

# Socialist Outlook

Vol. 3. No. 4

APRIL, 1951

2d.

## PEACE: LET LABOUR GIVE A LEAD!

### Action To Free Colonies Can Win Asian Peoples To Labour's Cause

MR. HERBERT MORRISON, our new Foreign Secretary, has announced that he stands for peace, for the ending of the war in Korea, and for the right of all peoples to choose their own form of Government. If he wants these fine words to be taken seriously by the workers of the world he will now embody them into a proclamation offering peace to the peoples of the world, otherwise his speech will correctly be considered as just another cruel deception of the people. That which follows is our idea of what a Labour Government which was really socialist, and which really represented the interests of Labour, could and should say in such a proclamation.

#### To the Governments and Peoples of the World!

THE British Labour Government, after serious consideration of all the facts, has been forced to the conclusion that responsibility for the present terrible war in Korea lies solely with the Governments of the Western Bloc of nations led by the United States of America.

Facts have convinced us that the people of Korea did not want this war. It was forced upon them. They wanted only to unite their country and free it from the grip of the feudal landlords and their imperialist protectors. An absolutely just and democratic aspiration which no socialist can oppose.

The British Labour Government, being itself engaged in freeing Britain from the exactions of the capitalist class, can in no way condemn—let alone fight against it!—peoples which are attempting to do the same things in other parts of the world.

Should ever the supporters of the Old Society in Britain resort to armed resistance of the people's will, we should not hesitate to use force to defeat them, although, it is

reduced to a horrifying waste of blood and rubble.

Far from participating in this attempt to murder a whole nation, the British Labour Government calls upon the workers everywhere to render all possible aid to the Korean people. As Mr. Herbert Morrison, our Foreign Secretary, has said . . . we respect the right of every people to choose its own way of life. For that reason, if for no other, the British Labour Government condemns this war in Korea and will take no part in it.

We know that, whatever the odds, the peoples of Asia will fight on without thought of capitulation until their just rights have been secured. To grant those rights now is, therefore, an act which will avoid a future of terrible bloodshed. We know also that working people everywhere—whether they be in Asia, in Europe, in Africa, or in America—do not want war. They are ready at all times to conclude peace—provided that the peace terms are consistent with the right of every nation to choose its own form of Government and its own social system.

As long ago as December 1950, the Chinese People's Republic offered such a democratic solution to the Korean war. They proposed that all foreign troops—Chinese as well as American—be immediately withdrawn, thus allowing the Koreans to settle their affairs free from foreign intervention. These proposals were supported by the Government of North Korea, by the Government of the U.S.S.R., and by the

(Continued on page 4, col. 3)



### London Labour Fights For New Policy

THE re-called Conference of the Socialist Fellowship was an unqualified success. Two-thirds of the organisations which attended the first conference (fully reported in our March number) sent delegates to the re-call. Represented were:—

- 17 delegates from 10 Divisional Labour Parties,
- 26 delegates from 18 Ward Labour Parties,
- 19 delegates from 10 Leagues of Youth,
- 6 delegates from 4 Trades Councils,
- 31 delegates from 21 Trade Union branches and District Committees.

A Committee was elected from the floor to organise a campaign inside the Labour and Trade Union Movement for an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party to decide upon a foreign and domestic policy which, unlike the present policy, will give the Party a chance of victory at any future General Election.

### Support the Spanish Workers

SPAIN'S working class is rising again to its feet. The days of Bloody Franco's fascist dictatorship are numbered.

On March 12th, 300,000 workers in Barcelona—the industrial heart of Spain—struck work, paralyzing the city in a magnificent demonstration against the high cost of living which has reduced most of Spain's impoverished people to the verge of starvation.

Whatever the final outcome of Barcelona's struggle, this wonderful demonstration calls for the complete solidarity of the workers of Britain and the world. Above all it calls for our intervention to prevent the sending of an Ambassador to Franco—what an insult to the Spanish workers!—and against the granting of loans and all other assistance to the brutal Franco regime.

### FACE TO THE UNIONS

SOME people in the Constituency Labour Parties are so painfully aware of the manner in which a man like Arthur Deakin regularly uses the Trade Union block vote to uphold unpopular Government policies that they have become completely discouraged and abandoned altogether the fight for socialism inside the Labour Party.

This attitude is very clearly expressed by the "Victory for Socialism" Group in a reply to the Socialist Fellowship's invitation to participate in the campaign for the calling of an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party. They write:—

"Our group does not support the idea of an emergency national conference which, with the T.U. block vote, would give the same result as last year's conference (and others) have done. We feel, therefore, that no good purpose can be served by agitating for such a conference."

It appears that this group—which includes a number of M.P.s in its ranks—has, despite its name, very little confidence in any "victory for socialism." They have accepted defeat in advance.

If, as they claim, the trade union block vote will always defeat the efforts of socialists inside the party then—the conclusion is inescapable—socialism will never be achieved in this country. For it is a fact that no change can take place—socialist or otherwise—against the will of the trade unions.

But there is no need for such pessimism. There never was a more opportune moment for socialists to increase their influence inside the unions.

What is required is not to turn one's back on the unions but, on the contrary, to direct the efforts of the Left Wing towards the creation of a similar Left Wing inside the unions.

The problem of the block vote is essentially a problem of trade union democracy. There is nothing much wrong with the block vote as such. What is wrong is that many trade union leaders cast this vote in defiance of the real wishes of their own memberships.

When that is stopped the block vote, perhaps altered so as to give minority representation, from being an obstacle to progress will become a powerful weapon of support.

The "Victory for Socialism" Group considers that "no good purpose can be served by this agitation for an emergency conference." The Executive of the 800,000 strong Amalgamated Engineering Union, however, has gone on record for such a conference. We are entirely with the A.E.U. in this question, and for positive advice on how to campaign for such a conference inside the unions, we refer our readers to the excellent resolution of the Camberwell Branch of the A.E.U. which you will find at the foot of this column.

### Editorial

true, we hope that our great social transformation will be accomplished peacefully, without resort to such armed force. In Korea, however, the struggle for social justice has from the very first taken on the form of an open civil war.

This is not the fault of the Korean people. It is the fault of those Governments—American, French, British, and Russian—who, in 1945, arbitrarily divided this small country, created an artificial border at the 38th parallel, and thus made inevitable a future civil war.

The facts also convince us that, even so, the fight for social and national liberation in Korea would have been accomplished successfully within a matter of days and even hours IF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANISATION HAD NOT INTERVENED TO PREVENT IT.

Syngman Rhee's Government, which every responsible person knows to be an ugly police dictatorship possessing no popular support in either the North or the South, would have crumbled rapidly and ignominiously before the mass enthusiasm aroused by the progressive social programme of the industrial North.

But the peoples of Korea were not allowed to settle their affairs in this way. Under the guise of "combating aggression", men, tanks, guns, and battleships were rushed across thousands of miles of ocean to be used in a very REAL AGGRESSION against the people of Korea. Since that time, and despite the brave resistance of the workers and peasants, Korea has been steadily, systematically, and deliberately,

### Barcelona Rises Again!



### Trade Union Aid

THE Camberwell Branch of the Amalgamated Engineering Union "supports the moves that are being made by rank and file members of the Labour Party, and by our own Executive Committee, for the holding of an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party."

The Branch "endorses any action our E.C. takes in this direction," and we suggest that:—

1. The E.C. send out a Branch Circular instructing our union delegates to all local Labour Parties to assist the E.C. by moving such resolutions locally.
2. The E.C. contact other Trade Union Executives to get their weight behind this demand for an Emergency Conference of the Labour Party.

# Thoughts of a Korean War Victim

BY LANCE-CORPORAL TYLER, THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE REGT.  
KILLED IN ACTION IN KOREA

The four letters which make up this article were written by Bill Tyler to his friends in the Labour Movement. The first was written en route from Malaya—the other three direct from the Korean battlefield. Lack of space has compelled us to cut them, but they still remain a moving and damning indictment of the United Nations bloody war against the Korean peoples.

12/11/50.

Dear Harry,

Out here you realise the full power and impact of Western Imperialism. In Singapore, if you are not for the Government you are a BANDIT. Not a communist or a socialist but . . . a BANDIT! The Malaysians want their own country so, of course, as far as the planters are concerned, they are all bandits.

Frank Owen, late editor of the *Daily Mail*, was speaking here to the Rotarians. He related a conversation with a Korean in Seoul who said to an American . . . "Thank you, I am liberated. My wife is dead, my children are maimed. Thank you, I am liberated."

Korea, Harry, is destroyed. This winter will cause the Koreans untold sufferings and privations. From a summer heat of an average of 100 degrees the temperature in the winter drops to 40 degrees below zero. We are fitted out with special cold climate kit. We are O.K. But what of the Koreans with most of their houses and buildings destroyed?

I can see the time when both North and South will be united in a desire to get rid of us. The money and lives spent in Korea is criminal waste, and I hope my life is not added to those who have gone already . . .

Good luck to your efforts at home. Keep fighting.

\* \* \*

21/12/50.

Dear Harry,

I have been unable to reply earlier because of pressure of recent events which, as you know, has necessitated our long withdrawal to the 38th Parallel—which same famous

## THE AUTHOR

**BILL TYLER** was an active worker in the Preston Labour Party and the founder of the Preston Socialist Fellowship.

Parallel I am practically sitting on right now, wondering whether the enemy (?) are going to spoil our Xmas which will be grim enough anyway.

The urgent need for a strong Left Wing in the Labour Party becomes more evident as the Government allies itself to the disastrous United Nations policy in Korea. The men at the top just close their eyes and ears to the demand from the bottom for an anti-war policy.

I am convinced from my talks with British and American soldiers that there is a definite fear of another world war. The fighting men don't want to fight—especially the last war veterans. In fact, I believe that a large-scale war is likely to produce a classical Marxist revolution.

I am having a fair amount of success in my socialist propaganda among my comrades-in-arms, thus proving the wisdom of being with the majority even though the possibility of an early death is very great just now.

Well, Harry, we are dug in on the slope of a snow-covered hill and it is three days to Xmas. There are Xmas trees all round.

## THE SOCIALIST FELLOWSHIP ANTI-WAR CONFERENCES

### MANCHESTER

CAXTON HALL  
(Chapel Street, Salford)

Sunday, April 8th. 2.45 p.m.

### BIRMINGHAM

TYPOGRAPHICAL HALL  
(Bath Street)

Sunday, April 15th. 6 p.m.

VISITORS WELCOMED



but no peace on earth, and no goodwill among men—and the food is not too good either.

I was pleased to hear the news of the creation of a Fellowship in Blackpool. I hope I shall soon be back to organise the Preston Fellowship which, I fear, may have declined in my absence.

May the Fellowship have every success in 1951 and may the Left Wing of the Party grow in strength . . .

\* \* \*

4/2/51.

Dear Harry,

Our Brigade—largely composed of reservists—fully shares the opposition to the war that you are experiencing at home. The lads out here are openly blaming the Yanks for interfering in Korea in the first place, and there is a marked lack of cordiality between us and the Americans . . .

The Commanding Officer of our battalion recently gave us his views on the war—and he was loudly heckled from all quarters of the paraded battalion! It was made quite clear to him that we did not agree with his orthodox views. I have never witnessed anything like it, but the reaction of the men was so spontaneous that they could not take any measures against us.

There was great disappointment among the lads at Britain's attitude towards America's "Brand China" proposal. By conceding so many points, we have given America a chance to engineer the Third World War.

The Chinese are now being pushed back with appalling casualties. Thousands are being killed by continual shelling and bombing. When we take a position we find it littered with dead and INSANE Koreans and Chinese so awful is the pounding they are taking . . .

There are fifty dead Chinese in a small

position not far from where I am sitting now. The slaughter is terrible. I think that unless they soon receive assistance from Russia the Chinese will soon have to make a political bargain in Korea . . .

The testing time for Western politicians will come when we next stand on the 38th Parallel. If the Americans can be restrained there is a chance for peace and a consequent aggravation of America's economic problems. But if they are allowed to pursue their reactionary aims in Korea then a World War is practically a certainty.

\* \* \*

(Undated).

Dear Mrs. G.,

I must thank you for considering my wife's well-being during this trying period. It has brought me great comfort . . . so once again, my heartfelt thanks.

It must be apparent to most people by now that America is playing an extremely fishy game out here in Korea. British lives are being lost to further American ambitions in the Far East. It is perfectly clear to me that America is trying to enlist the aid of the non-communist members of the U.N.O. to create a war with China.

I am convinced that Korea is the biggest frame-up in modern history and the thought of it is driving me frantic. The defeat suffered by the U.N. forces was deliberately engineered by the Yanks. But fortunately I believe the people at home are also growing suspicious . . . I strongly disapprove our Government's handling of this present crisis. It contains great dangers to democratic socialism and brings us closer to the Third World War which America wants in order to solve her economic problems.

We must finish with capitalist war blocs such as the Atlantic Pact and Western Union. The problem is extremely urgent and I am impatient to get home and get cracking in the Left Wing before our present leaders ruin the whole working class movement and drag us into war.

I have a vast and intimate experience of war and the misery it brings in its train. And I can honestly say that I have never seen such misery as is now being experienced by the Korean peoples. Their country is totally ruined. Factories, schools, mills and houses destroyed. Millions of refugees are homeless in this Arctic weather and large numbers of them are dying from exposure.

The other day I gazed down at the body of a little girl lying in the snow and I thought of my Christine and it broke my heart. I don't think I shall be happy again until we have removed the fear of war from the world. Socialism is the greatest cause in the world and is worthy of all our energies . . .

Yours fraternally,

Bill Tyler.

## 'JIM CROW' IN U.N. ARMY

By M. BANDA

Is American "democracy" worth fighting for? The answer to this question is provided in a comprehensive investigation into the conditions and the treatment of Negro troops serving in Korea made by Thurgood Marshall. The author is the special counsel for the National Association for the Advancement of Coloured Peoples and has recently returned from a tour of the Korean front. His report reveals in a very striking way how colour bar, or 'Jim Crow' as it is known in the U.S., operates in the United Nations Army in Korea. The facts are all drawn from authenticated sources and constitute a damning and powerful indictment of the U.N. Army and the war being conducted by it. Here are some of the facts: of 68 soldiers accused of violating Article 75 (misbehaviour in the face of an enemy) 60 were Negroes and only eight were whites.

"The question as to why so many Negroes were charged and so few white soldiers remains unanswered" states Marshall's report. An examination of the courts-martial convictions revealed the same proportion of Blacks to Whites.

Only two whites had been convicted by courts martial whereas the number of Negroes convicted was thirty-two.

While the white G.I.'s received sentences of 3-5 years the Negroes received very much

heavier sentences. One of the thirty-two (Lt. Leon Gilbert) was sentenced to death, fifteen to life imprisonment, one to 50 years and fifteen from 15 to 25 years.

The character and proceedings of the courts martial did not differ in any way from the lily-white, kangaroo courts, of the Southern States which sentenced the Martinsville Seven, the Trenton Six, and numerous others, on the basis of perjured evidence and prejudiced juries. The accused were most often rushed from fox-hole to court, given a trial lasting, in some cases 50 minutes, in others 40 minutes, and then sentenced. The elementary right of a fair trial was denied these innocent victims of Jim Crow law who were supposed to be fighting in defence of "Democracy" and the "American Way of life". Colour bar can no longer be considered a domestic issue in American politics, for Jim Crow is no longer confined to the banks of the Mississippi, but has extended its activities to the Han river as well.

Racial persecution and discrimination whether in South Africa, the Southern States of America, or South Korea must cease! That the Labour Government should allow such brutal and high-handed acts to go unchallenged is an insult to British Labour and an injury to the colonial peoples. It is never too late to protest!

## Friend Or Foe?

NO people appreciate the meaning of peace more than do the Chinese people. We have known war for over 100 years, so to us, peace is a treasure. We will struggle to maintain it. We will protect it at all costs.

It disturbs us to see the club-swinging measures which some circles in your country have taken against peace. It angers us to witness your finest sons and daughters imprisoned for advocating the making of peace into a living condition. We condemn the "summer-time peace patriots" in high places and low, who at this juncture turn their backs on the people. But at the same time, we possess steady and root-deep faith in the masses of the American people.

We know they have the strength to resist and overcome the pressure and intimidation of those who seek a profit-grabbing war. . . . To us it is a rule of life that the struggles of the common men and women all over the world are the same and inseparable. Our difficulties are equally shared, but so are our victories.

The liberated Chinese people extend their hands across the sea to firmly grasp yours, so that with unified ranks we may hold the peace. . . .

(Extract taken from the speech broadcast to the American people by Soong Ching Ling (Mme. Sun Yet Sen) on November 18th, 1950, and published in a supplement to "People's China".)

## FOR PEACE FOR A LEFT WING FOR A WEEKLY!

OUR decision to go forward with the plans for a *Socialist Outlook* EVERY WEEK has been well received by all who have heard the news. This does not surprise us.

The need for a Labour worker's paper every week devoted to Socialist and Trade Union matters is self-evident.

Comrade! It is essential that you do YOUR part—you and three of your friends must fill in the application form which you will find on page 4 and SEND IT TO US WITH 6/6d. FROM EACH OF YOU. This will mean that you have paid IN ADVANCE for 26 issues of the WEEKLY.

We must have at least 5,000 readers of the WEEKLY and—because it will be a SOCIALIST paper—you must make it clear that you want it. This you can do by sending in those 6/6d's. DO IT NOW, comrades.

The monthly Outlook just about pays its way. So will the WEEKLY OUTLOOK. But you must do your bit to get it started. Fill up the form now.

To prevent the Third World War—to win Socialism for this country—we need a strong Left Wing in the Labour Party. And to get a strong Left Wing WE MUST HAVE AT LEAST A WEEKLY SOCIALIST OUTLOOK.

Most socialists won't want this guarantee, nevertheless we want to assure you that if the paper does not come out by October 1st, you will all get your money back. It is all now being placed in a special account and will only be used for the production of the weekly.

Roll in those application forms, comrades. It's an essential part of the fight for socialism!

Fraternally Yours,

TOM BRADDOCK,  
Hon. Treasurer.

HAVE YOU PAID FOR  
YOUR WEEKLY YET?  
6/6 FOR 26 ISSUES  
SEE PAGE 4

## No Ambiguity Here!

Motion debated in Cardiff University:  
"That this House will not fight for Uncle Sam."

Motion carried overwhelmingly!

# The Railmen's Wage Rise . . .

## Success and failure

by BOB SHAW (N.U.R.)



**THE wage increase won by railwaymen was a victory accompanied by failure.**

The strikers of Manchester and the "go slow" men of Liverpool, Birmingham, and London, forced the Railway Executive to withdraw its arrogant "conditions" and wrung from the Government £12 million in wage increases. This was victory. The spectre of 500,000 striking railwaymen forced through in two weeks what two YEARS of arbitration and enquiries had failed to accomplish.

The infamous Order 1305, was kept in the Government's pocket. No-one was prosecuted, no-one sacked. The Order was powerless because, at last, a trade union leader refused to be bullied by threats from the Minister of Labour. Threats made in this case by our "left winger" Aneurin Bevan to trade union leader Figgins.

But the victory was accompanied by failure. Despite the courage of Figgins, and his awareness of the folly of the Labour Government's present course, he did not succeed in linking the struggle of railwaymen with permanent measures to solve the problem of bounding prices and the crisis of decay which exists on British Railways.

### WAGES AND PRICES

To-day it is not enough to win an increase in pay which in six months will be wiped out by the bounding cost of living.

To safeguard our gains and to insure our future it is necessary that wages go up with prices.

Moreover, we cannot wait two years for Bevan to produce a revised price index. The union should draw up its own; there are plenty of labour research agencies to do the job. Wages should be measured against this standard and automatic increases demanded for every rise in the cost of living.

Would this cause inflation? Not if profits were cut and compensation to ex-share-

## Journalists and the Millionaire Press

By FRANK ALLAUN

THE war among the big dailies for higher circulation figures continues. Some of these papers have been compared with those rather doubtful ladies of the West End who are more concerned with their figures than with their morals.

A notable instance was the playing up of opposition to the closed shop policy of the Durham County Council. This was made to appear as the most wicked tyranny since the Spanish Inquisition. The other side's view—that it is unfair for non-unionists to obtain the result of union organisation without paying their dues—was not stated at all in several papers.

This is not the place to argue the rights and wrongs of Durham's insistence. The only point I wish to make is that when a big newspaper firm forbids its employees to join a union and actually makes them sign a document undertaking not to join as a condition of holding their jobs, only *Reynolds News* and a couple of other journals think it worth mentioning.

Nearly all the great Tory papers have omitted to print a line about the fight the printing unions are now waging against this proscription.

The firm is D. C. Thomson's, who publish five million copies a week, including *Thomson's Weekly News* and a score of children's papers.

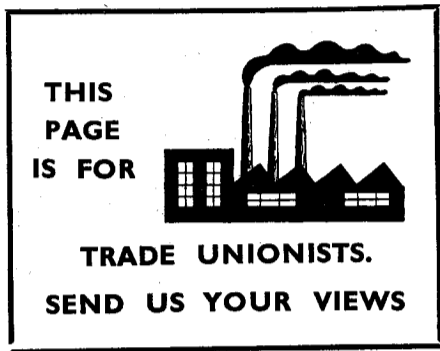
Penny papers written for the million—of whom the great majority, of course, are workers—are usually too discreet to give the real views of their millionaire owners. It would be good neither for circulation nor for votes. The *Financial Times*, however, is in a different position. Written for the dividend coupon clipping class, it can speak more freely.

### WITHOUT TRIMMINGS

In March it gave the game away with two long feature page articles on "How are we to pay for rearmament" by M. S. P. Chambers, finance director of Imperial Chemical Industries, Ltd. He recommends cutting school building, food subsidies and the health scheme. Mr. Chambers, like Mr. Hobson, wishes to raise the interest rates on borrowing by local authorities.

I like his style:

"There is a tendency", he writes, "for a rather unhealthy sentimentality to enter into consideration of expenditure devoted



holders suspended. Inflation can be avoided if the capitalists are forced to dip into their "surplus" to maintain and improve our living standards.

Unfortunately, railwaymen will suffer for the failure to force from the Railway Executive an agreement that wages should go up with prices, and for the failure to compel the Government to suspend payment of compensation to ex-shareholders.

### REAL CONTROL NEEDED

What of the "conditions" which are now being discussed. In 1949, Bro. Figgins made a vigorous speech at the Labour Party Conference in favour of large measures of rank and file control on the railways, but since then we have heard no more from him on this subject. Yet the stranglehold of the management is tighter to-day than ever. Every railwayman knows it and is fed up with it.

Every tinpot manager and superintendent now has assistants to help him to do very little. Cars and chauffeurs have been acquired to ease the intolerable burden of working 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Saturday morning. The biggest job these people do is to issue disciplinary forms to some poor bloke who has overslept at two a.m. in the morning!

The management multiplies itself from month to month, and it protects its own privileges. Each new scheme for efficiency produces a new batch of unproductive staff, but these people cannot be expected to do voluntarily the only thing that will make the railways efficient, that is **hand over control to the rank and file**. This should be the answer of Figgins to Allen's demand for more lodging and less unproductive staff, (at the bottom).

He should be told: you must give us the power to set up rank and file committees at every depot, large station, siding and shed, and allow these committees to run the job. Cut out the assistants, chauffeurs, and staff clerks and put them to useful work. Give us control and we, the porters, shunters, drivers, guards, etc., will make British Railways efficient.

At the next A.G.M. of the N.U.R. these demands must be in the centre of its new programme for the betterment of our conditions.

**The rising scale of wages, based on a union price index.**

**Suspend the compensation payments now.**

**Supervision of the job by rank and file committees.**

**to building schools and other educational establishments!"**

I suppose the *Financial Times* and Mr. Chambers would agree with the Conservative M.P. who shouted out in Parliament last month:

"The shareholders ARE the nation."

It is good to report that there is a move inside the National Union of Journalists to strengthen its Ethics Committee which deals with the conduct of the Press. This follows some recent and serious misdoings by our proprietors.

It must be repeated: it is they who decide the policy of the newspapers—not the men and women they employ. He who pays the piper calls the tune.

# The 'Retrospective' Racket

by R. DUFFY (A.E.U. SHOP STEWARD)

NOVEMBER, 1950, was the date agreed upon to commence paying the 11/- increase to engineering workers in Government establishments. It is now March, 1951 and still no increase. Is it any wonder that workers become impatient and resort to so-called unofficial action?

It is particularly frustrating in Government works because most of these factories are 100 per cent organised, the workers are represented at all levels from Shop Committees to Advisory Committees, and the factories themselves are supposed to be under the direct control of a Labour Government.

I can only conclude that the Permanent Civil Servants who hold all the top positions are entirely unsympathetic to Labour.

But, returning to the 11/- increase. Some people have argued that we are not losing anything because when we finally get the increase it will be "retrospective". That is, it will be dated back to November 1950. It looks alright, but it isn't. In fact, it is another little dodge whereby the worker comes out the loser every time.

In the first place, if we had the 11/- last November we could have bought a good deal more with it than we shall be able to buy in April, May, or whenever we finally get it.

The cost of living is going up all the time and the 11/- is falling in value all the time as a consequence.

### LOST OVERTIME

Secondly, if we had the 11/- last November

it would have affected any overtime that we have done in that period. But it won't now. There is an actual clause in the Agreement which specifically prevents this. It reads as follows:

"Arrears of wages shall be paid at the flat rate for each establishment represented by the difference between the rates now agreed (Nov. 1950) and the rates at present paid IRRESPECTIVE OF THE HOURS WORKED (i.e., no account shall be taken of overtime or ex-gratia payments, nightshifts, sick leave, or other approved absences whether paid or unpaid) provided the worker was on the books since November 1950."

What a clause! And what sort of trade union leaders to have agreed to it! In effect it means that if a worker has been working one hour a day overtime since November 1950 he will—when he finally gets his "retrospective payment"—lose the 3d. per hour premium which the 11/- increase represents on all overtime worked.

No doubt other unions have to put up with similar fraudulent clauses in wage agreements. I do not think that the rank and file would ever accept such clauses if they saw them before they were agreed. Therefore, I urge every trade unionist to demand of his union leadership that ALL AGREEMENTS BE RATIFIED BY THE MEMBERSHIP PRIOR TO REACHING ANY AGREEMENT WITH THE EMPLOYERS. It is democratic and it will go a long way to stopping this eternal wait for "agreed" wage increases.



### Let's Be Well-Informed

Here's some tasty information for the 'Z' men.

The *Daily Herald* (8/3/51) reports that John C. Horsfall and Sons have made "bumper profits four times larger than last year at £124,808. Dividend goes up from 20% to 30%."

Manchester Oil Refinery's profits "have jumped from £265,319 to £514,453."

Rugby Portland Cement's profits have also jumped "from £68,597 to £464,990."

I publicise these facts because I agree with the General who once said . . . "We must have a well-informed army."

### Our New-found Allies

Nazi Generals Lanz and Delmer have been released from prison by order of the United States Government. At their trial it was said of them "the evidence in this case recites a record of killing and destruction seldom exceeded in modern history. Thousands of innocent inhabitants lost their lives by means of a firing squad or a hangman's noose . . ."

Remember, brothers, the thousands of German trade unionists murdered and imprisoned by these two Fascist beasts, then renew your efforts to get all troops withdrawn from Germany so that the German working class can settle once and for all with these people.

### Our Real Allies

From the *Daily Herald* (March 13) we learn that . . . "General Franco has called a special cabinet meeting . . . to consider a series of riots which flared up in Barcelona. . . ."

. . . 300,000 workers struck work in protest against the increasing cost of living. . . .

Workers and housewives hurled rags soaked in petrol at the City Hall. . . . The leaders have been arrested. . . ."

*The long suffering workers and peasants of Spain are giving their answer to the gentlemen of the United Nations and the Atlantic Pact who are busy whitewashing the brutal Franco regime.*

*Here are our real Allies, the workers on strike in Barcelona, and the workers in the prisons and camps of Fascist Franco.*

**Raise your voice, Brother. NO TRUCK WITH FASCIST FRANCO!**

### Lord Lyle—Economist

The *Financial Times* (8/3/51) reports a speech of Lord Lyle of Westbourne as follows:—

"That, Ladies and Gentlemen, is how I view the situation. The economic problems of the country are not going to be solved by taking money out of one pocket and putting it into another . . ."

Especially, no doubt, if the pocket the money is taken from happens to be that of Lord Lyle or one of his "Ladies and Gentlemen"!

### Change At The Foreign Office

All the press has had much to say on the appointment of Herbert Morrison to replace Ernie Bevin. So we'll keep the "Diary" in line. We quote only from the *Herald* (10/3/51) which, in an Editorial, says . . . "To-day's verdict, even among the Opposition, will be that the Foreign Office will be in good hands."

Well, as long as the Opposition is happy, what right has a mere socialist to complain.

### Return The Honour?

Lord Derby has invited 25 Merseyside dockers to spend a weekend at his racing stables and stud farm at Newmarket.

I think that's a very nice gesture. Now I think the dockers should reciprocate and offer Lord Derby a spell with them—maybe unloading a cement bag!

### Railmen—Don't Read This

The City Editor of the *Sunday Times* (4/3/51) tells us that "granted that railwaymen were relatively underpaid, THIS IS NOT NECESSARILY UNJUST." (My emphasis).

Yes, that's what he said. Of course his scales of justice are somewhat weighted, aren't they? £34 millions in compensation to the shareholders of the nationalised railways, against a bare £5 a week for the men who keep the railways going!

### Diamonds And Democracy

Diamonds come from South Africa—so does the Fascist Dr. Malan. Just roll your tongue around the figures which follow, brothers, and then you should have a pretty good idea why Malan and his hateful crew are anxious to keep the negroes down and virtually in chains.

Sparkling diamond sales last year which were an all-time record of £50,960,000 have resulted in a dividend of 110 per cent, against 90 per cent, for lucky holders of De Beers Consolidated Mines' £4,000,000 of Deferred capital.

And the net profit for 1950 was £7,880,684 after providing £2,500,000 for taxation. The previous year's figures were £5,691,568 and £1,525,000.

### School Meals Up

From the 1st April school meals will rise one penny to 7d. a meal. This, according to the *Herald* (5/3/51) "is to cut the money paid out of public funds for this service."

Just think of all the nice new bombs we can now buy with the kiddies pennies!

**Does Your Trade Union Branch Take supplies of Socialist Outlook?**



### An Appreciation

May I congratulate the editorial staff of the "Outlook" on their stand against the warmongering policies of the Americans and the subservience of our Right Wing Labour leaders to the capitalists of the City of London and of Wall Street.

May I also thank the "Outlook" for bringing into light the conditions of the engineering workers throughout the country and congratulate Comrade Norman Dinning for his very forthright and forceful articles.

A. Upton. Tunbridge Wells.

### Profits First

The greater part of the Press, with one or two notable exceptions, have been carrying out a campaign to convince the people of this country of the intended aggression of the Soviet Union. They are continually telling us that time is precious if we are to defend Western civilisation against the dangers which menace it.

I should first of all like to make it clear that this misused phrase "Western civilisation" applies to those countries where the whole or greater part of the means of production is still in private hands; in other words, countries where faith in the Capitalist System still hopefully exists. The danger to this system from the Soviet Union has always existed, because, whatever its imperfections, the Soviet Union is still a Workers' State and in the minds of the majority of the working class is, at the least, a dream of what might have been.

If we are to believe that this aggression must be halted and that an arms race is the only solution how can engineering employers in the Manchester area allow their production to be cut by 50% by the ban on piece-work? There would be some excuse if individual employers refused to make any concession to the workers involved, but when the Engineering Employers' Federation, representing the most reactionary employers in the country, allows this loss of production to take place the position becomes farcical.

In the past the capitalists have not hesitated to make concessions to the workers when there has been a threat to their ownership—even if it only came from the imperialist designs of capitalism abroad. The workers have been needed to resist this threat and have been used accordingly.

J. R. Willcock, member of East Salford Labour Party.

### CORRECTION

The "Open Letter to Mr. Attlee" which appeared in last month's Socialist Outlook represented the individual view-point of Bob Streetley and not that of the Bermondsey Labour Party. This was clear enough from the text of the letter but, in view of a certain misunderstanding that has since arisen in that Party, the writer wishes it to be made quite clear.

### Subscription to "Socialist Outlook"

Enclosed please find P.O. for 3s. for

12 issues starting with.....

Name .....

Address .....

Date .....

"Socialist Outlook,"

177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

## To Ensure A Weekly Outlook We Need 5,000 Subscribers Paid In Advance!

### SPECIAL ORDER FORM FOR THE WEEKLY OUTLOOK

When the Socialist Outlook becomes a weekly, please send it by post for 26 weeks to

Name ..... Name .....

Address ..... Address .....

Name ..... Name .....

Address ..... Address .....

for which is enclosed the sum of ..... (6/6 per person) to cover cost and postage, on the understanding that if a weekly is not produced by September 30th this sum will be refunded in full.

Post to: "Socialist Outlook," 177, Bermondsey Street, London, S.E.1

★ Correspondence should be as brief as possible and addressed to The Editor, 177, Bermondsey St., London, S.E.1

### A Broom For The Foreign Office

We, the Party's rank and file, are coming to the conclusion that our Party's present foreign policy is enough to make **George Lansbury** and **Keir Hardy** turn in their graves. We are failing to see any difference from the old pre-war Tory methods and the present methods of our Ministers.

Among the many drastic changes that are overdue is an investigation into the Foreign Office itself. All those die-hard officials who have surely done their best to obstruct socialist legislation must go and be replaced by socialists.

To accomplish this cleansing operation, and to adopt an anti-war and socialist policy, a Special Emergency Conference of the Labour Party is needed. I appeal to every socialist, therefore, to support the Socialist Fellowship's campaign for this conference.

It is better to be outspoken now than later to be merely atomic dust!

P. D. Smith Tunbridge Wells.

### Aid for the Aged

RECENTLY the House approved a very large amount of expenditure previously borne by the Privy purse being transferred to Public Funds. His Majesty is not the only one who is hit by the rising cost of living—thousands of old age pensioners are feeling it very badly too!

Our Party—which I joined over 50 years ago through reading the *Clarion* of *Blatchford*—have stated that they cannot afford to increase the Old Age Pension. I wonder if those who oppose the increase would like to try and live on the 26/- a week plus a few shillings supplementary?

Yet the Party votes huge sums for armaments! They also are prepared to subsidise the Nationalised Industries.

Now, I suggest that these nationalised industries should provide free travel, coal, gas, and light for Old Age Pensioners who have not the means to pay.

Surely this would be a step towards REAL socialism which we have shouted about for years from all quarters. I believe that the public would respond knowing that any extra cost would be for the assistance of those in need.

Change the Old Order for the New! That was always one of our slogans. Oh, what joy it would bring to the aged if only the Party had the courage to put its slogans into practice.

Why not try it, comrades. Urge your Labour Parties to start in this way on the socialist road.

G. Wyver Old Age Pensioner.

### Fatalists?

On Thursday evening, on the B.B.C., Joubert, Scofield, and Grenfell were talking of how disturbing it was for the British Public to have an American Supreme Commander. But they went on to say what they "will" do in the next war. I myself should find it less disturbing if they had said "would"! Is it so settled, then, that we are to have another war?

Dr. A. Henson London.

### Meetings

**BUDGET DAY MEETING!** Central and West London Socialist Fellowship, Swaraj House, 32 Percy Street, off Tottenham Court Road, April 10th, 7.30 p.m. Speaker: TOM BRADDOCK. All Labour Party members and trade unionists welcome.

## Trust in Labour's Youth

### Impressions of the L.L.O.Y. Conference

By an Adult Visitor

THE first Labour Party League of Youth Conference to be held since 1938 was an inspiring event, despite all the extraordinary precautions taken by the N.E.C. to prevent youth's true feelings being expressed. The resolutions had all been "vetted" by the local Constituency Parties—as had the 347 young delegates—yet, nevertheless, the socialist aspirations of Labour's Youth broke right through all these "safeguards".

Jack Dipple from Tottenham League opened the fight against bureaucratic control when he moved a resolution condemning the attempts of the National Consultative Committee (a body which contains a number of voting full-time Party adult officials!) to ban "unofficial movements". He was ably seconded by H. Kendall from Wimbledon League.

It appeared to me that the platform deliberately confused this issue by bringing in a resolution condemning the "National Status Movement"—the only "unofficial body" that has any meaning in the League. Readers of the *Socialist Outlook* will know that this "National Status Movement" was an entirely loyal body of Leaguers whose aim was to achieve something then denied to the League—its own National Conference and a status equal at least to the status of, say, the National Women's Section.

The activities of this so-called unofficial body had, it is now generally recognised, been largely responsible for compelling the tops of the Party to allow this present Youth Conference—and that alone surely justified its existence. However, by introducing arguments about loyalty and splits, the platform succeeded in confusing some of the delegates so that the Tottenham resolution was finally lost by 172 votes against 116.

### NO VICTORY FOR RIGHT

A resolution—moved by John Daly of St. Pancras—supporting the points of the National Status Movement was later lost by the even more narrow margin of 162 against 143. So that, despite all the confusion which was quite wrongly introduced—even Alice Bacon, M.P., in her Presidential address criticised those who had been fighting for democracy in the League!—despite all this the victory for the platform was a somewhat hollow one. Just how hollow was shown on

the second day of the conference when time and time again the official element was defeated.

In fact, in separate resolutions, most of the points of the National Status Movement were later carried.

### THE FIGHT FOR DEMOCRACY

For example, a resolution—splendidly moved by the young Norwood delegate—stating that "The League of Youth should be permitted to discuss Labour Party policy at all levels of its organisation" was carried by 183 votes to 110.

And to underline just how much the League resents all this unnecessary interference from the top, the Conference reserved its longest round of applause for the fraternal delegate from the "National Association of Labour Students' Organisation" who explained how his organisation was also part of the Labour Party yet did nevertheless discuss all policy questions!

Another resolution declaring that "This conference supports the need for an annual delegate conference to which all Leagues will be free to send delegates of THEIR OWN CHOICE" was actually carried unanimously!

Also carried without dissent was a resolution from Battersea which condemned the present practice of giving the adult parties the right to approve or reject Youth resolutions.

### WE MUST HELP

Remembering that political discussion had been barred, it was a splendid conference of Labour Youth, showing that among these young people exists a brilliant group of speakers and fighters who are a match for all the experience of Transport House. In this respect it is worth mentioning that Jack Dipple cleverly defied the ban on politics and introduced a round condemnation of Fascist Franco to the enthusiastic applause of the delegates.

I came away feeling that the Party has absolutely nothing to fear from its Youth. It is internationally-minded and firmly against every sort of bureaucracy.

It is now up to the adult party members to see that all high-minded actions against the Youth cease as from now. Let them discuss policy questions, and have confidence that they will add much to the socialist basis of our Party.

### Editorial (continued)

Governments of the People's Democracies of Eastern Europe.

But they were rejected by the Government of the United States of America and, with the deepest shame be it recorded, they were also rejected by the Labour Government of Great Britain. It is, therefore, an incontrovertible fact that the responsibility for continuing the war rests solely with the Governments of the Western Bloc of Nations.

They could have made a just peace, but instead they chose to continue, with even greater cruelty and abandon, the slaughter of the Korean people. They did not accept the Chinese peace proposals because they are interested in neither peace, democracy, nor justice. Their immediate aim, as stated by General MacArthur, the Commander of the United Nations Army, is to wage war on the Chinese People's Republic. Their ultimate aim, as stated by Mr. Stassen, the American Republican leader, is "to organise the counter-revolution in China, in Russia, and in Eastern Europe." They are determined to intervene in the affairs of every nation for the purpose of restoring capitalism where it has been, or is being, rightly destroyed.

These are not the aims of the British people, nor of the British Labour Government. We therefore declare that all previous military and defensive alliances with the United States are hereby repudiated.

Knowing full well that this proclamation will have little effect on the peoples of the world unless it is accompanied by some concrete and positive proof of our sincerity, we also declare that we relinquish all further title to the so-called colonies in Asia, in Africa, and in the Middle East. We have, accordingly, instructed our armed forces to withdraw immediately from all territories outside Britain.

On the basis of these definite actions, we appeal to the Governments and the peoples of the world to live in peace with the British people. Should any Government attack us after this demonstration of our sincere desire to live in peace, we are confident that the common peoples of the world will rally to our defence.

### "WHEN BRITAIN'S ATOM BOMBED"

(An American Prophecy)

"After a ten-day inspection of Britain's Civil Defence Mr. Millard Caldwell, head of U.S. Civil Defence, said in London: 'You will find that your people will take atomic bombs just like they took the others. There is just a difference in degree. The British people greatly over-estimate the dangers of radiation from atomic bombing.'"

—"Reynolds News" 11/2/51.

In our Holy War with Russia  
Britons will be our shield:  
For they will take Atomic Bombs,  
And Britons never yield.

For years they faced death from the air,  
With courage beyond praise,  
But yet they over-estimate  
Atomic Lethal Rays.

"It's just a difference in degree"  
How many more will die,  
And whether Stocks and Shares will fall  
As Death rains from the sky.

But Victory will be assured  
Against the Hosts of Cain,  
Though Britain in red burial blent,  
May never rise again.

Percy Allott.

### THE FIGHTING FUND

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to our Fighting Fund for the development of the *Socialist Outlook* into a Weekly Paper.

|                    | £  | s  | d |
|--------------------|----|----|---|
| E. Pocklington     | 4  | 10 |   |
| A. W.              | 2  | 6  |   |
| B. Punt            | 2  | 6  |   |
| J. Ride            | 5  | 0  |   |
| P. Smith           | 2  | 6  |   |
| Deptford Socialist | 12 | 6  |   |
| A. Munbs           | 7  | 0  |   |
| A. Cooper (B'ham)  | 1  | 0  |   |
| Mr Paton           | 5  | 0  |   |
| Well-wisher        | 2  | 10 | 3 |

Total £4 13 1