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Coventry
and the
H Bomb

(page 2)

WALL STREET ATTACKS GUATEMALA

EIGHTEEN years ago, General Franco assumed command of Moorish mercenaries and Legionnaires in Spanish North Africa and began the assault on the Spanish Republican Government. He was aided by German and Italian fascism.

Last week history repeated itself. An exiled Guatemalan colonel—Castillo Armas—invaded Guatemala with an army of adventurers and fascist scum gathered from the most reactionary circles in Latin America. With American arms, supplemented by B47 bombers, his force of 5,000 men marched in an attempt to overthrow the Liberal coalition government. The invasion of this Central American Republic was prepared and planned in Washington and executed by American agents based in Nicaragua and Honduras.

The American Government has prevented Guatemala from buying arms to defend itself. Meanwhile it has built up its puppets for an attack. It airlifted war supplies to Nicaragua and Honduras. On

were made to introduce a welfare state."

The reforms of the government curtailed the profit-hungry American monopolies. That is one reason why America's rulers have carried on a rabid campaign against this poverty-stricken country of less than three million inhabitants. They aim to make it safe for the American trusts to resume fully their pickings at the expense of the Guatemalan people.

IMPERIALIST WORLD STRATEGY

The imperialist-sponsored invasion of Guatemala fits into the pattern of the world strategy of American Big Business. In all five continents it operates desperately to strengthen the imperialist front and suppress the colonial revolution.

The Latin American governments must either join the worldwide front of reaction or be denounced as "agents of communism" to be intimidated and threatened by the might of American capitalism.

June 1 the Honduran War Minister announced a delivery of U.S. arms on the way by ship—including tanks—for "a new combat battalion being formed here at top speed."

The Foreign Minister of Guatemala has charged that the invasion took place at the "instigation of certain foreign monopolies whose interests have been affected by the policies of my Government."

CONSTITUTIONAL GOVERNMENT

The Government of Guatemala is one of the few constitutionally elected governments of Latin America. The Conservative London "Evening News" on June 19 stated this government "...took over a poor, traditionally conservative country, where two per cent. of the population owned 78 per cent. of all the land. The biggest foreign investment was that of the United Fruit Company. Much of the land was distributed among the peasants. Attempts

For that purpose the recent conference of American states was organised at Caracas. The conference, under the guidance of Dulles, threatened "appropriate action" against the "domination and control of the political institutions of any American state by the international Communist movement." In the dictionary of Wall Street, any state not under its domination and control is an "agent of communism." That is clear from the case of Guatemala.

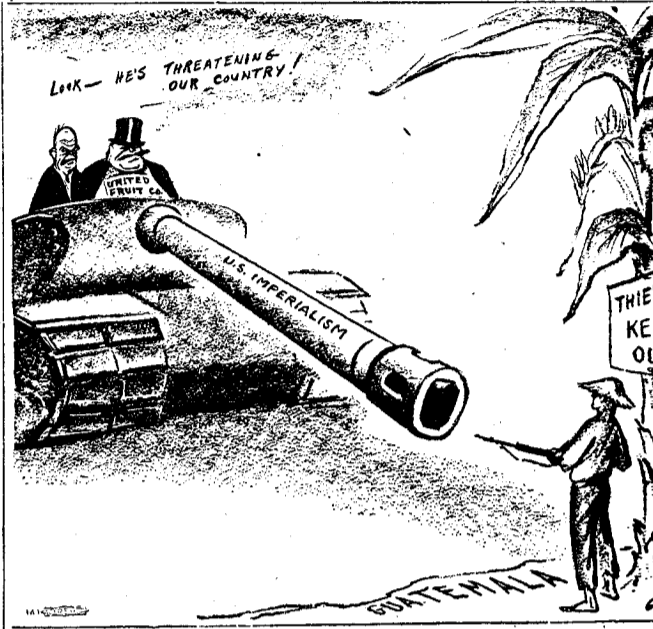
For the British Labour Move-

ment the attack on Guatemala is not something to be dismissed as happening thousands of miles away. Tory Eden can dismiss it with the cynical remark "incidents such as these are not unknown in Central America," for he has a vested interest in covering up the imperialist activities of American Big Business.

By its embargo on arms for Guatemala the Tory Government helps the American aim of leaving the Arbenz government defenceless in face of the invaders.

Labour M.P.s, the Labour press, the whole British Labour Movement must demand that the Guatemalan people have the arms to defend themselves. They must demand that the embargo be lifted and the Guatemalan government be given the elementary right to purchase arms.

And Labour must mark well the lesson of Guatemala. The nature of American imperialism and the complete tie-up of British toryism behind it has once again been made plain. Once again it is plain that complete, determined and courageous opposition to the policies of the Anglo-American alliance is Labour's greatest need.



Figures have been announced Public health will of the Guatemalan budget for the financial year 1954-55. Of a total expenditure of 45 million quetzals, 10½ millions will be spent on public education and only 6½ million on defence. A strange budget for a supposedly bent on aggression!

Case of Dr. Cort

THE opposition to the decision of the government not to allow Dr. Cort political asylum in this country is gathering momentum. Reports are coming in of Trades Councils, Labour Parties and Executive Committees of big trade unions adding their voices to the evergrowing demand that Dr. Cort and his wife remain in Britain.

In a personal interview, Dr. Cort revealed to me the facts behind the American Government's attempt to drag him back to America, there to deprive him of citizenship and livelihood. In addition, he could be imprisoned for from five to ten years for supposedly evading military service.

Yet, Dr. Cort informed me, in 1946 he was declared medically UNFIT for the American armed forces. He had been a victim of polio and, in addition, was allergic to serums such as anti-tetanus. Injection of these into his

By
H. Finch

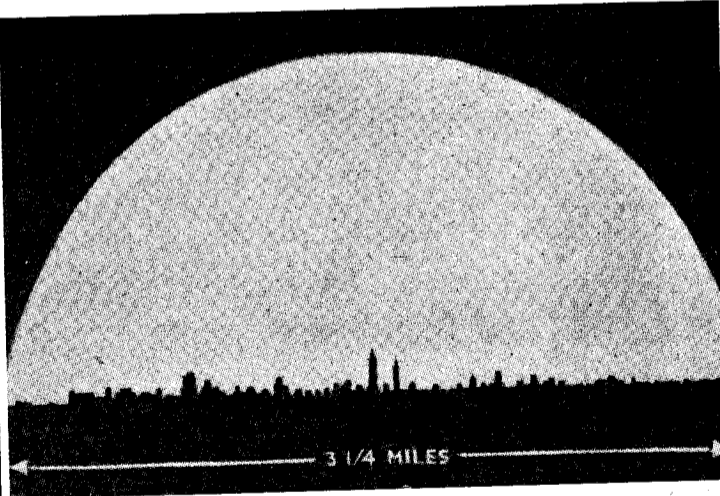
blood-stream would cause death in 30 minutes. Since this 1946 medical he had also had tuberculosis.

There can be no doubt at all that Dr. Cort was and still is completely unfit for military service, and yet Washington is trying to tell the world that it wants Dr. Cort back for evading military service!

Of course, the real reason is the political McCarthy witch-hunt in America—all men of progressive opinions are being hounded out of their jobs. When abroad, Americans are constantly under "gestapo" eyes. Dr. Cort has been picked as a test case because he has a permanent post at Birmingham University; and if they can remove him back to America, the way is clear for many other Americans' resident here and abroad being deported.

Dr. Cort informed me that there are at least 150 Americans in Britain in similar straits—the American Government had withdrawn their passports, but so far they had been allowed to remain in England. He fully realised that the fight for his asylum was a fight for all these other Americans in Britain—and, indeed, a fight for the liberty and right of all people to voice and think their views—free from persecution and dictatorship.

I left Dr. Cort promising him that, judging from the whole history and tradition of the British Labour Movement, he could rest assured that British Labour would fight tooth and nail for his right to remain in England. Alongside him, we also believe that his "legal and moral position is quite justified and clear."



This American artist's conception shows the area that would lie within the awesome fireball of an H-Bomb similar to the blast set off on Einewetok in 1952. With the Empire State building in New York City as ground zero, the flaming centre of the explosion would be 3¼ miles in diameter. Such a bomb dropped on its centre would cover the entire city of Coventry with a flaming hell. (Coventry and the Hell Bomb, page 2).

SPEAKING FOR US?

CHURCHILL'S visit to Washington is closely connected with the secret sessions at the Geneva Conference. Desperate attempts to patch up an agreement there seem to have born fruit and now the question arises as to the attitude of the "big boss."

The Labour Movement cannot accept a peace at the expense of the Indo-Chinese people. Their heroic struggle merits nothing less than complete freedom from the brutal rule of French imperialism.

The Washington talks cannot possibly be in the interests of the Indo-Chinese people. The men who meet there plan and act in the interests of the most reactionary imperialist forces. To expect something good from these quarters is absolutely fatal.

Unfortunately, on the left of the Labour Party there are some with these expectations. "... the test

of Churchill's visit to America", writes "Tribune," "will be how firmly he stands for a British policy when he gets there."

What does all this mean? What is a British policy? A Tory policy or Labour's policy? We believe the author of this statement sincerely desires a socialist foreign policy, but that must mean a policy completely independent of the Tories and their representatives—Churchill and Eden.

It is confusion such as expressed in this article which makes the fight around foreign policy so difficult in the Labour Party. There is no reason why it should occupy space in "Tribune," especially since Nye Bevan has made absolutely clear the socialist case on Indo-China. We stood with him fully on this issue. It remains now for the anonymous "Tribune" correspondent to fall

Salford Dockers Hit Back

YET another blow has been dealt to the widely held belief that to attend local branches and "bring pressure to bear" upon his permanent officials is all that is necessary to transform Mr. Deakin's union into a model of democracy. "Bringing pressure to bear" is a fine, high-sounding phrase; but what it means in actual fact was demonstrated by the two docks branches at Salford on June 10.

Salford dockers, in common with all workers, believe that eight hours a day is long enough to work, and that hours over and above that are a matter for the individual to work or not as he chooses. Their sentiments were duly expressed in the branches (where pressure was being brought to bear) in the form of a resolution banning overtime. The secretary, Mr. Steve Ryan, refused point blank to accept it and protests were in vain. Ultimately, however, the branch committee elected by the dockers said that they would send it to all levels.

Mr. Scholes, a dock group organiser and Mr. Ryan's superior, told a reporter of the "Manchester Evening News": "Mr. Ryan was quite right. He could not accept a resolution which cut across the policy of the union." Now, theoretically Mr. Scholes may be wrong; but in practice any docker will tell you he is dead right, which is all very confusing for those who believe that the membership is the union. Such is the background to the troubled waters of Salford.

The uneasy truce which has prevailed since the seven-weeks strike of 1951 trembled precariously as feeling grew over a seven-day suspension meted out to seven men

Salford Follows Coventry

The Salford City Labour Party has called for the suspension of the Civil Defence Committee.

The East Salford C.L.P. has passed a resolution supporting the decision of the City Party and the action of the Coventry Labour Council.

by an Industrial Correspondent

who had refused to work overtime. The men concerned claimed to have worked a total of 70 hours overtime over the preceding five weeks and felt that they had adequately complied with the rule of the scheme which requires dockers to work "reasonable" overtime. The National Dock Labour Board did not agree and then the feeling began to rise.

A mass meeting on June 10 which was addressed by Bro. George Norman unanimously adopted a resolution to impose a ban on overtime. The following day the men in Pomona Dock ceased work at 5 p.m., but elsewhere Bro. Norman alone complied with the resolution.

On Monday, Mr. Norman again refused overtime, but first gave notice in accordance with local agreement. On Tuesday, by gestapo-like methods, he was hauled before the N.D.L.B. without any notice, either verbal or written, being served upon him. Norman was taken right off the job and placed in front of the Board officials. No opportunity to call anybody on his behalf, no opportunity to prepare his defence! A disgraceful business. A flagrant breach of disciplinary procedure.

Plotters Busy

SO the right wing, with the connivance of the Trade Union leaders, are plotting to make Mr. Gaitskell the Party Treasurer at Morecambe!

Arthur Greenwood was hardly laid in his grave, the hymns and lamentations had hardly died down, when the plotters got busy.

What a sorry business it all is! In the past the post of treasurer was one of honour. Now it is being used as a means of getting on to the National Executive those who have been rejected by the membership. They were going to do it last year with Herbert Morrison; now it's Gaitskell.

Gaitskell ran for the Executive in the constituencies section last year. He was defeated. He was defeated because, in the eyes of the membership, he was associated with some of the blackest moments in the life of the Labour Govern-

ment. Bro. Norman, and certain of the Press inferred that because he had expressed intention of upholding the principle of compulsory overtime.

Bro. Norman made it clear to a large and enthusiastic meeting of Salford dockers Friday that this was unreservedly stated his willingness to abide by the rules of the Board. He was quite prepared to do as, in common with all people have learned to read, he stated that the scheme of provide for compulsory overtime. This report was accepted by men.

The actual clause in the reads: "Work for such as are reasonable in his case." What is "reasonable" who is to decide? The man is asked to work it or the Board wants the work? Those questions which the scheme does not answer, but which N.D.L.B. is trying to answer to the detriment of the workers. The ruling is vague to the point of being meaningless and worth noting that in 1949 inception of the scheme employers themselves described such.

Salford dockers are in giving it their own opinion.

ment. Gaitskell is the first attacked the principle of free national health service is the man who imposed for teeth and spectacles the Tories the chance further attacks on the social service.

That is why the conservative rejected him. Now he steps into the shoes of late Arthur Greenwood, shabby bit of work, and the great traditions of the Labour Party!

As Chancellor of the Exchequer Mr. Gaitskell's financial was so indistinguishable pursued by his Tory successor a new word has come into language—Butskellism.

What a choice for the Labour Party!

Coventry and the Hell-Bomb

Why Civil Defence Was Rejected

Last Time

Notice issued in Coventry on November 17, 1940:

"Since the notice of Saturday the 16th, steps have been taken to obtain coffins from neighbouring cities, and there is strong hope that by Wednesday the 20th November... it will be possible to provide a coffin for every one of the fallen..."

The B.B.C. recently that a single bomb will destroy 300 square miles. Even if we take the more moderate view of Sir John Hodsoll, Chief Technical Adviser to the N.A.T.O. Civil Defence Committee, that the hydrogen bomb will rub out all life over an area of three miles, this means that a bomb dropped in Broadgate will lay waste the whole of Coventry.

"What is the use of even thinking of Civil Defence under these conditions?"

LABOUR'S BACKING

On June 28, a deputation from the Coventry City Council will be meeting David Maxwell Fyfe, the Secretary. They are going to discuss Coventry's attitude toward Civil Defence the Hydrogen Bomb.

Mr. E. A. C. Roberts, Labour councillor and a member of the deputation, told me: "I will ask David, quite simply, what defence measures have you got to offer us and the citizens we represent?"

My own view," said Cllr. Roberts, "is that there is no defence against the hydrogen bomb, say nothing of the Cobalt bomb. Professor Fritsch said on

The people of Coventry, and especially the Labour Movement, are solidly behind the Labour Councillors in opposing this mockery of civil defence. This was clearly shown in the recent Municipal Elections. The local Tories concentrated their fire on Labour's attitude to Civil Defence. Despite this—or, perhaps because of it—all the sitting Labour councillors were returned with increased majorities.

Resolutions supporting the stand taken by the Labour Councillors have been passed by the Coventry A.E.U. (representing 30,000 workers), the Coventry Trades Council (45,000 affiliated members) and the Standard Motor

The action of Coventry's City Council in proposing to end its Civil Defence Committee has been received with enthusiastic support among the rank and file of the Labour Movement. Other Labour City Councils are considering following the lead of Coventry.

Tory militarists have viciously attacked Coventry's decision. They know very well that actions such as this disrupt their war plans.

The Editorial Board of the "Socialist Outlook" is pleased to give here a report of our correspondent who visited this Midlands town. The report shows why Coventry's Labour leaders took the decision they did. It gives their contribution to the prime need of the Labour Movement—a programme of action against war.

Works Shop Stewards Committee, on behalf of the 12,000 workers it represents.

On Saturday, June 12, the Midlands Federation of Trades Councils, at its quarterly meeting, gave full backing to what was described as "Coventry City Council's realistic attitude to Civil Defence." They adopted a resolution approving the Council's decision on C.D. and expressed the view that there was no defence against atomic weapons.

Hundreds of letters and telegrams of support for Coventry have come from all over the world.

NOT ENOUGH COFFINS

Coventry, as a city, is no stranger to air raids. The city is only now emerging, painfully and laboriously, from the damage inflicted by the blitzes of the last war. It is well to recall a little of what the people of Coventry suffered.

The first big raid on Coventry took place on November 14, 1940. It was after this raid that Dr. Goebbels boasted that the city had been "coventrated" and a new word was added to the language. On Sunday, November 17, the following notice was issued from the Mayor's office:

"Since the notice of Saturday

the 16th, steps have been taken to obtain coffins from neighbouring cities, and there is strong hope that by Wednesday the 20th November... it will be possible to provide a coffin for every one of the fallen..."

After the air raids of April, 1941, so numerous were the dead, that a notice was issued regretting "that it was not practicable to allow private burials..."

In the Central Area of the city, only 31 buildings out of 975 escaped damage. Six hundred and twenty-four shops, 121 offices and 5,566 dwellings were destroyed.

With these grim memories of the destruction wrought by "ordinary" H.E. bombs, one can be sure that the people of Coventry would not lightly reject any measures which could mitigate the horrors of a future attack from the air. It is because they are so deeply convinced that there can be no defence against the nuclear weapons that they refuse to take part in the Government's C.D. make-believe.

From the ruins left by the blitz a new Coventry is arising. Coventry's Labour Council has seized the opportunity, not only to replace the bomb-shattered buildings but to provide decent housing for the thousands of families who, before the war, were compelled to live in miserable slums.

Coventry's blitzed centre is being reconstructed into a model of what a city centre should be. Round the outskirts great new housing estates are going up, with

In an interview with Associated Press, Sir John Hodsoll Chief Technical Adviser to the N.A.T.O. civil defence committee, attacked Coventry City Council. He said their idea that the hydrogen bomb made civil defence useless was "utter nonsense."

"The old atom bomb like the one dropped on Hiroshima completely annihilated everything within a radius of one half-mile. The hydrogen bomb is supposed to rub out all life over an area of three miles," he declared.

"This is far from an absolute weapon. As long as there is a life or lives to save, the civil defence effort is definitely worth while."

houses fit for people to live in. New schools are being built. Coventry is planning for tomorrow and the day after tomorrow.

COVENTRY'S CHOICE

All this—this great new plan to make Coventry into a city worthy of the men and women who live and work in it—is being menaced by the H-bomb. This is the choice before Coventry—the beautiful new city rising from the ruins of the old or the hell and destruction which the new horror weapons will rain upon it. The people of Coventry have made their choice! They have chosen life and not death.

Cllr. Roberts, who has played a leading part in the fight against the H-bomb, stressed that it is no longer an academic question. He quoted Air Chief Marshal Sir Philip Joubert, who made it quite clear that the H-bomb is considered an important tactical weapon by the military big wigs. The H-bomb, according to the Air Marshal, can accomplish what could not be done with the mass air raids of the last war—for example, destroy all the U-boat pens.

"It could destroy all of Coventry," added Cllr. Roberts, bitterly. "Coventry, from the point of view of the enemy, is an important strategic target. It is a centre of the armaments industry. Guided missiles and jet aircraft are made here."

"Coventry", said Cllr. Roberts, "has not been informed of any defence against the H-bomb and we intend to continue this fight."

This Time

Cllr. Roberts asked Civil Defence Officer Dickinson if any special measures were being taken to meet an H-Bomb attack.

"Yes," replied Mr. Dickinson. "Arrangements have been made to take over the City's Football Ground and Butt's Stadium for the purpose of laying out the dead!"

"I don't consider the H-bomb to be a shield, nor do I believe that there is a shield against the H-bomb. I don't agree with Maxwell-Fyfe that the best defence against the H-bomb is bigger and better bombs against the enemy. That is what Stanley Baldwin said about the bomber plane before the last war. It is certainly not a comforting thought for the people of Coventry."

"It is no solution to turn Civil Defence into a fourth arm of the state or to try, by re-organisation, to placate the public opinion that has been aroused against weapons of mass destruction."

"Coventry has been attacked in the House of Commons, in the Tory Press and on the B.B.C. for our threat to end the Civil Defence Committee. The support we have had from ordinary people all over the world, whose lives we are defending, gives us the strength to carry on the struggle for the removal of the H-Bomb."

STAY AND TAKE IT

"THE threat of catastrophic attack upon the nation has increased considerably more rapidly than the capability of passive defence measures to absorb it" said an article in the "New York Times" of Sunday, June 13.

The author of this article—Hanson W. Baldwin—was discussing the civil defence drill which took place throughout America on the following day.

The Civil Defence authorities, it appears, had been divided into two bodies of thought. There were those who argued for a "stay and take it" policy. That meant the population of the cities in the event of an atomic attack, should rely on the so-called shelters for protection. The second policy, now advocated by the American Civil Defence Agency, is "pre-attack dispersal" or the "take to the hills" policy. People in congested areas of the cities are supposed to ride or walk to the outskirts on being given warning of an air raid.

Comments Hanson W. Baldwin: "This policy, however, contains within it some major contradictions. An hour or more of warning is deemed essential to even the limited success of "pre-attack dis-

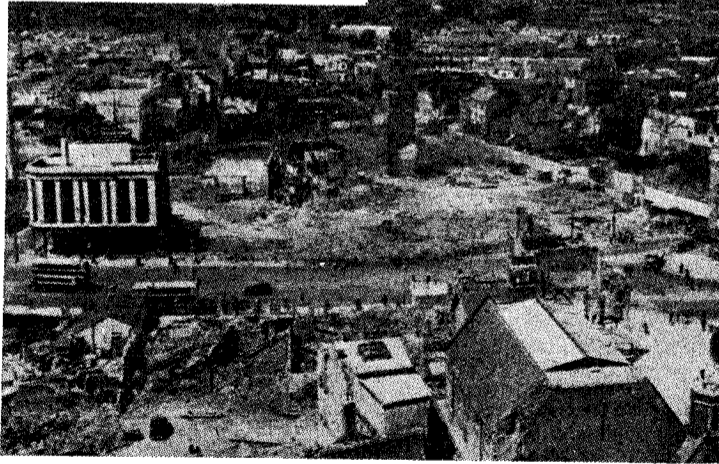
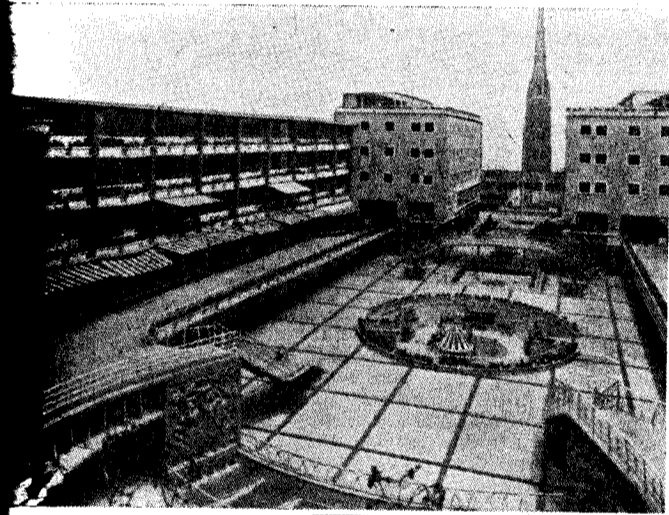
persal." Yet the Federal Civil Defence Administration in its 1953 annual report, recently released, states that "although complete surprise is possible, it is assumed that approximately 15 minutes warning can now be given to the public" (our emphasis).

Pre-attack dispersal could be a cause of tremendous panic and cost more lives than the atomic bomb. That, indeed, is the opinion of Baldwin. The evacuation of women and children from London at the beginning of the last war took not an hour, but days. And if New York can expect only 15 minutes warning of an H-bomb attack, London can expect less. How is London's eight million population to be evacuated in that time away from the range of destruction of this bomb? Or does it "stay and take it," then crawl out from among the ruins—what little of it is left—to fire, plague and pestilence?

The article in the "New York Times" only underlines the conclusion that these civil defence preparations are part of the psychological preparations for war—giving the populations the false impression that the governments have some means of meeting atomic or hydrogen bomb attacks.

A City Rebuilt or . . .

Coventry Centre as planned



Coventry centre after 1940 blitz

. . . A City Destroyed

Resolution submitted by the Coventry Boro' Labour Party at the Annual Conference of the Labour Party:

This Conference views with horror the destructive power of the Hydrogen Bomb and believes that if used in warfare there is no real protection for the world's population, and is determined to destroy civilization. We call upon the Labour Party to give the lead to the powers in the world to ban such weapons of mass destruction and to direct their resources so as to harness nuclear energy for the benefit of mankind, and for the resolution to be contained in the next policy statement at the next General Conference.

WORLD NEWS in Brief

DAKAR two companies of troops left by plane on Saturday to assist French imperialists in their present difficulties in the present difficulties in

INDIAN Foreign Secretary, Mr. K. Nehru, has lodged a protest with the French government over France's action in sending troops to Pondicherry on June 16.

NEW YORK TIMES on June 16 that the wheat market had been depressed on the previous day, with prices down. Its report was headlined "Crop outlook tends to be gloomy."

IN NORTHERN IRELAND the government has re-introduced the special powers given to the police 32 years ago. The special powers were lifted several years ago. The police will be able to enter buildings without warrants, stop and search vehicles without warrants and interrogate suspected persons under the restored powers.

IN FLINT, AMERICA, William Panderdoes, who refused to cooperate with the witch-hunting Un-American Activities Committee, has been fired by his employers, General Motors. His offence? He is accused of "falsifying" his job application in 1949 by not listing the fact that he has a bachelor's degree in social science.

IN MEXICO, the principal trade union, the Confederacion Trabajadores Mexicanos, has ordered a general strike of its members on July 12 for a 24 per cent. wage increase.

IN EAST BENGAL, arrests since the government was dismissed by Pakistan now total 900.

THE HONDURAS Consul General in New York wrote a letter to the "New York Times" published May 22. He quoted the following examples of what U.S. imperialism has meant to this Latin-American country. In 1932 a labourer who earned \$1.25 to \$1.50 paid 12 cents a pound for coffee, 6 cents for rice or beans and bought his machete needed to cut bananas for 88 cents. In 1954 the labourer earns \$1.68 and pays for the same commodities 90 cents, 25 cents and \$4 respectively.

IN WASHINGTON on June 17, the House Foreign Affairs Committee voted to continue to bar military aid for France and Italy until they ratify the proposed six-nation European army plan.

AT KAHAWA, ten miles from Nairobi, Kenya, 1,600 men, 500 women and 150 children were interrogated after a sweep by British troops. A total of 1,350 men and women were detained.

IN MADRID, Spanish millionaire Juan March recently gave a little "coming out party" for his granddaughter, Leonor. Entertainers were specially flown out from various parts of the world, gallons of expensive champagne were consumed. Senor March's bill: £25,000.

★ NEWS FROM GUIANA ★

Georgetown, British Guiana, June 10, 1954.

Eleven persons, including two former Ministers of the deposed P.P.P. Government and three members of the House of Assembly have received a total of 24 charges for having undesirable publications in their possession. These charges followed recent police raids.

Nasrudeen, P.P.P. district secretary now imprisoned for six months for disobeying the Emergency Orders, has written from prison stating that he is forced to go barefoot and that, although a political prisoner, he must work.

On June 3rd, Janet Jagan, was served with a summons charging her with the unlawful possession of a book, "Manual of Riot Drill, B.G. Police Force, 1953." Hearing is fixed for June 18.

Governor Savage made an Order under the Emergency Party.

Orders yesterday empowering the Commissioner of Police to close down for 24 hours any printing press which publishes any matter comprising:

- The advocacy or encouragement or approbation of disobedience to any authority lawfully constituted.
- The advocacy or encouragement or approbation of disobedience, of resistance to or disregard of, any of the laws of the Colony.
- Any matter tending to promote ill-will or feeling, or hostility towards Her Majesty's Forces in the Colony.

The Police have power to close down the press for 24 hours and the Governor may order that the place remain closed for a further specified period. It is considered that this Control of Propaganda Order 1954, is aimed at the weekly publication of "Thunder", an organ of the People's Progressive Party.

Class Politics

LODGING turns for locomen, demands for increased effort and efficiency from workers in general but particularly from railwaymen and miners; gifts to steel barons, bankers and landlords. Those are the naked class policies of the Tory Government and their agencies in the nationalised industries.

Under the banner of "efficiency" workers in the nationalised industries are faced with demands to accept worsened conditions. Sir Hubert Houldsworth, chairman of the National Coal Board has expressed his "disappointment" at the slowness of the increase in production in the mines. The Transport Commission aim to save a total of £16½ million by economy measures during the next few years. More freight than pre-war is already being carried on the railways with less men and fewer locos and wagons.

The drive to "efficiency" takes place at the expense of the workers. Every wage increase that has been granted recently to the employees of nationalised industries has been linked with demands for greater effort.

But no guarantees are asked for or given by Big Business when it takes back part of the nationalised steel industry and makes £11½ million on the deal. And Big Business in steel was the most restrictive of all pre-war monopoly rings. Even an important steelmaker himself, Mr. H. Summers, declared when the old Iron

natural and inevitable. Labour must show as great a concern for the interests of the working people as the Tories do for the bankers, landlords and steel magnates.

So as to prevent the efforts of the workers lining the pockets of Big Business, Labour must elaborate a programme of the nationalisation of all the basic industries, socialist planning and the suspension of compensation payments which have already amply rewarded those who exploited the mines and railways for so long.



THE "Daily Herald" in its editorial on June 20 rightly waxed indignant at the results of the Boundaries Commission. From start to finish the activities of this undoubtedly Tory-minded body have been directed towards the division of constituencies in such a way that it benefits Tory candidates.

Hard-working Labour Parties, who hold marginal constituencies by narrow majorities, see the results of all their efforts dashed by the attachment of a pro-Labour ward to another constituency or the addition of a Tory ward to their own.

In the name of "democracy" the "Herald" calls upon the government to "play the game." What stupid nonsense! The government is playing the game so far as its own supporters go. What does the "Herald" expect? That a Tory government could do otherwise than help itself?

In reality, this is what the "Herald" and its Right-wing supporters do expect. The real architect of the Boundaries Commission is none other than Herbert Morrison, who was responsible for its introduction in 1949. Both he and the "Herald" have been and are now for collaboration and compromise with the Tories. The struggle against them is regarded as very much of "a game", and that is why they can never wage a real fight to get rid of them.

This task falls on Labour's Left—incidentally, it is their seats which are affected in many instances. The N.E.C. should be immediately instructed to publish a full report of the findings of the Boundaries Commission and institute a campaign to have its biased decisions removed.

Editorial

and Steel Federation was being formed: "The main objects were to bolster up redundant and obsolete plant and by rings and quotas to put up the cost to the consumer." The firms who had those objects then are going back into business in steel now.

The steel companies will reap the benefit from increased efficiency in the coal mines and railways, brought about by the increased effort of the workers in those industries. Not only have their increased efforts paid over £250 million in compensation to the ex-coal owners and £44 million a year on the railways, but they will be used to provide cheap fuel and transport for profit-hungry capitalists in the steel industry.

The issues of compensation and further nationalisation remain vital to the Labour Party. The £250 million received by the ex-coal owners is already well above the original estimate of the value of the collieries; which was £164 millions.

The Tory Government pursues its policies in the interests of the class it represents. That is

East Salford "Socialist Outlook" Readers' Meeting
"GUATEMALA, THE FACTS"
Speaker: **Bob Pennington**
at 52 Wellington Street West, Higher Broughton, Salford 7
on Tuesday, June 29. 8 p.m.

Birmingham Shareholders and Readers:
T. MERCER
(Member of Editorial Board)
Sunday, June 27th, at 7.30 p.m.
at Tamworth Arms, Moor St., Birmingham.

Manchester Area Shareholders and Readers:
W. HUNTER
(Member of Editorial Board)
Friday, July 2, 8 p.m.
at Thatched House, Market Street, Manchester

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Behind the News. 1

GUATEMALA AND ITS GOVERNMENT

by Peter Ibbotson

ACCORDING to the *Washington Star*, four or six submarines are prowling around the Caribbean Sea: one has been sighted off the coast of Nicaragua. Of course, the American press says they are Soviet submarines (snow on their periscopes, perhaps) which are out to stir up a general revolution. Presumably Guatemala is—as has been alleged before—their base. Poor Guatemala! She gets the most amazing and far-fetched allegation against her.

Not only allegations. The purchase of arms from an Iron Curtain country was stigmatised as an act in the Communist plot for world-wide domination. Now, when Guatemala buys six tons of anti-aircraft ammunition from another country—Switzerland—American initiative has prevented that shipment leaving Hamburg.

Why does Guatemala want anti-aircraft ammunition? At the beginning of this month, another foreign-inspired plot against the democratic Arbenz government was uncovered; and the Guatemalan government has found that the interventionists are planning to use jet planes.

The opposition parties in the Guatemalan Congress agree with the government that the arms should be bought, not only as of right, but as a duty. The first duty of a government is to protect

FIGHTING FUND

Our Fighting Fund this month so far is £32 4s. 0d. This is only £2 5s. 0d. above the total given in last week's Socialist Outlook. It is still below last month's total. You have one week, comrades! Let us have a final effort to bring your contributions well above those of May.

Edinburgh readers, 5/-; Nottingham readers, £1; R.E., 11/-; West London readers, £10 13s. 6d.; Leeds readers, £1 10s. 0d.; South-West London readers, £2 5s. 6d.; Yorkshire miners, £1; East Islington readers, £1 7s. 0d.; Norwood readers, £2 4s. 6d.; Miscellaneous, £11 17s. 6d.

Total £32 4s. 0d.

the state from armed attack, and the Arbenz government is determined to defend Guatemala from invasion by foreign powers and by counter-revolutionaries.

The parrot-cry of "Communist" is being repeated at the Pentagon and in the lickspittle American press—but as the *Guatemala City* correspondent of the Paris "Le Monde" made clear in two articles which were reprinted in the "Manchester Guardian" on June 10 and 12, Guatemala is certainly not Communist.

Says *Le Monde's* writer: "The first American warnings against the Communist danger took place at the same time as the first expropriations of land belonging to the United Fruit Company"; and he goes on to say that American disquiet coincided with "the beginning of a Guatemalan nationalist movement working for economic independence." But despite the facts, Dulles on June 10 and Nixon on June 14 kept up the drum-banging about Guatemala's Communist-controlled Government. As a matter of fact, there are four Communists in Guatemala's 68-strong Congress (Parliament); how they "control" the other 64 is beyond me.

At the base of Guatemala's march to economic independence is the Agrarian Reform Law under which uncultivated land was nationalised (compensation was paid in the form of interest-bearing bonds on the basis of the value of the land as declared for tax purposes) and handed, through the agency of the National Agrarian Department, to the hitherto landless peasants. In this way, thousands of acres of uncultivated land have been brought under production with consequent prosperity for the peasants. Guatemala's export trade has been expanded. Cotton, sugar, rice, coffee—the production of all has risen; and Guatemala is able to export cotton and rice instead of having to import them to meet all her people's needs. And that despite the rising standard of living and increased prosperity of the people (whose demand for consumer goods and food has gone up).

Apart from land reform, what else has Guatemala done to break

the stranglehold of the monopolies? Her three ports were owned by United Fruit, and her railways were controlled by the International Railroad Company of Central America. To break reliance on a company port on the Atlantic, Guatemala has undertaken the construction of a new state-owned port on the Atlantic coast—Santo Tomas—hard by the United Fruit Company's port of Puerto Barrios. The port installation at Santo Tomas will mean added facilities for handling exports and imports, and will avoid the frustrating delays hitherto associated with reliance on the company port facilities.

This new port will be linked with Guatemala City by a new 200-mile long Atlantic Highway, a completely new roadway for heavy traffic. Construction of the highway will reduce freight charges. It is the first project of a four-year plan for heavy-duty roadways designed to cover Guatemala with a network of paved roads to the length of 750 miles.

By means of roadways, the

power of the Railroad monopoly will be broken. And it is worthy to add that it was International Bank of Reconstruction that, after studying investigating International Road's freight charges and stranglehold on Guatemala, recommended the construction of this Atlantic Highway. Perhaps the State Department will now stigmatize International Bank as a Communist body?

When the new construction works—highway, Santo Tomas port, and electric power station—have been completed, Guatemala will be largely rid of dependence on American monopoly interests. It cannot be too often repeated and emphasised that the desire for economic independence is at the root of the United States propaganda campaign against Guatemala.

As a columnist in the Guatemalan daily *Nuestro Diario* wrote: "All the communism that attributed to Guatemala would be forgotten if we gave United Fruit 15 millions, left Electric Bond & Share in peace, and abandoned construction of the highway to Atlantic and the port of Santo Tomas."

Behind the News. 2

BIG BUSINESS RIDES HIGH

WHEN the steel industry was nationalised one of the toughest nuts to crack was that of the *English Steel Corporation*. This organisation was jointly controlled by the mighty arms giant—Vickers—and the Merseyside builders of battle-ships—Cammell Lairds. Most of the steel companies were valued, for compensation purposes, on the basis of Stock Exchange prices, but English Steel was not quoted on the

ing the war, made the attitude Vickers quite clear some time ago when he said that the interests English Steel would only be purchased "subject to the terms being satisfactory and subject to political, financial and economic factors." It appears that Sir Ronald Weeks finds that the present deal satisfies all of these conditions—and who is likely to contradict him?

One of the disquieting features of this affair is the strange silence which has shrouded official Labour circles. It is understandable that the Tories do not wish the full implications of this deal to be realised by the ordinary people, but why is Labour so quiet?

The Tory Party has been consistent in its bitter opposition to the nationalisation of steel. The coal mines and the railways were a financial burden and could easily be abandoned—but not the all-powerful, very profitable steel. Every possible trick was pulled out of the bag by the Tories to prevent nationalisation of the industry. They are now having a wonderful time in returning it to private ownership.

The steel barons themselves also did all they could to sabotage the nationalisation of the industry, even to the extent of walking out of the old Iron and Steel Board in 1948 in the hopes that it would wreck the Labour Government's plans. Now they are being helped back into control of the industry by astute Tory policies in order to continue where they left off in 1951.

How much longer is organised Labour going to stand the pushing around of the steel barons and their Tory friends? How much longer are these few men going to country to ransom? To talk, a "Challenge to Britain" does, of restoring the industry to public ownership "on terms which will ensure that no profit is made at the expense of the public" is all very well—providing the interpretation of the word "terms" is strict enough. The people of Britain are now entitled to some compensation from the steel barons for all the inconvenience they are suffering as a result of the financial dealings.

By Bernard Dix

Exchange. The amount of compensation was settled by long and hard negotiations.

For months George Strauss, Minister of Supply in the Labour Government, battled with Sir Alan Rae Smith—the accountant who was acting for the two firms—in an effort to reach some satisfactory agreement. Finally, the sum of £21,150,000 was passed over—£14,323,000 for Vickers and £6,827,000 for Cammell Lairds. Even in the learned circles of the City the opinion was expressed that the price was high, relative to what had been paid for the other steel interests.

The second chapter of this story has just ended. After negotiations lasting some eight months, Vickers and Cammell Lairds have once again come out tops. For £10,000,000 they have purchased from the denationalisation body, the Iron and Steel Holding and Realisation Agency, the whole of the equity capital of English Steel—leaving £10,000,000 of preference shares and debenture stock in the hands of I.S.H.R.A. This means that the two giants, Vickers and Cammell Lairds, now exercise the same control over English Steel as they did prior to nationalisation—for only the equity capital carries voting rights and this is now owned by the two firms for an outlay of £11,500,000 less than they received in compensation from the Labour Government.

It also means that the government Holding Agency is left with a pile of preference shares and debenture stock which are likely to prove extremely difficult to dispose of because they carry no voting rights. There are few capitalists who will provide £10,000,000 capital without some say in management.

It has been obvious for some time that such a move was likely to take place. There was no attempt at secrecy. The big boss of Vickers, Lieut.-General Sir Ronald Weeks, who was Deputy Chief of the Imperial Staff and Military Governor of Berlin dur-

testimony to the still strong appeal of the "New Deal" politics associated with the Roosevelt name.

The California returns must be viewed in the context of the absence of a labour party and the resultant expression of moods of discontent of the workers and middle class through the medium of the Democratic party. The Democratic party is still mistakenly viewed by many as "the working-man's party" or at least the "lesser evil" to the Republicans. In that light the returns are an encouraging indication of growing concern over the issues of unemployment and war, and a clear expression of growing opposition to the witch-hunt.

Despite all "optimistic" predictions by the government, the unemployment situation remains acute. It is estimated that more than a million June school graduates will be confronted with "no help wanted" signs.

According to crudely doctored government figures, unemployment will pass the four million mark by July. These figures have been sharply contradicted by the leaders of the A.F.L. and C.I.O., who find on the basis of independent union surveys that there are already between five and six million jobless.

Contradicting the "optimism" of government spokesmen, C.I.O. president Walter Reuther declared the situation "can hardly be called encouraging," and demanded that the government act "quickly and vigorously to stimulate employ-

By H. Ring

system the Republicans have entered and very frequently captured nominations in the Democratic party in California. This time, the first in forty years, all Republican candidates were defeated in the Democratic primaries. A new ruling requiring the labelling of the actual affiliation of candidates undoubtedly contributed to this result.

Perhaps the most significant of the results was the victory of Congressman Robert L. Condon in the Democratic primary. Condon, while a member of Congress was denied access to the Nevada A-bomb tests as a "poor security risk." He won re-nomination in the face of powerful opposition from the witch-hunters of both parties.

Close to this result in significance as a sign of the trend was the defeat in both parties of State Senator Jack Tenney, a notorious fascist who headed California's Legislative witch-hunt committee for many years. Throughout the campaign the labour and liberal opposition to Tenney was branded as part of a plot of "organised Jewry."

James Roosevelt, son of the late president, won a six to one victory after being disavowed by the Democratic National Committee on the grounds of "political scandal that broke the party's beginning of the victory is ge

American Newsletter

Vote Expresses Discontent

THE victory of the Democratic party on June 8 in the primary election in the important state of California was enough of a turn in the political trend in the United States to provoke the usually staid "New York Times" to characterise it as a "political revolution." The elections were marked by the defeat of an open Jew-baiting fascist, the victory of a witch-hunt victim and a heavy majority for James Roosevelt despite unfavourable odds due to widely publicised marital difficulties.

Political observers awaited this particular election with keen interest. Last November, in a series of key areas, there was a marked swing back to the Democrats from the Republicans. The present California election was viewed as an important indication as to whether or not the trend would continue, especially since that state was a notable exception to the shift toward the Democrats last November. The current results show that the trend back to the Democrats is continuing and deepening.

Primary elections are preliminary contests in which the major parties select their candidates for the November elections. However, in California the law permits "cross-filing". Under this

"SOCIALIST OUTLOOK" XMAS BAZAAR

A committee has been set up to organise a bazaar to assist the funds of "Socialist Outlook."

It will be much appreciated if any reader of the paper who can assist this venture in any way, would get in touch with the organiser: George Ellis, c/o "Socialist Outlook," 177, Bermondsey Street, S.E.1.

How your Cost of Living Rises

What the Figures don't Show

THE Tories with political tongue in cheek blandly tell us that the cost of living for British workers is rising. Their proof? They say that their official figures have been steady now for nearly a year. They play with figures while we watch the prices rise. They use their figures as a phoney political front for their increasing attacks on our living standards.

—the working-class Tory M.P. He is certainly not one of us. We find ourselves much below his vaunted standard of living. The mass of workers earns far less than this average because this average is boosted by the small number who are able to earn very high wages.

FOREIGN TRADE

A more knotty problem affecting the cost of living is that of our ability to pay our way overseas now that the capitalist rivals, Japan and Germany have entered the arena once again. We are an importing nation. Half the food we eat has to be bought overseas. If the prices of our imports are rising then we can expect to pay more for these goods at home. From 1949 to 1951 this is what happened. Prices of imports rose by 60 per cent. and our cost of living rose by 10 per cent. If the Labour Government had not maintained rigid controls in the form of food subsidies and rent controls then it would have risen even more.

Then the Tory experts took over. They were given a free gift straight away because in 1951 the prices of imports dropped by 15 per cent. This could have been of great advantage to this country. Our goods which we were selling abroad could have been cheapened. This would have made them easier to sell and we would have made progress in paying our way as a country. The rise in the prices of things at home could have been halted and things could have been brought down in price. But what happened? The prices of things did not drop; they were not even held.

They rose another 10 per cent.

Was this Tory mismanagement? Not at all. They were managing things very nicely. All their friends were doing very well. The only people suffering were the housewives and the workers.

We cannot blame the Tories for carrying out a Tory policy. What we can do is make sure that they never get into power again. In

the meantime we must struggle to prevent this class from eating any more into our lives. When the mass organisations of the workers go into action in the Trade Unions, in the Labour Party ranks, and in the Co-ops, we must be there fighting. The Tories started this class war. Let us finish it. Let us work and work hard for the rescue and final victory of the Labour Movement.

MEAT WILL GO UP

FOR those who dream that the end of meat rationing in July will bring the "benefits of free competition" and an abundance of cheap meat, a rude awakening lies in store.

Plans are already well ahead for giant monopoly organisations to take over when the Ministry of Food leaves off.

The biggest of the new marketing schemes is that sponsored by the British Farmers' Unions in Scotland, Ulster and England. These Unions have set up the Fat Stock Marketing Corporation, Ltd., which will cover the distribution of home-killed meat in the main consuming areas in the country.

It is estimated that for a start the Corporation will handle one-fifth of the country's total supply of fresh meat, with an annual turnover of well over £100,000,000. Eventually it hopes to extend the area of operation until it monopolises the whole trade.

The Corporation has reached

an agreement with one of the biggest pre-war London meat distributors, Messrs. Frankel & Clarfelt, Ltd., and has a controlling interest in one of the biggest organisations operating in Smithfield—United Fresh Meat, Ltd.

In Scotland the Corporation has a tie-up with Messrs. Spence Bros., of Glasgow.

This ensures that this new monopoly will have an effective control over wholesale meat prices. As the retail meat trade is already in the hands of a network of chain-shops, all the machinery is to hand to keep up the price of meat.

Behind the farmers are the big banks and the finance houses, who, according to Mr. Alan H. B. Grant, Chairman of the Scottish N.F.U.'s Fat Stock Committee, have given assurances that "finances would be no embarrassment."

The only people who will be financially embarrassed will be the working-class housewives, who will have to pay monopoly prices for the meat—or go without.

People, Places and Politics

By Cassia

RICH MAN'S BURDEN

I HAVE often felt sorry for the tycoons of big business who stagger through this world under the weight of their responsibilities. Now, after reading a statement made by Sir Charles Colston, of the Institute of Directors, before the Royal Commission on Taxation, I positively weep for them. Sir Charles told the Commission many business men would give anything to get out of entertaining which in many instances was a burden, they only did it as a duty and part of their job.

So now you know. When your boss is showing the fellow-business man from overseas the sights of London from the front row of the Windmill Theatre he is merely shouldering part of the onerous lot which the capitalist form of society has placed upon him. When he is sitting in the Grill Room of the Savoy Hotel apparently enjoying the company of his fellow-directors and a glass of whisky he is not really happy but is merely doing his duty.

This should encourage all of us in our efforts to relieve these people of their job—not only will we be improving conditions for the workers but we will be saving the capitalist class a lot of unnecessary suffering!

THE SEEDS OF DESTRUCTION

ARTHUR DEAKIN last week took the opportunity of warning the National Union of Seamen, whose annual meeting he was addressing, and the trade

union movement at large, of the dangers which confronted a union which did not stand "rigidly and honourably" by the agreements which it entered into. Agreements, said Arthur Deakin, should be carried out whether they were good, bad, or indifferent, until such time as it was possible to change them. A union which did not do this "sows the seed of its own destruction."

I don't think that the employers will be slow to realise the full implications of such a policy should it be widely adopted by the trade union movement, for it will mean that the members of a trade union will have to sit back and suffer whatever the employers like to impose upon them while they wait for signatures to be placed on a piece of paper. Not that I am opposed to agreements being signed—but there are many times when other forms of activity are more suitable. A diet of large masses of paper may suit the appetites of certain trade union bureaucrats but it does not always provide the worker's family with pleasing meals—and it also tends to constipate the Movement!

RESTRAIN HIM!

REMEMBERING the unholy row which the policy of "wage-restraint" caused when the Labour Government was in office I find it rather difficult to believe a recent report which credited Victor Feather, the Assistant Secretary of the T.U.C., with the suggestion that: "Within twelve months, if prices could be stabilised, I think the T.U.C. might ask the unions to consider bringing back the policy of wage-restraint."

STRAIGHT OR CROOKED?

A YEAR or so ago Robert Thouless, a Cambridge educational psychologist, wrote a small book entitled, "Straight and Crooked Thinking" which is in effect a handbook for those who argue, debate, discuss, or engage in similar activities.

I was reminded of this book when I read the headline and front page lead in the "Daily Express" on June 19. The headline read: "BANANA-LAND WAR IS ON" and in the body of the article reference was made to "the Central American banana State." Thouless, in his book, lists in an appendix what he calls: "Thirty-eight dishonest tricks which are commonly used in argument"; number 21 on the list is—"Suggestion by repeated affirmation." Do you see the connection? The "Daily Express" obviously thinks that the best way to tackle this news item is to create the impression that Guatemala is a place of no consequence—so it repeatedly affirms that it is a "banana" land, a trick on behalf of the capitalist class.

QUOTE FOR THE WEEK

"... the mere addition of Mr. Gaitskell to the executive would materially strengthen the anti-Bevanite forces on it; they are strong in numbers but a little thin in intellectual power." The "Economist," June 19, 1954.

"TO HIM THAT HATH" The bankers and financiers are right. When Butler juggled with the Bank Rate they found they had won a cool £100,000 a year. And the higher your income was the more you were let off in income tax. In fact if you earned £100,000 a year you were rewarded by another £2,500 in tax concessions. Not bad for pin money—another £50 a week.

Now after waiting in the queue patiently for over two years for

By

Ray Bradbury

the spoils of the Tory war it is the landlord's turn. He will not have waited in vain. We will soon be paying higher rents, and rates, in the name of Tory justice. "To him that hath shall be given." Each time that Butler rewards his friends for their votes we find that we suffer a further reduction in our living standards to pay for it.

When we organise and demand with growing anxiety more money to pay these price increases we are told that WE are bankrupting the country. Surely our demands are modest. The M.P.s have just voted themselves a £10 a week rise.

The Tory economic wizards have confused our ranks with their appeal to the official figures. But you do not cure a patient suffering from anaemia by painting him red. Neither will the Tories cure our complaint by painting it over with a gloss of statistical delusions.

THE KEY IS FOOD

The key to the cost of living is food. For most of us food is the most important weekly buy. If the price of food goes up then our living standard falls. Of course, if we happen to be able to earn enough to get us into one of the better paid groups then we are compensated for the rise in food by a cheapening of certain other articles in our budget, like clothes and furniture. But how many of us this week were going to buy a new bedroom suite? How many of us were about to purchase a new summer wardrobe? Most of us have to do with what we had last year and the year before.

Not so Butler's friends. They are buying their pieces of contemporary furniture. They are buying outfits for their trip to Cannes. What do they care if tea is up 4d. a pound, or butter another 6d.? This is a mere drop in their ocean of spending. For us, however, it spells the difference between a bare enough and a real want. We must buy less of something else which we cherish, go on to margarine or stand by and watch while thousands of old-age pensioners are unable to buy their meagre rations.

Wages have not kept pace with the increase in prices. What has kept pace is the wage earned by a fictitious average man, as elusive a figure as that Scarlet Pimpernel of the House of Commons

We aren't fooled by figures!

Engineers Want a Wage Increase

Says Cllr. L. Lake

IN December, 1953, morale and militancy were high among engineering workers in Britain. They had just demonstrated wonderful solidarity in a One-Day token strike to press a wage claim of 15 per cent. which the employers had totally rejected. Had they been given a bold lead at that time there is no doubt they would have responded to any call for further action.

Instead, a majority of Union leaders on the Confederation of Engineering and Shipbuilding Unions got cold feet. The matter was referred to the long-drawn out processes of a Court of Inquiry. The ultimate result—a miserable 5 per cent. increase—is now history, but even yet the sad story is incomplete. The A.E.U. National Committee have declared against the tabling of any new wage claim at present.

DISAPPOINTMENT GROWS

Disappointment is growing as full realisation of what is implied in this new policy percolates through to branch and factory floor. The A.E.U. National Committee—whose lead is usually accepted by the Confederation—normally meets annually and decides on policy for the year. A.E.U. members are now asking if we must wait until the 1955 National Committee meets before a new wage claim can even be tabled. Already they are disgusted at the excessive slowness of negotiation on successive wages claims in recent years.

The value of each past increase has been undermined by this slowness. By the time an increase has been granted, it has been nearly a year out of date and made obsolete by a constantly ris-

ing cost of living. This was particularly true of the last increase. Engineers were given only one-third of what they had first claimed, nearly a year previously. Even now living costs continue to rise and employers' profits continue to soar. If engineers had valid grounds for a 15 per cent. wage increase in 1953 (which was proved to the hilt in the case presented by the Unions) how can they make do with 5 per cent. until 1956?

NEW WAGES STRUCTURE: NO ALTERNATIVE

Few of those concerned will be naive enough to believe that the alternative offered by the A.E.U. National Committee, namely a fight for a new wage structure, will be effective, or likely to bring quick returns by way of the wage packet.

Engineering employers have never accepted the principle of retrospective pay and have been able to save themselves thousands of pounds by delaying tactics in wage negotiations. This has been the position where a straightforward wage advance has been applied for. The complexities of the wages structure will give them endless opportunities for this tactic. Even when negotiations are complete, what guarantee is there that any new wages structure will be of financial benefit to the majority of workers in the industry?

We are told that the employers have set their faces against any further wage increases. In these circumstances it is likely that they will grant one by the back door? Their aim will surely be to delay as long as possible and then offer a wages structure of such a nature as to create maximum disruption among the workers in the industry, setting various grades of workers against each other.

The Trade Union movement was built up as a weapon of struggle by the workers to maintain and improve their conditions of labour in face of attacks by employers. The A.E.U. in particular has a proud record in this respect. The wonderful demonstration of December 2 last will not soon be forgotten by its members. It was no fault of theirs that the eventual result was so poor. Will they now stand idly by whilst the meagre fruits gained melt away into the profits of the

landlord, for instance? While the Union chiefs lose themselves in the maze of the wages structure negotiations, what must the man on the shop floor do meantime to protect his deteriorating living standards? Are branch meetings now to turn to a study of astronomy and Shop Stewards' Committees to take up music lessons?

MEMBERS WILL WANT A LEAD

The likelihood is that the opposite will happen. Under pressure of economic circumstances, members will demand a lead from militant Shop Stewards and local officials whom they know and trust. They will not readily suffer a decline in their real wages. The December spirit is still evident and will be shown in countless local struggles on a factory basis. The focus of these campaigns will be the Shop Steward and it is on this key position that the employers may well launch their counter-attack.

It is a sobering thought that with all the elaborate negotiating machinery built up in recent years,

with all the galaxy of talent among our full-time officers: all this is powerless to save a Shop Steward if he is victimised. Under the obsolete "procedure" laid down in the York Memorandum, the employers hold all the trump cards. Talks round the table continue long after the Steward has, in fact, been sacked. It is still the responsibility of the men on the shop-floor to take strike action if they wish to stop this. We are all familiar with the appeals for money that constantly circulate in our branches from factories where this has happened.

Negotiations for a new procedure started so long ago that most of us have grown weary of seeing their termination. In view of this all A.E.U. members will enthusiastically support the decision of the National Committee instructing the E.C. to press for a speed up. If we cannot have a national wages campaign this year, and we are looking for a means of strengthening our organisation, let us have a speedy and satisfactory settlement to this question that will give the Shop Steward the security and protection that he deserves and which is the necessary prelude to our further advancement.

PROBLEMS OF YOUTH CONSCRIPTS FOR CAPITALISM

by Bob Osborne

HOW much longer is the youth of Britain to be committed to the defence of capitalism? For that is what conscription means. In the Parliamentary debates on the Service Estimates, last March, it was stressed by the Tory Government that owing to "our" overseas commitments it was not possible to reduce the period of National Service.

Let us have a look at some of these commitments. In the Canal Zone, it is estimated, there are 80,000 service men. They are not there to defend Britain but to intimidate Egypt. Are they defending Britain when they raise Egyptian villages to the ground? And, why are they in Kenya? I don't think it is to defend the poverty-stricken Africans from white landlords. They are there to ensure the white settlers are supreme over land-starved Africans.

In British Guiana, British troops guard the interests of the sugar barons, and prevent a democratically-elected government from ruling. They are used to

smash a workers' party, a workers' government and workers' organisations in the interests of capitalism.

In Malaya, the rubber and tin companies' profits are of more use to our British rulers than the lives of the Malayan people. British troops help to uproot whole villages and keep down the population.

Wherever the British imperialist flag flies the use of British servicemen is its safeguard.

Here at home, the use of conscripts to break strikes is well-known. I know it from personal experience. During my term of conscription I was one of a number of servicemen who were mobilised to help break the 1950 dock strike. Fortunately, for me, the strike ended while I was being transported to be an unwilling blackleg on my fellow workers. That was during the time of the

Labour Government. Yet, when conscription was introduced before the war, the Labour Party leaders stated it should not be used for industrial purposes.

As Socialists we call for a socialist policy; therefore the first move of the Labour League of Youth should be to fight for the abolition of conscription and reserve training. Youth must have an elementary freedom—freedom to work without the fear of conscription which disrupts their apprenticeships and security.

This is one of the main problems of the youth of today. Conscription must be fought as helping the war against the colonial people and as part of the preparations for a Third World War.

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