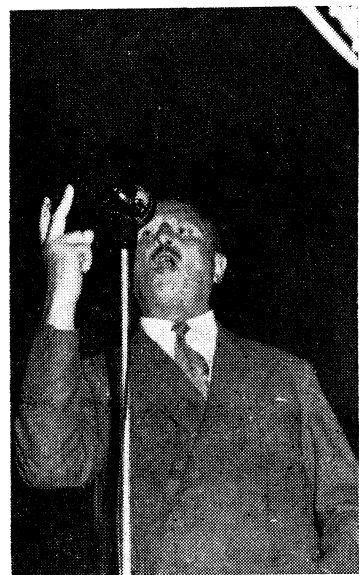
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It also appeals to the middle-class fear of the organised strength of the working class. This class feels itself caught between two giants—the big monopolies and the big unions. It feels that neither the Tories nor the Labour Party will act on its behalf. At the moment the Liberal Party is gaining support because of this feeling.

But there is no basis for a Liberal 'revival'. As capitalism's economic difficulties get worse, the middle layers of society will either be attracted to socialism or will go to fascism. There is no other way, since the middle class has no strength and no organisation of its own, and is therefore incapable of an independent policy.

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The recent *Observer* survey into why some people are turning to the Liberals contained a grave warning for the Labour movement. For the one thing that most 'Liberals' had in common was a dislike of the working class. They blamed unofficial strikes and labour 'indiscipline' for the country's economic diffi-



Mosley: one-time 'left-winger'

culties more than any other factor.

Unless they can be won to socialism, these people represent fertile ground for a future fascist movement.



A few years before Hitler came to power, German workers demonstrated for the proletarian dictatorship—while the Stalinists declared that it would be a mistake to 'over-emphasize' the danger of fascism.

termed the 'lumpen proletariat'—this time to smash the working class.

But fascism defrauds the petty-bourgeoisie, using them against the working class for the benefit of their own worst enemies. It cannot solve their problems. It is the hired monster of monopoly capitalism.

To stop fascism, a strong socialist movement must be built which will show the real way to fight against slums and unemployment. The middle class, being economically and politically dependent on other classes, tends to look for a 'leader', and to be attracted to 'dynamic' figures like Mussolini and Hitler.

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The working class can provide the leadership which can solve its pressing problems. But the middle class will only turn to the working class if it has a strong and decisive leadership. Failure to build such a leadership paves the way for fascism. In Italy, Germany and Spain, the rise of fascism came after a wave of revolutionary activity by the working class had been betrayed by its leadership.

As Trotsky said, fascism is the price paid by the working class when the treachery of its leaders prevents it from taking power.

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In concrete terms, unless the Socialist Labour League can build up powerful branches in places like Brixton, Birmingham, Bradford and Middlesbrough; unless it can provide leadership against the employers and the landlords; unless it can defeat the Right wing in the Labour Party and the trades unions, then the fascist oddities of today will become tomorrow's executioners.

Fascism—the terrible price the workers pay for their leaders' betrayal

second of two articles
by JACK GALE

But they can be won. For although the middle class likes to identify itself with the ruling class and remains safely in the bourgeois fold during boom periods, it does not really have the same interests as the ruling class at all.

The Tory Party, despite the middle class image which it likes to project, represents the big capitalists, and in times of

crisis their interests come more and more into conflict with those of the middle class.

At the same time, the big bourgeoisie needs the middle class, for by itself it is numerically very small and unable to carry out what is necessary for its own interests. Even in its own revolutionary period, during Cromwell's time, the bourgeoisie had to lean on the petty-

bourgeoisie and the peasants to carry out the actual task of smashing feudalism.

During its ascendancy it is still necessary for the bourgeoisie to get the middle class and even sections of the working class to identify its interests with their own—to fight its wars, for instance. In its decline, it again turns to the middle class—and to what Marx

Collins backs down on industrial action

Newsletter Correspondent

THE right-wing leadership of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament is quietly attempting to push under the carpet the important decision of the movement's annual conference calling for industrial action against the bomb.

After the meeting of the CND council last Sunday, Canon Collins, the chairman, said that it had decided how best to implement the resolution passed at the conference. It had decided to take the argument to the people by door-to-door canvasses.

There was no question, the Canon said, of the council interpreting a resolution passed at the conference other than by using the normal means of persuasion.

It did not intend to press for strikes in sympathy. 'If we are going to get our message across in industrial areas we have to plan our operations. But we shall retain our technique of using every possible means of persuasion,' Canon Collins said.

The decision to ignore the conference resolution is of similar magnitude to Gaitskell's refusal

to endorse the Scarborough decisions. The move to turn to the unions and integrate the struggle against the bomb with the Labour movement's fight for socialist policies was an historic turn for CND, which had previously prided itself on its aloof stand from the political battle.

The constitution and structure of CND—or rather the lack of it—will make it difficult for branches to take action against the council's decision and to call for a different interpretation of the conference resolution. But this very lack of national struc-

ture will enable the more militant branches, particularly in the youth movement, to campaign to implement the decision, regardless of the leadership.

Despite the vicious witch-hunt by Labour's Right wing against unilateralists, YCND has been growing in strength in a most heartening manner in recent months. In particular, a large number of Young Socialists are beginning to have an important say in the movement and are quickly breaking down the 'peace first, peace second and peace last' attitude of the YCL

Summer Labour Review out

THE new issue of *Labour Review* is devoted to the fight against revision of Marxism.

Tom Kemp analyses the theories of those who say that the USSR is not a workers' state. He shows what implications these sociological and economic ideas have in political practice.

They lead to opposition to the fight to change the leadership of the working class.

James Baker looks at the development of one Alasdair

MacIntyre, and Cliff Slaughter contributes a second article about Lenin's *Philosophical Notebooks*.

Together with an 8-page book review section, these articles make the *Summer Labour Review* a must for anyone concerned with Marxism.

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which has dominated the branches for some time.

The need to fight for socialism in order to get rid of the society that props up its rotten system with nuclear weapons is now the keen debating point in many YCND branches, and in London and other industrial areas plans are being made for extensive factory gate meetings and a drive into the local trades union movement.

It is this surging militancy that the liberal-clerical leadership is trying to hold back with its refusal to implement the conference decision on industrial action. The fighting spirit of young socialists in their ranks is likely to defeat this reactionary move.

● Pat Arrowsmith and the Rev. Michael Scott have resigned from the council in protest at the right-wing's activities. Although this was a wrong move to make, it can be recognised as the inevitable polarisation in this middle-class leadership, now under extreme pressure from both Left and Right.

A clearly defined socialist policy in CND is now even more necessary to save it from further disintegration.

Treachery in Northern Rhodesia

Copper miners sold out by nationalist leaders

by James Baker

A STRIKE ballot was taken among copper miners in Northern Rhodesia at the end of June. The workers, who wanted a 15 per cent increase in wages, voted overwhelmingly for a strike: 20,868 for, 338 against. But when the day came for work to stop, some miners' leaders declared that the strike was off. John Chisata, the Union President said, 'The strike has been postponed to avoid bloodshed.' Mathew Nkolomo, the Union Secretary, however, said that the strike was definitely on.

As a result of this confusion, only 6,800 men working in Roan Antelope came out, instead of the 35,000 expected, and they were told by the union to go back to work.

The instructions to call off the strike came from Kenneth Kaunda, President of the United National Independence Party, Northern Rhodesia's main African nationalist grouping. Neither then nor since were members of the union consulted.

This adds one more to the long list of betrayals to which the copper miners of Northern Rhodesia have been exposed by their leaders. The day is approaching, however, for a 'settling of accounts'. Meanwhile it will be useful for workers in Northern Rhodesia, and in other parts of the world, to know just how this betrayal came about. There are important lessons here for the working class to learn.

It is, of course, no coincidence that copper miners in many different countries—Chile, Montana, USA, Spain and Belgium—should have been involved in disputes with employers recently.

OFFENSIVE

The monopolists who control the mining of copper internationally are engaged in an offensive against their workers to slash wages and to increase their already substantial profits. They have taken advantage of a fall off in the demand for copper to cut production by 15 per cent and at the same time to maintain prices at a high level by creating an artificial shortage of material.

The capacity of the industry is increasing through the introduction of improved methods of refining and the opening up of new mines. But demand has remained stationary or even declined. In spite of this, the monopolists have succeeded for a period of 10 months in holding the price of copper at £234 per ton (according to the *Financial Times*). This is £14 more than the price would be if the laws of supply and demand operated.

'The producers have undoubtedly been very lucky' wrote the *Financial Times* on June 27 last. 'The political and labour disputes in the main African producing areas, and the recent strike at the Bolen refinery in Belgium have all worked in their favour.' But this was only partly due to 'luck'; 'good management' was involved too.

The monopolists are well organised, they come together to defeat the workers. The latter remain divided and isolated, lacking any proper organisation or leadership.

The international copper monopolists have drawn up plans to maintain their hold on the mining industry until the end of the

century and beyond.

The workers and peasants of Northern Rhodesia live in conditions of great poverty and technical backwardness. Unless the grip of the monopolists is broken these conditions will continue. Apart from the copper mines which employ about 40,000 men there is practically no industry of any kind in the country.

The big copper mining companies really control Northern Rhodesia; the local governments are little more than puppets dancing to their commands. They provide the greater part of the country's revenue. They own the railways, huge fruit farms, forests, saw mills and hotels, mines and refineries, which produce copper, zinc and lead.

One of the largest of these companies is the British South Africa Company, with properties worth a total of £55 million, most of this in Northern Rhodesia. Last year their profits were nearly £8 millions, and they paid dividends of more than 20 per cent. Another such company is the Anglo-American Corporation which owns gold mines and

THE president of the British Employers' Confederation, Mr. E. J. Hunter, has just made a significantly timed speech on the attitude of employers to legislated redundancy payments.

Here is the new government with its bright fresh faces preparing to bring in all sorts of 'progressive' legislation, and it gets slapped for its proposed 'Workers' Charter'.

For Mr. Hunter has said very forcibly that redundancy compensation schemes were 'best left to employers in consultation with their work-people'.

What then is the 'Workers' Charter', forecast by the Tory press, to contain? Will it throw over all the tenets of the 'incomes policy' aimed at pegging wages? In fact it will probably not deal with wages as such. More sinister policies will be introduced to provide for an extended 'pay pause' which the Tory government intend to make more efficient than ever before.

After all, the startling changes at the Treasury have been made, not because of the success of the pause, but because of the breaches made in it. Wages have risen in the past year by some 4 per cent. Prices have risen in the same period by 6 per cent.

At the same time, good Tory voters have been antagonised by



Welensky: wanted Rhodesian independence

diamonds in South Africa and copper mines in Northern Rhodesia, and which made large profits last year too.

The mining concessions from which these companies make their large profits were acquired at the beginning of the century from African chiefs, at the cost of a few bottles of whisky and some handfuls of beads. Treaties were signed in 1950 guaranteeing that the companies would continue to control these mineral rights until 1986.

Moreover, the British government has given guarantees to the company that there will be a clause in any new constitution for Northern Rhodesia preventing any future government from repudiating that agreement. Lord Robins, the President of the British South Africa Company, made this announcement to the Annual General Meeting of the Company in London on March 12 this year. This was about the time when the government was negotiating a new constitution with the Northern Rhodesian politicians. Kenneth Kaunda, the President of the UNIP, has, presumably, agreed to this condition.

KAUNDA ACCEPTED

This may explain the change in his attitude between February and July this year. On February 25 Kaunda called on the people of Northern Rhodesia to prepare for a general strike lasting six months, in case Welensky took the initiative of declaring the Rhodesian Federation independent of Britain.

Kaunda came to London in March with other UNIP leaders

● cont. p. 4, col. 1

New rent troubles in St. Pancras

Newsletter Reporter

DON COOK and Arthur Rowe, two of the leaders of the tenants' struggle against the St. Pancras council's means-test rent scheme two years ago—when the council was Tory—have now received heavy bills from the town clerk to pay for the cost of their evictions by the police.

Mr. Cook's bill is for £265 5s. 6d. to cover the cost or 'removing barricades, making good damage, removing furniture, etc.'

Mr. Cook, an engineering fitter, who together with Mr. Rowe has just been re-housed by the new Labour council, has said that he is unable to pay any of this bill. Mr. Rowe's bill is understood to be substantially higher than Mr. Cook's.

The militant local tenants' association is now worried by the lack of activity shown by the new Labour council which was swept back into office on a pledge to throw out the means-test.

First move by the Labour group, which is dominated by extreme right-wingers, was to wish a happy retirement, with thanks for his services to the borough, to the outgoing Tory leader who had introduced the means-test.

Now there are signs that the Labour group are looking for a way out of their election pledge on rents. The district auditor has announced his disapproval of the new plan and is threatening heavy surcharges.

The Labour councillors seem unwilling to fight the matter; if they do they will be assured of the backing of the local tenants. If they don't there may well be further struggles in the Red Flag borough.

The workers of St. Pancras have shown that they will fight for decent housing and lower rents, and they are ready to do so again.

KENNEDY'S TERROR TACTICS IN VIET NAM

AN article in the July 20 edition of the cynical, war-mongering American news-magazine *Time* gives a grim picture of the tactics that Kennedy's 'advisers' are urging on the reactionary forces in South Viet Nam. A do-or-die offensive is being waged to hold on to the country for imperialism against the rising tide of freedom fighters led by the Viet Cong.

LIVESTOCK

The puppet government has requisitioned two livestock marking machines from the US and are tattooing on the chests of their sailors the slogan 'Sat Cong'—Let's kill the communists'.

'US military advisers,' says *Time*, 'still complain that poor communications and the highly centralised command setup of South Viet Nam's President Ngo Dinh Diem, retard quick response to Viet Cong attacks. But slowly, the tactics taught by the US advisers—most notably the use of helicopters—have begun to show results.'

JUNGLE ACTION

'There is still no sign, however, that Viet Cong has suffered any significant loss of its capability to strike when and where it likes.'

The local *Time* correspondent described a typical American-led government jungle action:

'The troops fanned out in a long half-moon and moved towards the canals that bordered the palm jungle. AD-6 attack bombers circled the paddies and tried to flush the Viet Cong into the open with rockets and napalm jelly. Suddenly a spotter plane picked out a group of fleeing Viet Cong guerrillas and dropped a smoke grenade. Fire from rifles and automatic weapons killed five of the Viet Cong, but two more dozen escaped into the trees. . . .

WATER TREATMENT

'As the hunt for prisoners continued, the Rangers found two Viet Cong youths, 15 and 19, hiding in a canal. . . . The Rangers were in no mood for a kid-glove interrogation of the prisoners. . . . The older was pinned to the ground and—as the Rangers call it—"taken for a swim". His jaw was forced open and five gallons of water from a rusty old can gradually poured into his mouth. The youth gagged and screamed, but refused to talk, even when prodded with a rifle butt. The water treatment was more frightening than hurtful; at the end of the day, the still-silent boy was fully recovered and able to march three miles out of the area with his captors.'

'The bag for the day had been seven Viet Cong killed, eight prisoners, 53 suspect villagers arrested, seven rifles, more than 100 rounds of ammunition—and one guitar.'

City Slants

by colin chance

the application of the pause where they have themselves been affected.

The change in policy at the Treasury will be one of degree, not of principle. There is little doubt that new gimmicks will be introduced to release new purchasing power, to create the image of an artificial prosperity, but it is

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Employers' charter

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the middle class voter who will be wooed.

Employers will be encouraged to take a firm line with industrial workers. The humiliation the government experienced over the dock settlement will not be allowed to recur—or so the government plans.

The tasks of arbitration boards will be entirely revised. No longer will they be required to make wage awards commensurate with cost of living standards. Their terms of reference will be altered to enable them to make awards depending on whether or not an industry

needs to attract labour.

The *Economist* of July 14 states that arbitrators 'have in recent years done great damage to the country. That damage and that atmosphere have got to be stopped'.

Employers will be encouraged to 'get tough' with the workers. It may be that devices such as the levying of an increase in workers' national insurance contributions where their earnings index rose over the 'guiding light' figure will be introduced.

Or, that where wage increases take place, the employers would not be allowed to pass on the cost by way of higher prices. We are, in any case, promised a degree of consumer protection. Such an edict could be useful to the Tories in appearing to 'do good' while getting ready for action against the workers.

What then will we find in the workers' charter? No doubt much will be made of 'fringe benefits' and resettlement grants in the case of sackings. But while Macmillan and his new boys are in power any legislation will be related to preparation for attacks on the unions.

Algeria drifts to disaster

● Cousins retreats

from page 1

strengthen the Right wing in the Labour Party, especially the Campaign for Democratic Socialism.

This organisation has been conspiring on behalf of Gaitskell and Brown in all sections of the movement. In the TGWU in particular it has tried to undermine Cousins' position as much as possible since the Scarborough conference.

THE NEWSLETTER has always been prepared to support Frank Cousins whenever he has given a lead to the Left. We shall certainly do so again if the occasion arises. But we cannot keep silent when he retreats. The British Labour movement, today more than ever before, requires a clear socialist lead.

Whatever appearances may suggest, the right-wing leadership in the Labour Party and the trades unions is in as deep a crisis as the Tories. Its replacement and the adoption of a programme of struggle against capitalism is vital if the working class is to defeat the employers' attacks.

This is a time, not for drawing back, but for advancing the demands for socialist policies. The British working class and the youth in particular will rally to a socialist lead.

Cousins' lack of confidence in the working class will lose him this opportunity to lead the Left.

● Rhodesia

from page 3

and discussed a new constitution for the territory. Presumably he accepted the provision with regard to the mineral concessions in addition to other provisions.

There is a clear lesson here for workers in Northern Rhodesia and in other countries. They cannot depend on petty-bourgeois Nationalist leaders to fight for their interests. They must set up their own parties and campaign on the basis of working class demands—workers' power and control of industry and the rejection of fake constitutions.

Only a leadership of the working class, based on Marxism, can provide this kind of policy and organise a struggle round these slogans. Without it there will be more betrayals.

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De Gaulle prepares to return

By MICHAEL BANDA

ONLY a few months after 'independence', Algeria is drifting rapidly towards economic anarchy and regionalism. In the West Ben Bella utters veiled threats against the GPRA—and promises 'socialism' to the peasants.

In Algiers Ben Khedda and his cronies wander around the Aletti Hotel promising little and conceding even less to the people.

In Rocher Noir, a Kafka-like scene prevails; empty offices, deserted corridors and ringing telephones. What Mr. Fares and his Provisional Executive are doing no one knows—or cares.

Standing above all three power-centres is the army general staff who are not yet ready to commit themselves either one way or the other until they see which side is winning.

Colonel Boumedienne identifies himself with Ben Bella—whether Ben Bella reciprocates is another matter.

In the meantime the exodus of Europeans continues and the situation gets worse.

'The administration and the economy are falling apart. More than two-thirds of Algeria's factories are shut down. Unemployment is staggering—no one knows exactly how high it is. The wheat crop, excellent this year, lies rotting in the fields because machinery is not repaired and farms are deserted.' (*Newsweek* 30/7/62)

Neither the Ben Khedda nor Ben Bella regimes alone can govern Algeria on capitalist

lines. Mr. Ben Khedda's latest 'conditional surrender' to Ben Bella is a recognition of this fact.

Ben Bella's victory may still prove to be ephemeral. The social and economic problems of Algeria require not merely a dedicated leader but a programme which can reconstruct Algerian economy from top to bottom.

It is precisely from this standpoint that Ben Bella's programme is singularly bankrupt.

● **The French government has announced that it may send troops to protect its interests in Algeria. These may include Mr. Ben Khedda.**

The re-appearance of the hated French troops will trigger off yet more bloody battles. De Gaulle's announcement serves to further underline the criminal betrayal of the nationalist leaders.

A revolutionary struggle must be waged by Algerian and French workers to cast off the reactionary leadership of Ben Khedda and Ben Bella, and to keep French troops at home.

NEC tightens up the rules

BERTRAND RUSSELL will not snub the Right wing of the Labour Party again. This was made clear at the NEC's press conference on Wednesday by the general secretary, Len Williams.

The sponsors of the World Peace Congress had declared that they did not consider themselves to be breaking the Labour Party's constitution by associating themselves with a proscribed organisation, as distinct from being members.

The NEC, whilst forced to accept this explanation, did not agree with it, Mr. Williams said, and instructed the Organising Subcommittee to look into the matter. It had duly recommended an alteration to Clause 2, section 4 of the constitution which deals with the eligibility for membership of the party and proscribed organisations.

This will now read: '... not members of or associated with political parties or organisations declared by annual conference or the NEC... to be ineligible for membership of the party.'

This will go forward as an amendment to the constitution at this year's conference.

Mr. Williams made it clear that this move was designed more to 'clean-up' local parties than to

Newsletter Reporter

restrain elderly rebels.

'A number of organisations, not very influential—due largely to the efforts of the Labour Party—try to subvert the party. This amendment is designed largely to try and stop this subversion,' he said.

Questioned about the Young Socialists, he said that investigations were continuing into those associated with *Keep Left*, but this had not been discussed by the executive.

It had, however, reached a de-

BPC opposes all tests

A STATEMENT by the British Peace Committee, the Stalinist front organisation, published in the *Daily Worker* on Monday, expressed opposition to all tests of nuclear weapons and was in sharp distinction to the *Worker* leader which said: 'Surely the Russians could not be expected to sit still and let the Americans carry out all the tests they need until their weapons are effective enough to strike a sudden paralysing blow against the Soviet Union?' (This statement itself sharply contradicts the theory of 'peaceful co-existence!')

The BPC statement declared: 'We

Cold wind blew Prado no good

Our Foreign Correspondent

THE chill wind of military dictatorship which blew up from Argentina and Brazil blew through the streets of Lima and blew President Prado out of office and into prison.

The immediate cause was the return to power of the middle-class demagogue Haya de la Torre. First his opponent, Fernando Belaunde refused to accept the vote and called upon the army to revolt.

This plan was foiled by President Manuel Prado who prevailed upon the generals to restrain themselves.

This they duly did with a mock-solemn assurance recognising the power of the National Elections Court, which dismissed the fraud charges against the victorious candidate.

Just when everything seemed settled and sealed, the military junta struck and capitalist democracy went down without a ripple.

For the six million poverty-stricken Indians in Peru the coup will not mean much. Neither demagoguery nor dictatorship will solve the problem of landlessness.

As for Mr. Kennedy's decision to suspend diplomatic relations with Peru, there is but one word—chicanery.

Scanlon loses AEU case

Newsletter Reporter

MR. HUGH SCANLON, for 14 years the divisional organiser in the Greater Manchester district of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, this week lost his case in which he claimed that the election last year for a post on the AEU executive council was validly conducted.

The result of this election, in which the left-wing Mr. Scanlon opposed the sitting member, Mr. W. Cockin, a supporter of Mr. William Carron, was not declared, though Mr. Scanlon believed that he had won.

LETTERS

Last September, the AEU executive cancelled the election on the grounds that certain handwritten letters sent to branches in support of Mr. Scanlon represented an unfair influence and were opposed to the rules.

Giving judgment in the High Court on Tuesday, Mr. Justice Cross found in favour of the defendants, Mr. Carron, AEU president, Mr. Hallett, general secretary, Mr. Cockin and the union.

Mr. Justice Cross stated, however, in fairness to Mr. Scanlon and his supporters, that he had no reason to think that when the supporters sent out letters they thought they might be breaking any rule.

Witnesses and counsel for Mr. Scanlon had laid great stress on the fact that the letters were not sent out on headed notepaper from the offices of the district committees concerned in the case and that they did not bear the district committee seal, the judge said. The executive had claimed that the letters had given the impression that the district committees had formally resolved to support Mr. Scanlon.

CARRON'S 'LOGIC'

Mr. Justice Cross said that if a district committee acted collectively in matters which were no concern of theirs, then reasonable men could say a district committee or its members had broken the rules.

He said the plaintiff was on stronger ground when it came to the testimonials which in the past had been appended to the candidates' election addresses.

In the past there had been appended to these addresses testimonials which would lead an ordinary reader to think a district committee as a body was supporting a candidate.

Mr. Carron and other members of the executive, however, had drawn a very sharp distinction between support from members of a district committee shown in election addresses liable to be vetted by the executive and those in communications sent round under Rule 2, clause 10.

The judge said: 'I am not sure of the logic of the distinction which is drawn by Mr. Carron and other members of the executive.'

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