

The Newsletter

WEEKLY ORGAN OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIALIST LABOUR LEAGUE

Vol. 9, No. 426

January 8, 1966

Price 6d.

PAGE FOUR
ALBION MOTORS'
STEWARDS'
SUPPORT
LOBBY

Report from
Glasgow

Merseyside builders vote to stop work for lobby day

A MASS meeting of 1,500 Merseyside construction workers decided last Tuesday to support the Lambeth Trades Council and to stop work for the day on January 26 to protest against the government's proposed anti-trade union laws.

The workers are employed on erecting an extension to the ICI works at Runcorn.

With only four votes against, they carried the resolution put forward by the shop stewards committee.

It was proposed to levy each man 5s to send a contingent on the January 26 lobby.

The site meeting, called for the middle of the morning, was held for the sole purpose of discussing a circular sent out by the Lambeth Trades Council.

In discussion the only opposition was in the form of a question:

'Are we for or against the Labour Party?'

In quick retort, another worker said: 'I would like to answer with another question: Is the Labour government carrying out Labour policies when it introduces this legislation?'

Other workers raised the proposition of unions withdrawing the political levy if the government carried through legislation.

One worker received much support when he pointed out what legislation would mean on a site like theirs, where, through militancy, conditions had been built up above the national site agreement, which is completely inadequate.

'If we get on a site like this when it starts and then begin to organise to get above the national agreement, then we will be liable to be fined £50 to £500 for inciting to strike action', he said.

Another worker reported that his Plumbing Trades Union branch has asked its district committee to organise a stoppage of all plumbers in the Liverpool area for January 26.

MORE UNIONS SEND SUPPORT

BOTH the Fulham No. 1 and Brixton No. 2 ASW branches voted overwhelmingly this week to support the Lambeth Trades Council lobby. They also condemned the suspension of the Trades Council by the TUC.

Others who have joined the swelling ranks of support include the Bermondsey ASW; Shepherd's Bush No. 1 ASW; Brixton G/S AUBTW; and ETU branches in Romford (Essex), Stratford (London), New Addington (Surrey), East

Ham, Islington and London Studio and Entertainment branch; Islington AEU; and Deptford No. 1 ASW.

In Glasgow, the Albion Works Committee and the Ibrox corporation bus garage have added their support.

Manchester No. 1 NUR voted in favour of the lobby, and the quarterly meeting of the shop stewards' committee agreed to send two delegates on January 26 (see page four).

LOBBY TO EXPOSE T.U.C. SELL-OUT

Johnson's
'pause':
a
prelude
to
atomic
war?

By MICHAEL BANDA

'PEACE,' the late dictator of Italy once said, 'is an interval between wars'—and Hitler before launching his SS legions on a new aggression would always declare with mock solemnity: 'I have no further territorial claims to make'.

Today, we are quite used to this cynical language. So nobody should be fooled or lulled into complacency by the high-powered 'peace' drive led by President Johnson, supported by Mr. Wilson, and sanctified by the Pope.

Brandishing the atom bomb in one hand, and dangling a withered olive branch in the other, Johnson thinks he can intimidate the Vietcong into surrender.

A month ago The Newsletter warned British workers about the danger of Johnson deciding to use atomic weapons in south-east Asia and the threat to British labour constituted by Wilson's acquiescence to US dictates.

That danger and threat still remains, despite, or rather because, of the suspensions of the bombing raids.

For Johnson and his fellow gangsters, the pause is very necessary.

So far, despite massive counter-insurgency measures and logistical superiority, the American command has barely succeeded in containing the Vietcong offensive or in holding the major towns.

KEPT INITIATIVE

At the same time, the Vietcong have doubled their strength in South Vietnam and have kept the initiative on the ground, despite the cessation of the south-west monsoon.

They have inflicted heavy punishment on the South Vietnamese forces while pummeling the Americans in the central Highlands.

To compound Johnson's problems, the aboriginal mercenaries, the Montagnards, until recently considered the smartest, toughest and most loyal jungle fighting force, have rebelled against Saigon and contracted out of the war in the most vital military area in Vietnam.

At home, Johnson is faced with a groundswell of opposition which shows no signs of being appeased.

It is a situation on which even the bourgeois journalists are being forced to comment critically.

Henry Brandon, writing in the 'Sunday Times', revealed Johnson's dilemma: 'The president gradually warmed to the idea [a pause in bombing and "peace" crusade] when confronted with the grim implications of the Vietnamese war, because of the effects of the budget (which may be swelled by as much as 10,000 million dollars) upon the economy and all the plans for his "Great Society"'. Failing to find the required savings in domestic projects, he



The brutal war enters 1966 with a vicious kick in the head for a Vietcong prisoner, administered by a Vietnamese soldier. US First Cavalrymen look on.

Demonstrate on January 26th!

By JOHN CRAWFORD

WHEN the comfortable bureaucrats of the TUC General Council voted to accept legislation to restrict wage claims, they were carrying out the most significant betrayal of trade unionism since 1926. Their 23 to 12 vote on December 22 opens the door for an onslaught by the employers on the gains made by the workers since the war.

And, by attacking the Lambeth Trades Council for calling the January 26 lobby of parliament, they try to tie the hands of the workers and stop them from hitting back.

These 'official' leaders are nailed for their 'responsible' attitude by every capitalist spokesman. But they are responsible, not to their millions of members, but to their masters, the bankers and monopolists.

Their decision even contravenes their own resolution carried at their September Congress. They voted then for a 'voluntary early warning system'.

'LIMIT CLAIMS'

Since September, a TUC wage-vetting committee has been hard at work telling unions to limit their claims.

But, when George Brown met the TUC Economic Committee last month, he made it clear that this scheme was inadequate.

Union chiefs who asked for a postponement of legislation were told that this would not be acceptable to 'foreign opinion'.

Coming a few days after Wilson's US trip, the meaning of this remark is obvious.

It is the American and other bankers who dictate the policy of the 'Labour' government, as they have done since October 1964.

It will be recalled that Callaghan visited the USA (including a tour of Wall Street) during the week of the TUC in September.

After George Brown had spoken to Congress about wage restraint, the massive dollar loan was announced. This has sustained sterling ever since.

Now, with the dollar facing problems of its own, the Americans have begun to put the squeeze on Wilson and Co.

Worried by the 8½ per cent rise in wages last year, the bankers demand evidence that effective attacks on wages are going to begin.

Brown's Bill will be presented during January and will be law before the April budget strikes.

This will be an 'Enabling Bill'. Even if it does not operate at once, an Order in Council may be introduced at any time to implement it.

The ground will have been prepared for further action in the future by this government, or by a Tory or coalition successor.

And this is only the start. The Royal Commission on the Trade Unions is considering more sweeping measures to legalise 'unofficial' strikes altogether.

SET CLOCK BACK

The leaders of the Labour Party, founded by the unions to represent their interests in Parliament, now set the clock back 60 years in trade union law.

And the trade union leaders help them to do it! This is a measure of the depth of the crisis confronting British capitalism.

The entire organised labour movement must and will fight back against these moves.

From the Labour MPs who will not vote against the Bill to the 'Communist' Party leaders who vainly attempt to sabotage the January 26 lobby, they all pretend nothing important is happening.

In the explosive industrial struggles now being prepared, the political leadership of the Marxists will prove decisive.

The tremendous power of the working class can beat back the attacks of the employers and their tame labour bureaucrats.

But this requires the building of a party which will go all the way to the smashing of capitalism. January 26 must mark a new stage in this task.

Rail Board opposes union law

THE British Railways Board is against any changes in the law in relation to strikes. This, they say, would be unworkable 'if large numbers of workers were involved'.

The Board is of the opinion that 'responsibility for disciplining workers who take part in unofficial action should rest mainly with the trade unions'.

It suggests that the recent agreement in the municipal transport industry which allows for a suspension of bonus payments to workers who take unofficial action should be taken as a model for the kind of action required.

'Withhold benefits'

Mr. Stanley Raymond, chairman of the Railways Board, believes that in the event of strike, employers should withhold fringe benefits such as sick pay and holiday payments. He also maintains that the trade unions should withhold their benefits from their members who engage on unofficial strike.

This division of opinion between the employers hinges on their attitude towards the trade unions.

The British Railways Board believe that it should be up to them to discipline their members, whereas the majority of employers come down in favour of state legislation.

No protest over massacre in Indonesia

WHILE the leaders of the British Communist Party search for a new name for the 'Daily Worker'—last weekend an executive committee meeting could not come to any decision—thousands of Communists are being massacred in Indonesia (see full report, page 3).

The so-called British workers' paper has, like the capitalist press, faithfully reported the mass murder, but not once have those leaders, so concerned about a 'new image' newspaper, made any protest over the actions of the reactionary clique of generals behind the puppet Sukarno.

Isn't the murder of 100,000 Communists of any concern to the British Communist Party?

LAMBETH TRADES COUNCIL FIGHTS FOR RECOGNITION —AND LOBBY

AT its meeting on Monday, the Lambeth Trades Council decided to fight for restoration of TUC recognition, but reaffirmed its decision to continue with the campaign for the January 26 lobby of parliament.

Afterwards delegates and supporters of the campaign discussed the importance of the lobby and went on to make further plans for its success.

Many promised to campaign in factories and on building sites. The Trades Council is making a drive to secure the maximum representation of union branches and jobs by delegates with their banners.

The demonstration on January 26 will assemble near the Oval station, Kennington, at 11 a.m.

London busmen back New York strikers

THE Harrow Weald and Hendon bus workers have sent a message of support to the New York transport workers who have been on strike since New Year's Eve.

As the city faced more and worse traffic jams as cars poured into the business sections of Manhattan, 60-year-old strike leader Mike Quill was hauled off to jail. Later he collapsed from a heart attack.

As in the last power workers' strike in Britain, the press is beginning to whip up a campaign against the strike, which is losing New York businesses an estimated 100 million dollars a day. Motor accident and hospital deaths are being blamed on the strike. (See page 3 for further story.)

Forward to a socialist Britain

Fighting slogan of 'Keep Left' AGM



Aileen Jennings, re-elected Editor of 'Keep Left'.

LAST Saturday, over 400 Young Socialists overwhelmingly accepted a proposition to make 1966 the greatest year for their movement and their newspaper 'Keep Left' with the slogan 'Forward to a socialist Britain'.

Youth had travelled from all over Britain to London to hear the policies and organisational aspects of 'Keep Left' outlined by its editor, Aileen Jennings, at the paper's annual general meeting.

A successful speakers' contest was held, during which a tremendously high standard of speaking was displayed by representatives from all regions in the British Isles. Tom Jarvis, representing the north-east, was the winner.

In the evening a packed hall danced to recording groups, 'Them' and 'Sons of Fred'.

An executive committee member of the Lambeth Trades Council outlined the campaign of the council for the January 26 lobby of Parliament, and thanked the Young Socialists for their support in this work.

Publisher of 'Keep Left', Dave Longley, welcomed the delegations, many of whom had travelled overnight to attend the meeting. He introduced 'Keep Left's' editor, who was re-elected for a second year.

'As we are now entering the 15th year of the publication of "Keep Left", we have to record that 1965 was one of the most active years of campaigning that this paper and the Young Socialists have ever known', she said.

SUPPORTED TEN DEMONSTRATIONS

'Keep Left' gave its support to ten major demonstrations, including the Morecambe conference of the Young Socialists in February.

In fact we went straight into the lobby of Parliament on February 4 in support of the old age pensioners' fight for increased pensions after the annual meeting in 1965.

'This was closely followed by the huge conference at Morecambe—the fifth Young Socialists conference where we made a decisive break with social democracy and "Keep Left" was voted as the Young Socialists' paper.

'From then onwards we never looked back. The Young Socialists and "Keep Left" called out thousands of youth in demonstrations on May Day, against the war in Vietnam and for the victory of the Vietcong, against fascism, and at the annual conference of the Labour Party in Blackpool on September 26.

'At the summer camp held in July and August Young Socialist members attended lectures on Marxist theory.

'Most important of all was the Trotsky commemoration meeting held in London at the end of August.'

'Lastly, "Keep Left" gave complete support to the Young Socialist programme to be presented to the next Young Socialist conference entitled "Socialism and Youth", extracts of which were published in "Keep Left" recently.'

movement need the Young Socialists more than now, when the Labour leaders had carried out a complete betrayal.

'And they have received the support of the "left" around "Tribune", who, whilst mouthing phrases of opposition, hide behind the skirts of the very people they are supposed to be opposing.'

An easy way to understand the treachery of the Labour leadership was to understand their complete hostility to the socialist youth movement.

The reason was because 'Keep Left' had spoken out on the political issues facing the working class and the Young Socialists and its paper had put forward clear demands.

On Vietnam they had come out for the withdrawal of American arming of the Vietnamese people. 'We don't just want an end

to the war, we want the victory of the Vietnamese people over imperialism, and we will continue campaigning until this victory is achieved', she said.

'This means we will continue to expose Wilson's boot-licking attitude towards President Johnson and the US government.'

ARM AFRICANS

On the question of Rhodesia, she added, too much time had been wasted by the Labour government. The working class had to demand the arming of the African people and the withdrawal of British troops.

'Let the African people decide what to do with Smith', she said. 'In the same way we are opposed to the hated Verwoerd regime in South Africa.'

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Thaelman: 'Fatal to overestimate growth of Hitler fascism.'

Stalin and Ribbentrop: 'Friendship cemented.'



Who helped Hitler?

Jack Gale's final article answering a lecture by Yorkshire Area Secretary of the Communist Party, Bert Ramelson, on Trotskyism

During the 1930s, according to Ramelson, Stalin 'foresaw the coming war' and sought to divide the capitalist forces to prevent them ganging up against the Soviet Union. This 'brilliant strategy', says Ramelson, 'worked out exactly'.

What was the position in the 1930s? Trotsky gave repeated warnings about the dangers of fascism. He urged a United Front of all working-class organisations in Germany to defeat Hitler.

This did not mean sinking all political differences, but it did mean uniting in action against the fascists, combined demonstrations united defence squads to defend each other's print shops and premises, etc.

Trotsky considered that such a united struggle could defeat fascism and German big business.

Without it, the working class would be smashed with results that would reverberate throughout the world.

Meanwhile, what was the 'brilliant strategy' of the Communist International led by Stalin and applauded by all the Gollans and Ramelsons?

Following the theory of the 'Third Period', they declared that fascism was not a real danger, and that the true enemy was social democracy.

In 'The Communist Parties and the Crisis of Capitalism', Manuilsky, the secretary of the Communist International, wrote in 1931:

'The social Democrats, in order to deceive the masses, deliberately proclaim that the chief enemy of the working class is fascism.'

Thaelman, leader of the German Communist Party, declared in November, 1932:

'Nothing would be more fatal than an opportunist over-estimation of Hitler fascism. It would be false to believe that the most important process that is taking place in Germany today is the growth of fascism.'

The Communist International reported in January, 1933:

'The Twelfth Plenum has shown that there is not—and cannot be—such a thing as classical fascism.'

Stalin's main attacks were directed against German social democracy. On November 6, 1931 'Pravda' declared:

'The main task of the German Communist Party is to expose the manoeuvres of social democracy. The Communist Parties are conducting and will continue to conduct an unceasing day-to-day struggle against the whole social democracy.'

Of course, the social-democratic leaders were completely incapable of putting up any resistance to Hitler. In order to defeat Hitler it was necessary to free the German workers from the leadership of social democracy.

But in order to do this, it was necessary—in the course of a struggle against fascism—to expose the social-democratic leaders to those workers who followed them.

The only way to do this was to offer and fight for a united front against fascism and through this both to unite the German working class and also to show the social-democratic workers that their leaders would not fight Hitler.

Instead of this, the Stalinists played down the Hitler danger and concentrated their main fire on the social democrats.

Actions such as the 'Red Referendum' alienated millions of social-democratic workers and left the German working class hopelessly divided.

The 'Red Referendum' took place in 1931 in Prussia, which was the strongest state in Ger-

(See Leon Trotsky: 'The Turn in the Communist International and the German Situation', 1930; 'Germany, the Key to the International Situation', 1931; 'Germany, What Next?', 1932; 'Germany, the Only Road', 1932.)

many and was controlled by the social democrats. The fascists, gaining in strength, demanded a referendum to turn out the social-democratic government.

The German Communist Party at first sided with the social democrats against a referendum, but after a meeting between the Central Committee of the German Party and the Comintern, this line was reversed and the Communist Party called on its members to support the fascists in their referendum.

The mighty German working class was paralysed by this disunity, which was the direct result of Stalinism.

It was this which enabled Hitler to defeat the strongest working class in Europe with no real resistance. This experience convinced Trotsky that the Third International was dead and it was necessary to construct a Fourth International.

Ramelson's picture of a brilliant Stalin playing off the capitalist powers against each other is very far from the truth.

On the contrary, the abandonment of international revolutionary politics led the Russian bureaucracy to attempt to preserve the Soviet Union by crawling before the imperialist powers—including Germany.

Under Hitler, thousands of devoted and heroic Communist Party members suffered torture and murder.

But this did not disturb the bureaucratic hierarchy in the Kremlin. Thus, the 'Communist International' of May, 1933, commented:

'The establishment of an open fascist dictatorship, by destroying all democratic illusions among the masses and liberating them from the influence of social democracy, accelerates the German development towards proletarian revolution.'

And Stalin, on January 26, 1934, could blandly announce:

'Fascism in Italy, for example, has not prevented the USSR from establishing the best relations with that country.'

Then there was the famous Russo-German Pact signed by Molotov and Ribbentrop on August 24, in Moscow.

This not only included a non-aggression pact, but also agreed to the division of Eastern Europe and the partition of Poland.

No wonder Stalin telegraphed Ribbentrop on December 21, 1939:

'The friendship of the people of Germany and the Soviet Union, cemented in blood, has

The fact is that Stalin did not prepare the Soviet Union to meet a fascist attack.

As has been mentioned in previous articles, the leadership of the Red Army was decimated by the Stalin purges. Moreover, Stalin insisted that Hitler could be trusted.

On June 21, 1941, the 'World News and Views' carried this paragraph:

'The British and, in general, the foreign press began an intense dissemination of rumours on the proximity of war between the USSR and Germany. Despite the obviously nonsensical character of these rumours, responsible Moscow quarters have still found it necessary, in view of these rumours, to authorise the Soviet news agency Tass, to state that these rumours constitute clumsily concealed propaganda by forces hostile to the USSR and Germany and interested in the further extension and unleashing of the war.'

ONE DAY AFTER—ON JUNE 22, 1941—HITLER INVADED RUSSIA!

In his speech at the Twentieth Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1936, Khrushchev confirmed that Stalin left the Soviet Union completely unprepared.

Reports from the Russian military attaché in Berlin on May 6 and May 22, 1941, warned of a fascist attack in June. Both were ignored.

Churchill—for his own ends—warned Stalin in May that Hitler had concentrated 147 divisions along the Soviet border.

Shortly before the invasion, Kirponos, the chief of the Kiev special military district, reported that the German armies were prepared for an attack and proposed that a strong defence be organised.

Stalin instructed that no defence work should be undertaken as this would be a provocation.

Even when the invasion was under way Stalin instructed that enemy fire was not to be returned as he believed that they were undisciplined German units who would be called to order by Hitler.

Khrushchev reveals that Russian industry had both the time and capabilities to prepare the country adequately for defence but that Stalin refused to make such preparations.

According to the Twentieth Congress Report:

'The result was that already in the first hours and days the enemy had destroyed in our border regions a large part of our Air Force, artillery and other military equipment; he annihilated large numbers of our military cadres and disorganised our military leadership; consequently we could not prevent the enemy from

In the same year the Russian Foreign Minister, Litvinov, wrote in 'Le Temps' (July 7, 1933):

'Neither our political nor our economic interests clash with those of France in any part of the world. That is why we consider that nothing should stand in the way of the continuation of a political as well as an economic rapprochement.'

Stalin's 'brilliance' during the 1930s was directed towards reassuring the imperialist powers, and preventing any revolutionary struggles of the working class.

On March 3, 1936, Stalin gave an interview to Mr. Howard, President of the US press syndicate 'Scripps-Howards' newspapers. This interview ran as follows:

Howard: 'Are you not of the opinion that there may be well-grounded fears in the capitalist countries that the Soviet Union might decide upon a forcible conversion of other nations to its political theories?'

Stalin: 'There is no reason for such fears. You are greatly mistaken if you think that the men of the Soviet Union would ever want to change the state of any other country by any means, let alone by force.'

Howard: 'Does this declaration of yours imply that the Soviet Union has in any way renounced its plans and intentions to bring about a world revolution?'

Stalin: 'We never had any such plans and intentions.'

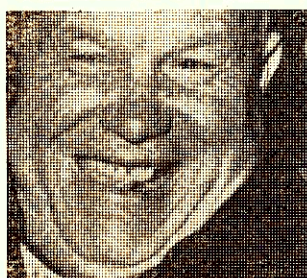
Howard: 'It would seem to me, Mr. Stalin, that quite a different impression has been current in the world for a long time.'

Stalin: 'That is the result of a misunderstanding.'

Howard: 'A tragic misunderstanding?'

Stalin: 'No, a comic one. Or, perhaps, a tragi-comic one.'

Stalin loyally kept his side of these bargains. It was because he had more faith in the imperialists keeping their bargains than he had in the revolutionary strength of the working class, that the Soviet Union was unprepared in June, 1941.



Khrushchev: Revealed Soviet Union unprepared for German attack.

Thus far, from Stalin's 'brilliant strategy' saving the Soviet Union, it almost brought about its collapse. The Soviet Union survives despite the bureaucracy, not because of it.

Ramelson, of course, has to struggle to preserve something of the Stalin myth in order to cover up his own role as the loyal servant of Stalin in Britain.

12 According to Ramelson, the Trotskyists are 'splitters', while the greatest need of the working class today is unity. The best example of the Trotskyists' splitting tactics is on the docks where, Ramelson says, they caused thousands of dockers to break from the Transport and General Workers' Union. 'I hold no brief for Frank Cousins', Ramelson said, 'but it is a fact that the T&GWU is as progressive as any union in this country.'

Frederick Engels wrote an interesting letter to Bebel on June 20, 1873 (contained in the Marx-Engels Correspondence), in which he dealt with the 'unity-shouters':

'One must not allow oneself to be misled by the cry of unity. Those who have this word most often on their lips are those who sow the most dissension. Those unity fanatics are either people of limited intelligence, who want to stir everything up together in one nondescript brew which, the moment it is left to settle, throws up the differences again in much more acute opposition because they are now altogether in one pot, or else they are people who consciously or unconsciously want to adulterate the movement. For this reason, the greatest sectarians and biggest brawlers and rogues are at certain times the loudest shouters for unity. Nobody in our lifetime has given us more trouble and been more treacherous than the unity shouters.'

Unity is not achieved by sinking all political principle in order to get together. What is needed is unity of the working class in action.

The Socialist Labour League has always fought for this sort of unity. In demonstrations such as the lobby of Parliament on January 26, we seek to unite all sections of the working class in action against the proposed anti-trade union legislation.

We invite members of the Communist Party to join in and campaign for this lobby.

In Leeds members of the Communist Party have voted in favour of the lobby as, for example, at a meeting of the National Union of Tailors and Garment Workers.

Questioned at a University meeting, Bill Moore, a full-time Communist Party worker, said he 'supposed the London Comrades would support the lobby'.

Yet at the meeting of the Leeds Central Branch of the Clerical and Administrative Workers' Union, a prominent Party member voted with the right wing against the lobby and said that the campaign should only go through 'official union channels'.

At a time when the Labour government is preparing to attack

the working class on behalf of capitalism, it is necessary to unite the working class against Wilson and those trade union leaders who go along with him in measures against the working class.

Yet, in the name of unity, Ramelson and the Communist Party leaders support the bureaucrats against those workers who are in the forefront of the class struggle.

This is the sort of 'unity-shouting' that Engels was denouncing: unity with the bureaucrats in order to divide the working class.

This is made clear by an examination of developments in the docks.

It is not true that the Trotskyists led the dockers to break from the Transport and General Workers' Union.

What the Trotskyists did was to support the right of these workers to join the union of their choice and to build up and recruit to the National Amalgamated Stevedores' and Dockers' 'Blue Union' in the northern ports.

It was the Communist Party which helped to split the dockers by supporting the bureaucrats of the T&GWU.



Molotov signs the Russo-German pact.

When the northern dockers struck for six weeks in an attempt to force the recognition of their union, they faced another sort of unity—the unity of the employers, the press, the TUC, the T&GWU, and the Communist Party.

And it is the Communist Party, through the docks liaison committee, which is now trying to prevent the unity of London and northern dockers against the Devlin Report.

Ramelson should take his praises of the 'progressive' Transport and General Workers' Union to the dock gates of the northern ports—but he should be sure to have his swimming trunks with him. If he gets time, he might explain why the progressive T&GWU bans all Communist Party members from holding office.

Ramelson might also explain his concern for unity to the Young Socialists who, over the last four years, have built up a Young Socialist movement in constant struggle against the right wing of the Labour Party.

In the course of this, these young people have fought for working class unity in important

campaigns such as the one in support of the old age pensioners. They have repeatedly visited trade union branches and factories during these campaigns.

While often gaining warm support from rank-and-file Communist Party militants, they have met repeated hostility from Ramelson and other leading members of the Communist Party.

Throughout this struggle they were led and supported by the Socialist Labour League.

That is why young people today are joining the Trotskyist Party in large numbers, while the Communist Party has an ageing membership and a dying Young Communist League.

13 Bert Ramelson is a desperate man. All the lies about Trotsky are being exposed. Every revelation of the true history of the Soviet Union increases his embarrassment and confusion. He does not know where to turn.

Don't you presume to talk about Leon Trotsky's history, Mr. Ramelson! Where is the history of your own Party?

Start preparing some more lectures. Explain to your members your Party's call for a coalition Government in 1945—to include 'progressive Tories' like Churchill and Eden.

Justify your support for the dropping of the Atomic Bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. (See the 'Daily Worker' of August 7, 1945, 'L'Humanite' of August 8, 1945, and 'L'Unita' of August 10, 1945, where protests at the bombing were called 'a curious psychological perversion and a doctrinaire obedience to a form of abstract humanitarianism'.)

What about your Party's strike-breaking during and after the war—for instance when your members in the Yorkshire coalfield were instructed to break the Grimthorpe strike of 1947?

And, while you're about it, let's have the truth about the ETU.

And account for the activities of Will Paynter as a 'Communist' trade union leader at the head of the National Union of Mineworkers.

Don't be reticent, Mr. Ramelson, let's have some more.

During 1965, thousands of youth, old age pensioners and trade unionists marched behind the banners of Marx, Engels, Lenin and Trotsky. In 1966 more and more will do so, more and more will seek to learn the truth about Trotsky and the policies of Trotskyism, including all those members of Mr. Ramelson's party who want to be real Communists.

Until then, there will be no negotiations, only misery and bloodshed.

The responsibility for this terrible situation rests squarely on the shoulders of that modern Attila—Johnson... and his friends in Whitehall.

TRANSITION

The logic of Wilson's capitulation to US imperialism leads inexorably to the final escalation of conventional war and its transition to nuclear war in Vietnam.

This could very well be the prospect for 1966 in south-east Asia. In any case, it is a very real and ever-present danger which grows in direct proportion to the defeats of US imperialism in the battlefield.

Instead of being paralysed by such a probability British and US labour must, on the contrary, take heart from the magnificent resistance of the Vietnamese workers and peasants, and redouble their efforts to overthrow imperialism at home—before imperialism buries us all.

Let our actions be more resolute. Let our opposition be more implacable. Let our determination be more tempered.

Let 1966 see a massive escalation of the class war against Anglo-US imperialism.

Victory to the Vietcong! Death to imperialism!

LBJ's 'pause'

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will be faced with the need to increase taxes.

'Vietnam has become the problem that eclipses all others... in the public mind. It is also the reason why the President's Gallup rating has dropped to its lowest so far...'

Johnson is belatedly learning the ABC of capitalist economics: that you cannot reconcile an escalating war budget with even a slight increase of state welfare without, at the same time, evoking the spectre of runaway inflation.

One section of the capitalist class, represented by McChesney Martin of the Federal Reserve Board, has effectively prevented Johnson from resorting to the inflationary solution by increasing the Federal discount rate.

Johnson must now resort to tough, unpopular measures to pay for the Vietnam war.

The brunt of this burden, as usual, will have to be borne by the working class. Already the New York transport workers are beginning to see what this means.

That is why the White House is now considering the declaration

of a state of national emergency and the promulgation of new regulations on compulsory military service, a measure which is bound to antagonise American youth more than anything the President has done so far.

That is also why Johnson and his chiefs-of-staff have decided to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong the moment the 'pause' has ended and have already got the CIA to stage an 'uprising' against the Cambodian government.

WAR PREPARATIONS

In Saigon decisions have been taken for the 'hot pursuit' of Vietcong guerrillas into Cambodian territory, while in Siam, feverish war preparations are being made in the many and large US bases in the country for war against Laos.

In order to make the 'quantum jump', and involve North Vietnam and China in a major war, the US has had to take, ostensibly, a step backwards.

As the 'Guardian' editorial lamented:

'... what is now being done fits almost too perfectly into the pattern talked about in Washington.'

THE 'crush the Communists' campaign being systematically carried out in Indonesia has taken on even more horrific proportions with the news from Jakarta that 100,000 people have been slain in the three months since the unsuccessful coup.

This 'conservative estimate' of Western diplomats puts the number of dead at more than all those killed in the Vietnam war in the last five years, and must come close to the figure of communists killed in the Second World War.

Active membership of the Communist Party of Indonesia—which now represents a signed and sealed death warrant—has been reduced from three million to around 150,000.

Outside of the Soviet Union and China, Indonesia once boasted one of the largest Communist Parties in the world.

But the collaborationist policies of the Stalinist leadership of this party have led to massacres such as that reported from the island of Bali—in 10 days between 3,000 and 4,000 people were killed.

All over Indonesia the killing continues and the 'Sunday Times' (January 2, 1966) reported:

'European engineers, businessmen and other foreign travellers returning from up-country speak of rivers filled with floating, decapitated corpses. One traveller said he had seen children in a village playing football with the severed heads of Communist supporters. The murders have mostly been the work of Muslims who suffered grievously at the hands of the Communists before the abortive coup d'etat last October.'

FIGUREHEAD

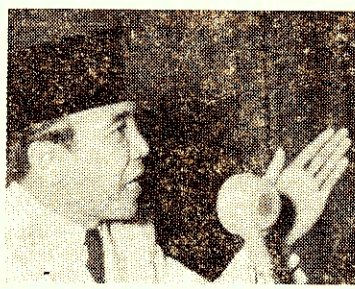
As The Newsletter reported on October 9: 'Sukarnoism is played out.'

Unable to maintain his balance between imperialism and the militancy of the peasant and working class, Sukarno remains a mere figurehead with the country run by the Army.

The 'Sunday Times' also reported:

Communists massacred in Indonesia

Newsletter Correspondent



Sukarno: A mere figurehead

'... there is little question that the real master of the country is General Nasution, the Defence Minister, who escaped assassination on the night of September 30 by climbing over his garden wall.

'His implacable hostility to the Communists was turned into an obsessed hatred by the murder of his five-year-old daughter on that night.'

Later it says: 'The Army leaders will probably allow President Sukarno to go on ruling the country as its figurehead until ill-health finally puts him out of the running.'

The Stalinists of the Indonesian Communist Party collaborated with the ageing president and, to a certain extent, aided him in maintaining his precarious 'non-aligned' position.

It was the failure of leaders, like 41-year-old Communist Party secretary D. N. Aidit, to offer an independent, revolutionary leader-

ship to the peasant and working classes that laid the Party open to the present massacre by an extremely reactionary clique of generals.

Aidit himself, as we reported in the last issue of The Newsletter (January 1, 1966), is said to have been summarily executed in a Central Javan village.

Indonesia's currency (the rupiah) has been re-valued—primarily to attract foreign investment into what was, in any case, an ailing economy.

The 'Sunday Times' commented:

'No serious attempt has yet been made, either by the army or the Cabinet, to tackle Indonesia's economic chaos in a fundamental way. Eventually some kind of concerted international rescue operation may have to be mounted.'

FURTHER ATTACKS

Such an 'operation' would only be mounted by the imperialists, allowing further attacks on the lives and living standards of the masses of militant people.

This is one of the most harsh and brutal lessons to be learned by all those who believe in the Stalinist road.

Once again we appeal to all those revolutionary sections in the Communist Parties of the world to join the fight of the Fourth International in a real communist struggle against imperialism and their uniformed servants in countries like Indonesia.



EPTON FACES 12-YEAR JAIL

UNDER a 1901 law, not invoked successfully in New York for 45 years, William Epton, 33-year-old leader of the Progressive Labour Movement, was jailed on December 20—over the Christmas period—until January 27 to await sentence.

He had been found guilty of conspiring to riot and to overthrow the New York state during the Harlem riots of July 1964.

He faces a maximum penalty of 12 year's jail and fines totalling 6,000 dollars.

The Peking-orientated Progressive Labour Movement, formed by Epton and others who broke from the Communist Party, has played a big part in the segregation and rent struggles of the Puerto Rican and Negro sections in New York.

Active

With their newspaper 'Challenge', and their activist outlook, they have worked in and among the working class of Harlem for a short, but effective period.

Recognising the potentialities of the Movement in providing a certain amount of leadership to the most oppressed sections of the United States population, the state authorities hauled in Epton after brutally quelling the riots.

A tape recording of a speech he made on July 18, last year, was taken by this police.

He had told his audience: 'We will not be fully free until we smash this state completely and totally.'

The phrase which seemed most to offend or, more probably, scare the authorities, was: 'In that process, we're going to have to kill a lot of these cops, a lot of these judges, and we'll have to go up against their army.'

A week after this speech, Epton was arrested for defying a city ban on a demonstration he had called.

A charge of 'rioting' against Epton was dropped because of insufficient evidence.

Agent

The chief prosecution witness at Epton's trial was Adolph W. Hart, a Negro police detective ordered into the Movement several months previously.

The grand jury gave immunity to 13 prosecution witnesses—11 of them from the Movement—on charges of rioting, but all 13 refused to give evidence and were arrested for contempt of court.

Five have been sent to the workhouse for four months. The other eight are awaiting sentence.

Despite appeals from the defence, the judge insisted that Epton be jailed over the Christmas period. He refused bail because 'the defendant is a dangerous man' (1).

In fact, Epton had been on bail for over 12 months waiting for the trial.

Both the US and British labour movements must make every possible protest against the detention and forthcoming sentence on Epton and prevent him becoming a political scapegoat for the state, whose responsibility for the Harlem riots must continually be exposed.

Strike law used in New York transport strike

A FORETASTE of what could happen in Britain on a wider scale is the jailing of Mr. Michael Quill, the 60-year-old Irish-born leader of the Transport Workers' Union, which has called out all bus and subway workers in New York since New Year's Eve.

By a Newsletter correspondent

most notable being the Motor-men's Benevolent Association, which was absorbed recently.

It is the past members of the Association and the large sections of Negro transport workers who are pressing Quill to the point where through maintaining his militant front he is jailed.

He knows full well that, because of his past compromises with the state, he will be treated well. And, in his bluster, he adds that he might even organise the prison guards (some are members of a section of his union).

POWDER KEG

But this powder keg he has unwittingly primed could blow if a fight is put up over the jailing of unionists and against anti-trade union laws.

The Negroes, and many white sections, voted for the 'liberal' Republican Lindsay—he took over Mayoral office the day after the strike was called—in a swing against the Democrats.

INJUNCTION TORN UP

Blustery Quill tore up the court injunction while he was appearing on television.

The original demands, which Quill later reduced by 80 per cent, are for a four-day, 32-hour week, six weeks' holiday after one year's work and half pay after retirement.

The city claimed that this would cost them 680 million dollars in the next two years—the period of the contract the transport workers want drawn up.

Things have eventually caught up with Quill.

Each year, around New Year, he has threatened and bludgeoned the Transport Authority for a bigger and better contract for his men.

Each year a little more has been granted, with Quill always compromising, often selling out on vital issues. Not once has he had to lead a strike of his union.

But New York, a city dying on its feet, is deeply affected by the deepening economic crisis in the United States. Any question of overstraining the budget is out of order.

Quill, once more using his militant-sounding phrases, makes the demands. He is pushed by the even more militant sections of his union to maintain the demands.

This union is an amalgamation of several transport unions, the

Who was **LETTER** president of the M.R.C.?

1. The controversy about the president of the Military Revolutionary Committee of the Petrograd Soviet ended in a very unsatisfactory way with the letter of I. Buchan in The Newsletter (December 11, 1965).

Readers will recall that the correspondence was sparked off by a reply to Palme Dutt's review in the 'Daily Worker', in which it was denied that Trotsky was chairman of the Military Revolutionary Committee, as he claims in his 'History of the Russian Revolution'.

Dutt raised the formal question of chairmanship in order to obscure the incontrovertible fact that, as President of the Soviet, Trotsky in fact directed all the practical work of the insurrection, as even Stalin admitted in 1918.

In point of fact, Trotsky's witness in 1917 is perfectly contradictory: if, as Trotsky writes, 'Lazimir... was even placed at the head of the bureau in order to emphasise the fact that the committee was a Soviet and not a party institution...', then clearly he was the president of the committee, although it is just possible to interpret this passage to refer to the 'commission' which was set up to look into the formation of a Military Revolutionary Committee.

Podvoisky presents the question this way in his two long articles on the military organisation of the Bolshevik Party, published in numbers 6 and 8 of Krasnia Letopis in 1923 (number 8, pp. 15-17): Podvoisky says that Lazimir was elected president in the first place, then replaced by Podvoisky himself, both of them assisted as secretary by Antonov-Ovseyenko.

I have not been able to find any denial of this assertion.

(John Reed reproduced in his book a decree of October 24 signed 'for the President, Podvoisky' (ch. 3), then several days later, the 28th, a decree signed 'the president: Podvoisky' (ch. 8).

The titles changed quickly, but it does not seem possible to determine the exact date. In another passage, Reed writes: 'the Military Revolutionary Committee sat in continuous session, under the chairmanship of a tow-headed, eighteen-year-old boy named Lazimir'.

And, on the next page: 'There passed Podvoisky, the thin, bearded civilian whose brain conceived the strategy of insurrection...'

Clearly one must not and cannot approach Trotsky, or the Lenin-recommended Reed, as infallible gospels.)

In fact the title had little importance. In that period the Bolshevik Party actually created institutions which never functioned, and the roles of individuals often failed to correspond to their defined functions.

For example, the Military Revolutionary Centre composed of Sverdlov, Stalin, Bubnov, Uritsky and Dzerzinsky, created by the Central Committee on October 16, which never in fact functioned, or better still the Political Bureau of the CC created on October 10, 1917, which also re-

It is this man, and the state machine, which now turns round and uses the reactionary laws against 'militants' like Quill, and more directly against the wages' and working conditions of the 33,000 bus and subway workers.

A fight could be put through the equivalent of the local trades council calling for more widespread strikes.

MANY QUILLS

But there are many Quills at the head of the unions, which, in the US, have been forcibly amalgamated to make them more manageable by the state and central government.

It is up to the rank and file to make the past demand of the Transport Workers' Union for an independent party of labour a reality.

With such a party, and a Marxist leadership, a real struggle could be waged against the mock militants of the trade union movement, and against anti-union laws, as part of a fight for a revolutionary leadership of the whole of the American working class.

remained in limbo.

Decisions taken one day were forgotten the next in the turmoil of the struggle (cf. the numerous decisions on the press in the minutes of the CC in 1917, or the presence of Kamenev at the CC of October 24, even though the CC had accepted his resignation on October 20, by five votes to three).

The fact is that Trotsky, president of the Petrograd Soviet, effectively directed the whole of the work of preparing the insurrection, and if Podvoisky, titular president of the Military Revolutionary Committee (which would follow logically since he was in charge of the Party's military organisation), supervised military questions, it was under the direction of Trotsky.

This was evident even to Podvoisky at the time when he later wrote a number of dull 'studies' designed to show that up to Lenin's arrival on the evening of the 24th, the Military Revolutionary Committee was in a state of utter chaos: presumably these remarks were not directed at himself.

At any rate, all this permitted him to stay alive until 1948.

2. I. Buchan says he does not know the subsequent fate of Lazimir.

He was named member of the Military Revolutionary Committee for the southern front in October 1918 along with Mekhnochin (another old member of the Military Revolutionary Committee of the Petrograd Soviet) and Shlyapnikov, and he died in the following year in one of the Civil War battles.

In the meantime he had become a member of the Bolshevik Party.

3. In his article of December 18, 1965, Jack Gale wrote: 'Bubnov was imprisoned in 1937 and released in 1957, at the age of 77; the fate of Berzin, Kiselev Lomov (Lomov?), Muranov and V. Yakovleva is unknown.'

There have been rumours about the release of Bubnov and Kossarev (former secretary of the Komsomol) from prison camps; in fact both of them died in 1940: Kossarev was shot and Bubnov most certainly met the same fate.

All Soviet biographies give 1940 as the date of Bubnov's death. There seems no reason to doubt this.

Conversely, the old left Menshevik Sukhanov, deported in 1931, is manifestly still alive since all Soviet sources obstinately give only his date of birth.

Berzin was shot in 1937 and rehabilitated in an article in 'Komsomolskaya Pravda' for November 1964.

Kiselev was shot in 1938, and has been rehabilitated. Muranov died peacefully in 1959 (the same year in which died Manuilsky and Krzhizhanovsky, other rare survivors of the fury of Stalin).

Lomov was shot in 1938, and has just been rehabilitated. I do not know the fate of Yakovleva.

Jan Simon.

Economic crisis intensifies Israel class struggle

Newsletter Correspondent

AFTER striking, textile workers in B'nei Brok, Israel, rejected pleas for a return to work from the government and the trade union bureaucrats. The Manufacturers' Association met at the end of December and threatened to stage a national lock-out of 20,000 textile workers.

Behind this stand was undoubtedly the news that, starting this month, the British Board of Trade is imposing strict quotas on textile imports from Israel.

Already, several British companies have cancelled contracts, on government instructions.

The crisis of capitalism is sending a chain reaction round the world, as the ruling class in each country attempts to solve its own 'national' problem.

A few years ago, the Labour government in Israel adopted a policy of restricting imports and freezing wages.

Visiting British Labour leaders were very enthusiastic about this model of socialism, including the participation of trade union bureaucrats in management (hence Fairfields).

Israeli workers have not been so

keen.

Their first reaction to raised import tariffs was demonstrated by a crowd of seamen arriving home at Haifa, who just charged through the customs with quantities of transistor radios, watches etc.

Unofficial strikes came in waves, by-passing sometimes even the works' committees, and always the Histadrut (Israel's equivalent of the TUC), which is referred to popularly as 'an organisation to prevent strikes.'

The workers' attitude was reflected at trade union conferences and rallies when a veteran trade unionist declared: 'This is no lottery; only one thing has been made cheaper by the government's policy, and the speaker held out his empty hands.'

'What we want to know,' declared another, 'is when will the Labour government do something for labour?'

Within the Labour leadership, a right-wing grouping led by former premier Ben Gurion, General Dayan, and former defence minister Peres, emerged, closely connected with the French and West German governments, with the perspectives of entry into the European Common Market—and wanting to break with trade union ties. (Very similar to the Donnelly-Wyatt group in Britain.)

This clique broke from the Israel Labour Party last year, contested the elections, and, in a number of local councils, its followers are now in coalitions with conservative fascist groups.

NO AID

The sharpening world economic crisis has put the major capitalist countries in no position to help Israel's bosses.

The USA has cut foreign aid, Britain is restricting textile imports, and the Common Market countries refuse to lower tariffs on Israeli citrus fruits.

The balance of payments crisis is worse. And now the West German government, to help its own budget, as well as cutting social services in Germany, has cut its indemnification payments to refugees, many of whom, of course, live in Israel.

The Women's Zionist Organisation, which raises funds in the USA and Britain to supplement the Israeli government's welfare expenditure, announced in December a large budget deficit, and said it would have to cancel projects.

So the Israeli government attacks workers' wages and organisation, and cuts expenditure on social services.

The workers will not accept this.

The most significant development in recent months was on the streets of Tel Aviv, where, on several successive weekends in the working-class Hatikvah district, crowds of youth clashed violently with the police.

People in this district are mainly immigrants from the Yemen, North Africa and Iraq. They are mostly employed in unskilled and underpaid jobs and are known to the middle class as Shachorim ('The Blacks').

They are forced to live in crowded slum quarters in each Israeli city.

Unable to afford school fees, most have to withdraw their children from school at 14.

It has recently been estimated that between 40,000 and 50,000 teenagers are neither at school nor in jobs.

In Hatikvah, crowds of youth gather in the streets on weekend evenings.

STREET RACING

Some have taken up motor racing in the main thoroughfare.

As well as their own scooters, they sometimes borrow sports cars from the bourgeois neighbourhoods of north Tel Aviv, along the appropriately named Rothschild Boulevard.

The families often sit out on the balconies watching the youth sport.

When the police started to enter the district last October, to push the youth around and order them home, the crowds refused to budge.

They blocked the streets and chanted 'We demand youth clubs'.

On the following weekends, the crowds grew bigger each time—some local youth told reporters that they had been reinforced by young workers from other quarters.

The police were stoned. Hatikvah became a little Watts in Israel.

After mass arrests, local teenagers said they would soon 'liven things up again'.

Asked if the girls had taken part (police claimed they hadn't), a 16-year-old girl told reporters: 'Oh yes, our job was throwing stones at the police.'

The Israeli establishment was shaken by these youth.

(Continued on back page)

Stones versus bullets in Indian recognition strike

POLICE shot and killed eight strikers last week at India's first atomic power station being built near Bombay.

Eighteen people were injured in clashes with the police, which occurred when workers refused to pay for food in the canteen.

About 4,000 men, employed by Bechtel India Limited, an Indian subsidiary of a US construction firm, have been on strike since December 9 demanding recognition of their union.

When workers began breaking up property on December 30, police, armed with tear gas and staves, charged them. Later they fired into the strikers, killing eight and wounding 18. Fifty-two policemen were injured by stones.

ALBION MOTORS' STEWARDS SUPPORT LOBBY

by Peter Arnold

Fighting slogan of Keep Left AGM

From page 1

The fact that the Labour government, before it had been in power very long, sent aircraft to this government, has to be condemned as one of the most shameful acts.

'Keep Left' was very concerned about the build up of nuclear weapons, which could only lead the world closer to a third world war, in which the main aggressor was US imperialism and its allies in the Labour and Tory parties.

'We believe that the real struggle against the dangers of nuclear war is the struggle for socialism in Britain. An onslaught by the Labour movement, led by a revolutionary Marxist party would greatly weaken the capitalist class internationally.'

The building of the alternative leadership to Wilson was the burning question for 1966. It was the real challenge to the Young Socialists. Building such a leadership meant not just being in the Young Socialists, but taking an active part in factories and trade union branches.

Young people coming to the movement had one great advantage—they had time on their side. But this time could not be wasted. Every Young Socialist branch now in existence and every new one that was formed became a milestone along the road for alternative leadership.

The most urgent problem facing the working class is that of anti-trade union legislation. This legislation against wage increases is a step which must ultimately affect every person in the labour movement.

RICH IDLERS

There is no legislation against the profiteers. They are allowed to continue to make their millions of pounds profits.

The Labour government does not attack those who voted solidly Tory. It turns on the working class who actually voted this government into power in the hope of getting rid of the Tories,' she said.

'This is why "Keep Left" fights tooth and nail against Wilson. Because legislation against the trade unions is a step towards fascist dictatorship.

'To tie the trade unions to the state is a step towards the destruction of the trade union movement.'

If the trade unions could not negotiate for more wages for their members what was the purpose of trade unionism?

The despicable betrayal of the right wing of the Trades Union Congress had to be condemned. They put forward the 'early warning system' at the Trades Union Congress and now they had turned against the policy of their own organisation.

That was why they had attacked the Lambeth Trades Council, one of the most active bodies of the labour movement in the London area.

'I am asking this annual meeting to go on record for the withdrawal of the proscription of the Lambeth Trades Council. Young Socialists and "Keep Left" must do everything in their power in the campaign against legislation for this to be achieved.

NO TIME TO LOSE

'When we talk about legislation we must understand that because Brown has already indicated that a bill is going on the statute books there is no time to lose.

'The essence of leadership is to warn and prepare the working class against the employing class. That is why "Keep Left" has started an all out campaign for the lobby of Parliament on January 26 in the latest issue.

'We must reach out to every active trade unionist and militant in the country and mobilise them to come to the lobby.'

It was the Young Socialists and no other organisation which was the backbone of the organising for the lobby.

'Of course the nice polite Young Socialists who have hung around the Labour Party have said and done nothing about legislation.'

'We are not unmindful of the fact that just as legislation is proposed, the cost of living is going up, making it more and more difficult for the working class to avoid a showdown on wages.

Already the transport charges are going up in addition to electricity and gas. Callaghan has said that the budget will pose higher taxation.'

Of all the sections of the working class, the old age pensioners would be the hardest hit. 'Keep Left' supported the decision of the last Young Socialist conference to campaign for the aged.

'The Young Socialists and "Keep Left" will never desert them, unlike the right wing Labour leaders.'

'We have it within our power to make 1966 the greatest year yet for "Keep Left" and the Young Socialists. Let this AGM decide to use that power and go from this meeting forward to a socialist Britain.'

Registered at the G.P.O. as a newspaper. Published by The Newsletter, 186 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4. Printed by Plough Press Ltd (TU), c/o 180 Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4

THE Albion Motors Joint Shop Stewards' Committee passed at its last meeting a resolution giving unqualified support for the January 26 lobby of Parliament called for by the Lambeth Trades Council to oppose the anti-trade union legislation.

Whilst the Wilson government moves to launch a vicious attack against the working class and the Trades Union Congress gives its go ahead for the introduction of legislation more and more workers, such as those at the Albion factory, are showing their determination to resist such attacks and prepare for a showdown with the Wilson government.

The Albion factory has always been considered by the 'establishment' of the Amalgamated Engineering Union as being 'safe'.

It is, however, the second largest factory on the Clyde to support the January 26 lobby.

Its shop stewards have jumped into the lead by also demanding that the District Committee of the AEU implement its resolution passed at its last meeting opposing any form of legislation against the trade unions.

The Albion stewards have called on the District Committee to circulate all factory work's committees calling on them to mobilise support for the lobby.

The resolution passed by the Albion Shop Stewards' Committee has great political significance for the Clyde. It is not just a militant demand but indicates the growing awareness amongst workers that in defending their interests they are in direct conflict with the Labour government which uses the power of the state to serve the interests of the employers.

CLEAR LESSON

This was very clear in the case of the Fairfield's shipyard which is across the Clyde from the Albion works.

At Fairfield's, George Brown, aided by the trade union officials, acted for the government in imposing—under threat of closure—a new management which has succeeded in wiping out in a matter of days all the gains won by the trade unions in tens of years.

The lessons of this have not been lost on the Albion workers. They know that during the next months they will be faced with increases in prices and taxation which will eat into their wages and that their only form of defence is through factory and trade union struggle.

The proposed anti-trade union legislation is aimed to force workers to accept such miserly increases as are contained in the

SHORT TIME AT WELSH STEEL FIRM

AS forecast two months ago, the nationalized steel company of Richard Thomas and Baldwins has introduced short-time working at two large steel works.

This short-time plan involves 1,200 men—500 at the new Spencer works at Llanwern, near Newport, and 700 at the Ebbw Vale works.

A company spokesman announced this week that the flat rolled products division of Richard Thomas and Baldwin would begin a four-day week in the cold mills at both works.

The situation arose from a lack of orders for reduced sheet and coil and is expected to persist for some weeks. (In November last year it was reported that the firm's main steel market was abroad.)

In other words Richard Thomas and Baldwins are finding it impossible to face up to the competition from steel firms in the foreign market.

The Labour government, which ditched the idea of steel nationalization a long time ago, cannot be expected to come to the defence of the steel workers—no doubt the right-wing Labourites see the short time working as part of the government's 'streamlining of labour' plan.

notorious engineering package deal under the threat of fines and imprisonment.

The threat of anti-trade union legislation can only be met by mobilising the trade union rank and file as a whole behind the Parliamentary lobby of January 26.

Workers should see that activity is immediately begun at the Albion factory and other

factories on the Clyde to book buses and organise for collections to finance the biggest possible contingent.

The Albion shop stewards are right to demand that the Glasgow District Committee of the AEU act on its resolution to oppose legislation against the trade unions.

Other factories on the Clyde should follow their lead by working for a massive turnout on January 26.

YOUTH HELP TENANTS FORM ASSOCIATION

To fight Liverpool rent rise

From BILL HUNTER

AT a meeting called by the 'Newsletter' and the Young Socialists, Liverpool council tenants at Speke decided to set up a Provisional Tenants' Committee.

They called another tenants' meeting for last Wednesday at which the three councillors for the Speke estate were asked to give their attitude on the threatened rent increases. (To be reported.)

For the Liverpool Labour councillors the choice is clear: Either squeeze the council tenants dry to pay the big moneylenders, or refuse to raise rents and organise the working people of Liverpool in a fight to defend their standards.

ALDERMAN WRITES

Only five years ago an Alderman who is now one of the leaders of the Labour Council put the choice very well. Writing in the 'Harbour Workers' Voice', of February 1960, he described the action of Labour Councils who raise rents as follows:

'By raising rents they are acting as brokers' men for the big moneylenders who will demand even higher interest rates. They are reducing the ideal of housing as a social service by fixing rents above a worker's reasonable ability to pay, and they are giving the private landlords a propaganda point in their renewed efforts to obtain higher rents for their own property...'

'The only way to fight the problem is on the political field. Labour local authorities must not take upon themselves the job of squaring their housing accounts at the expense of either tenants or ratepayers.'

'Instead they should head the growing volume of protest all over the country. Mass public meetings and demonstrations at which the position can be exposed must take place.'

'Demands must be levied on the Government. The exorbi-

tant rates of interest must be known in every household. The bond of unity between the tenant in private property and in corporation property must be stressed. The Government must be forced to restore the subsidies and to lend money to local councils interest free.'

There are a goodly number of today's Liverpool Labour councillors who expressed similar sentiments in the past.

More and more tenants, like the Speke tenants, will be demanding they join with the Young Socialists in really heading the volume of protest.

CROYDON RENTS MAY RISE 15s.-25s.

COUNCIL tenants in Croydon, Surrey, face the biggest ever rent increases this April. The proposals, to be discussed at next Monday's council meeting, will certainly mean increases of between 15s and 25s. for 14,500 tenants.

As yet, the Labour group has not even met to discuss these increases.

Croydon Tenants' Association is discussing this and is concerned about reports that the cost of the council rent rebate scheme, at the moment charged to ratepayers, will be transferred solely to council tenants.

POT & KETTLE

This is like the pot calling the kettle black. The Tories, who own the property, always resort to price increases when the working class fight for and achieve increases in wages.

But Wilson and co. support the Tory policy in parliament, so the Tories, who are in opposition, take full advantage of this to discredit Labour.

British Rail appeals to union on liner trains

By Our Industrial Correspondent

WITH an announcement that new facts would be introduced in the liner-train dispute, the Railways Board has made this week its final appeal to the National Union of Railwaymen for the introduction of a streamlined rail freight system.

The new facts concern the area of disagreement between the Board and the NUR—the use of railway terminals by private hauliers.

Due to pressure from the rank and file, the executive of the NUR

has been forced to reject 'open terminals' at its previous meetings.

True to its policy of betrayal the Labour government gave the Board the go-ahead for the introduction of liner trains with open terminals.

This whole scheme, if allowed to be put into practice, would be just another way of denationalizing the railway industry.

In announcing this last plea to the NUR, a spokesman for the Board said that the union's objections to having anything to do with the 'enemy'—road transport—were no longer relevant to modern conditions.

'We have got to have co-ordination and rationalisation and we cannot have that on the basis of war,' he said.

For the rank-and-file railwayman, however, it is very much a war. The Beeching axe has already taken the jobs of many of these workers.

The introduction of liner trains is expected to bring further redundancies.

This is what faces the rank and file of the NUR when they demand that there should be no introduction of liner trains without some very definite assurances from the Railway Board.

One of the sacked Camden electricians.

Direct labour electricians seek further pay rise

to a decent level. (It is alleged the union has indirectly aided the Council by refusing to appear for the ten dismissed men at an appeal hearing.)

Even with the 6d increase, the electricians on the department in the strike (those who maintain the lifts) will still be more than 1s per hour under the rate of other lift fitters.

So the council will find it difficult to obtain labour to replace us, even if they want to.

Also they will not take the chance of employing any more electricians under the direct labour scheme who will set a 'bad example'.

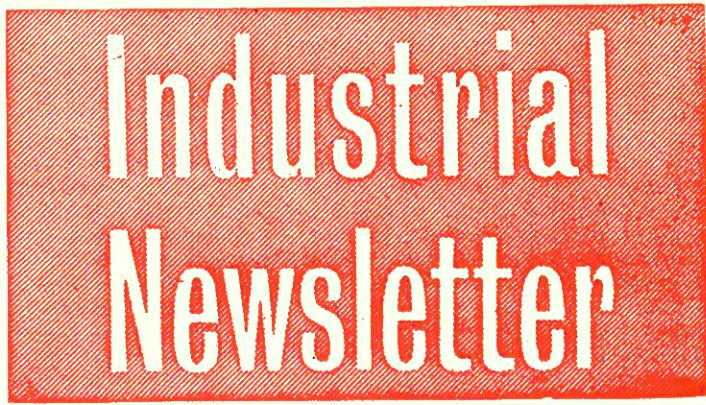
They will probably argue that, because of a labour shortage, outside contractors will have to do the work. The council has not yet signed any contracts with outside electrical firms. How long

LETTER

YOUR report on the strike of electricians employed by Camden Borough Council over the dismissal of ten fellow-workers (Newsletter, January 1, 1966) omitted a number of details, which I think are important in this strike.

After winning the 6d an hour wage increase, the men were negotiating further conditions which would have been an example to all local authority workers. In fact, one senior member of the council staff is reported to have said that the electricians were setting a 'bad example' to the rest of the council employees.

Not only could the council not allow such a position; right wing officials of our union, the Electrical Trades Union, would also have been seriously embarrassed by an attempt to lift the low wages of the council employees



Tories accuse Labour of price rises

By Newsletter Reporter

THE 'Daily Sketch' of January 4 accuses the right-wing Labour leaders of being responsible for the latest round of price increases.

'Harold Wilson's bubble has burst,' it says. 'The tide of rising prices is swelling—and there is more to come.'

The 'Sketch' says that:

'From Sunday week, UP go fares. Season tickets outside London will cost 1s 7d in the £ more. And in London bus, rail and tube fares will go UP. Freight charges are UP by 1s in the £. Even British Rail coffee is going UP—to 1s per cup.

Eggs, already costing more than ever before, are likely to go UP further. An extra penny on the standard loaf of bread is almost certain.

UP soon—coal by an average of 8s a ton, and steel by an average £2 10s per ton. George Brown's Prices Board may delay the evil day. But not for long.

UP (as usual) go your household rates. This year's demand will be at least 2s in the £ UP on last year's, which was over 2s in the £ UP on the year before.'

A union official is reported to have said that only those 240 fully paid up will receive union money. The other 360 will not. The union has now set up a committee to work out how much the men should receive.

BEATEN UP

Shop stewards are still concerned at the amount of goods going in and out of the factory.

On Monday, it is alleged, one of the two pickets (the police are not allowing any more than two on the picket line) was beaten up by scabs.

Police cars and vans are continually patrolling around the vicinity of the factory.

The workers must form squads to protect the pickets. To protect their union organisation for which they have fought for so determinedly in Woolfs and the Southall area, these workers should join the lobby of the Southall Trades Council, organised by the Young Socialists for January 12, to protest at the calling of police to a union branch.

This will be part of the preparation in the area for the January 26 lobby of parliament against anti-union laws.

Israel class struggle

From page 3

The religious leaders said that the weakening of religious influence was to blame and asked for more clerical power.

Social workers retorted that there was not enough entertainment available on the Sabbath, and that religious laws should be altered.

Opposition parties said the answer was to extend free education up to 17.

Pessimists observed that the trouble was after school hours. Some people thought these youth could become 'good lads' if they went out to be pioneers on the kibbutzim; the difficult thing was getting them there, of course.

Zionist ideals have little appeal to these young workers for the simple reason that they can see around Tel Aviv just who benefits from the pioneering.

The establishment knows very well that it cannot offer a future to the young workers of the Hatikvah quarter.

On the contrary, in the coming year it will have to introduce measures to cut expenditure on housing and social services, and to cut employment.

Youth like those of the Hatikvah quarter, the militant industrial workers who are resisting the government and trade union bosses, and the young Arab workers who have been leaving their villages to seek work on building sites and factories, can, if united in a movement, lead the Israeli working class to topple the present rulers: but a breakthrough in leadership is essential.

CENTRISTS & CP

The 'Mapam' (a centrist organisation), which now gets its votes largely from the militant trade unionist, is still led by men from the kibbutzim, and petty-bourgeois careerists, and attached to the Zionist establishment.

It can pose no real programme against that of the Israeli government.

The 'Mapam' leaders, and the middle-class intellectuals whose company they cultivate, regard the Hatikvah quarter youth as a 'social problem'.

At best they would regard their duty to them as benevolent social work; with the hope of making them good Zionists and shoving them out to border settlements.

The Communist Party split last year, with the pro-Chinese faction emerging strongest in the election, getting a few MPs; and control of Nazareth Council.

It has the support of young Arab workers, students and villagers.

It believes in leading them nowhere further than nationalism, a middle-class orientation, and worship of Arab rulers in neighbouring countries.

Serious socialists in Israel must work to break completely from imperialism and its Zionist stooges, to unite the working class on a socialist programme with perspectives for a united struggle in the Middle Eastern countries, to wrest them from imperialism.

A section of the Fourth International has to be constructed.

The construction of a mass revolutionary youth movement by sections of the Fourth International, particularly the Socialist Labour League in Britain, will give leadership to young workers in Israel, and many other countries, and build the International there.

£120m profit—but 1500 to be laid off

WORKERS at factories in the Phillips-Mullard group were told just before Christmas that, because the group had failed to expand in the last two years, 5 per cent of the labour force—1,500 people—would be sacked.

The firm reported a trading loss of £564,000. Yet £1,632,000 was paid out in dividends.

Phillips and Mullards are a section of the giant European combine of Phillips Electric and Associated Industries, and Phillips Gloeilampenfabrieken N.V. of Holland.

In 1964, the combine made between them a trading profit of £102,239,791!

When a shop steward at the Mitcham, Surrey, Mullard factory was told of the sackings it is claimed that it was made clear there was no question of cutting back production, but that a higher output would be aimed for (with fewer workers).