

THE

Week

news analysis for socialists 9d.

BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION

We would like, in this first issue of the Week to take this opportunity to explain our objectives and the reason for our existence. We will not present readers with a long catechism of wishes, but rather indicate the type of publication we are endeavouring to create. The Week has no intention of duplicating the efforts of other established socialist journals such as New Left Review, The Voice and ETribune. Our aim is rather to complement these journals, and others, whilst maintaining constructive relations with them.

Socialists today have a difficult and prodigious task in remaining both active as socialists and keeping conversant with the significance of a whole plethora of national and international events, large and small. In a world where a relatively minor occurrence in a small and little-known country like Laos has the potential of triggering events of nuclear and global significance the need for detailed and accurate information in a precise and useful form cannot be denied. On the other hand, to complete the dilemma of socialists, there exists a host of socialist publications, many of which are contradictory and occasionally tendentious and harmful. There is also the physical impossibility of absorbing all this material, let alone making a critical assessment of it. Detailed information vital for an understanding of the underlying processes at work in society appears in a lengthy form in journals such as The Economist, New Society, Board of Trade Journal, etc., but no journal offers a digest of such information.

To this end The Week has established a net-work of correspondents from amongst our sponsors and supporters throughout the country (a list of sponsors appears below), each with specialist knowledge in some field and with ability to comment speedily on events of significance. Internationally, we have many correspondents who ^{will} send in regular reports covering important events in their countries. When important events take place we will commission special correspondents to comment upon them and interpret them for our readers.

The Week, whilst not having a long statement of aims, will support every endeavour to achieve the election of a Labour Government with a socialist policy; will support the struggle of the colonial peoples for national and social liberation; will sympathetically report news of the fight against monolithism in the communist countries; and will defend the ideas of socialist democracy against all who oppose them.

Robin Blackburn - Ken Coates (editors)

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ANOTHER UNION JOINS THE T.U.C.

At their December meeting the T.U.C. General Council accepted an application for affiliation from the National Union of Water-Works Employees. The union, which was formed in 1906, has 3,000 members. Its affiliation brings the number of unions in the T.U.C. up to 117.

NEW LEFT REVIEW

The latest issue of New Left Review, on sale now, has a number of extremely interesting articles, notably one by Roger Murray and Tom Wengraf on the Algerian Revolution. Other articles in this issue include "Growth, Trade and Aid" by J.R. Sargent; two articles on Britain "Planning or Prediction" and "The Labour Commonwealth", and reviews of Thomas Balogh's books Unequal Partners and Planning for Progress and Roger Sazerat has an article on the Italian novel. Readers may also be interested to learn that a complete index to New Left Review (Nos. 1-22) is published in this issue.

The next number of the N.L.R. will put forward theses for basic discussion in an editorial analysis of the crisis of British capitalism and the present perspectives for socialist action.

As a special offer, valid until January 5th, new subscribers can take out a year's subscription (6 issues) for £1 direct from:

New Left Review, 7, Carlisle Street, London W.1.

LONDON COMMITTEE OF VENEZUELAN F.L.N. PUBLISH JOURNAL

The London Committee of the Venezuelan F.L.N. is now publishing, in English, Revolutionary Venezuela. The October/November issue contains a wide range of articles covering all aspects of the struggle of the Venezuelan people against the pro-U.S. puppet regime. The journal also gives details of fund for aid to Venezuelan political prisoners and gives an address to which gifts and messages of support can be sent. Revolutionary Venezuela can be obtained from: The London Committee of the National Liberation Front of Venezuela, 95, Brondesbury Road, London N.W. 6.

T.U.C. STATEMENT ON ARRESTS IN ADEN

A statement from T.U.C. headquarters, issued shortly after news of the latest batch of arrests in Aden came through, said that news of these arrests had been heard with concern by the T.U.C. General Council. The statement added: "The General Council do not condone violence and they express their sympathy with the victims of the explosion at Aden Airport on December 10. They earnestly hope the Government of the Federation of South Arabia will expedite both their inquiries and the formulation of any substantial criminal charges so that innocent men may be released.

At the same time the T.U.C. drew attention to the injustice inherent in the long-standing practice of summary deportation, which has been frequently used even when no political issues were involved.

IRA GIRLS WANT STRIKE TO BE MADE OFFICIAL

11 of the Tru-line Bras girls sacked for joining the Tailor & Garment Workers Union have signed a resolution together with 16 of their workmates still employed in the factory urging the union on January 6 to call them out on official strike if the management refuses to reinstate them. (based on Daily Worker report)

TORIES HOG UNIVERSITY CHANCELLORSHIPS

A letter which appeared in the Daily Worker of December 30th threw an interesting light on the Tory domination of university life. From D.A. Barlow of Uxbridge (Middlesex) it read:

"I learn from the recent Reith Lectures on the B.D.C. that Mr. R.A. Butler is Chancellor of the new University of Essex. I find that Mr. Butler is already Chancellor of Sheffield University and High Steward of Cambridge University. Other Tories who are chancellors or rectors of universities are Mr. Macmillan (Oxford), Sir Winston Churchill (Bristol), Lord Woolton (Manchester), Viscount Monckton (Sussex), Lord Boothby (St. Andrews).

"I can only find one Labour politician: Mr. Johnston (Aberdeen). Readers of the Daily Worker would expect a capitalist bias to our education, but I for one was surprised to find it so blatant."

ILKESTON Y.S. IN MOVE TO EXPEL LABOUR COUNCILLOR WHO WANTS NEW PARTY

An Ilkeston correspondent reports:

Following a letter from Cllr. J.G. Simpson published in the Ilkeston Advertiser on December 6th, the Ilkeston Young Socialist branch moved a resolution demanding that the Ilkeston C.L.P. ask for his resignation from the party.

In his letter Cllr. Simpson said that the electorate of this country had rejected socialism at three successive elections and that a new policy should be put before them, if need be by a new political party which would put forward Christian ideals. The Y.S. reacted strongly to this and their two delegates to the Local Party General Management Committee demanded that he be asked to resign immediately. Comrade D. Gregory moving the resolution said, that if Cllr. Simpson believed this new party should be created then there was no place for him in the Labour Party. It was soon apparent the the Y.S. view was not shared by the majority of delegates present; one delegate claimed that the Labour Party was democratic enough to allow Cllr. Simpson to hold these views. In reply D. Gregory asked if a lenient view would be taken if he or someone else were found to be a fellow traveller with the C.P. or any other left-wing organisation.

The secretary of the local party then intervened in the discussion and read a letter from Cllr. Simpson in which he stated his intention not to seek re-election at the next Borough elections. The chairman then seemed to think that no further discussion was necessary; however the Y.S. delegates asked for a vote. The vote resulted in the resolution being defeated by a large majority.

It seems clear that Cllr. Simpson has a strong personal following among many of the delegates to the General Committee. Cllr. Simpson will, however, have to watch his step in future because the real socialists in the Ilkeston C.L.P. ^{will} take action again if he provides an opportunity by espousing right-wing views.

PAMPHLET EXPOSING STATE INTERFERENCE WITH MAIL AND TELEPHONES

A letter appeared in the December 20th issue of Peace News which announced the preparation of a pamphlet dealing with interference in mail & telephone calls. The writer asked for details and instances of interference of this type to be sent to him - Mark Sherwood, 7 Arkwright Rd., London N.W. 3. Readers please note!

ECONOMIST SAYS NO REAL DIFFERENCE BETWEEN LABOUR AND TORIES

The Economist of December 21 carried an article "Dum and Dee" -- we have extracted the most important parts:

It is at present extremely difficult to know what politics in this country are supposed to be about. The Conservative Government has this week published Whitehall's public expenditure plans up to 1967-8Mr. Callaghan has said that Labour's own estimates are "astonishingly similar". It seems to be implicitly...assumed in the Government's white paper that this planned increase in public spending would suffice by itself to keep national growth rolling forward at 4% per annum; it is said that there can be no major reductions in taxation before 1967-8 unless private savings increase....Here again, as far as one can see, Labour agrees. On the policies needed to counter the main obstacles in the way of such 4% growth.... the parties may have different policies but as neither party has coherently explained what its policy on these matters is, the electorate can be excused for befuddlement.

The truth is that for the time being the political battle has become a holding operation, with Labour relying on the floating voter's overt boredom with the Government and the Government relying on what it hopes is still the floating voter's covert distrust of Labour. The year's political battle came in like a lion, with the mighty issue of the European Common Market dominating....all sensible people's attention. Both parties now seem to be ready to see it go out like a fuzzy old sheep.

FREE IMPORT OF FOOD POLICY ENDED BY NEW GOVERNMENT BILL

The first clause of the Agriculture and Horticulture Bill, which received its second reading in the Commons ⁱⁿ mid-December will bring to an end the policy of the free importation of basic agricultural products -- this policy has been in existence for over 100 years. The deficiency payments system is now deemed to be becoming too "expensive" for the Exchequer. The Minister of Agriculture now intends to keep these payments within bounds by balancing the amounts produced in Britain against the amounts and prices of food imported from abroad.

Already internal deficiency payments for grain have been kept down by asking foreign producers to charge more. Under the Bill, the Minister would be able to set minimum prices for imports, and to charge a levy on all imports coming in at a cheaper price. This system would have the effect of shifting the deficiency payments away from general taxation on to an indirect tax levied discriminately on the most skilful importers.

As well as the desire to keep down deficiency payments (the subsidy the Government pays farmers to protect them from low market prices) the new system is intended to make it easier for Britain to negotiate with the Common Market. But the price threatens to be that of higher food costs; for instance under the Bill importers who find cheap grain for British bread or cheap barley for feeding British cattle would be fined for their pains!

1964 is election year and the agricultural vote is essential for the Tories if they are to have any prospect of victory. The farmers would react immediately to a policy which cut their income; the rest of the population would find out after the election that Tory policy meant higher food prices. Ed. note: based on material in Economist article.

E.T.U. LEADERS TO REORGANISE UNION

Members of the ETU Executive Council are considering changes in the structure of the union which would bring it more completely under their control. A number of proposals have been made, many of which do not make any change in the union rules necessary, and have therefore already been put into practice. The main suggestions being considered by the E.C. are these:

(1) The union should have a full-time Executive Council. This is one of the most sweeping changes that has been proposed and there may be delays before it is implemented.

(2) Executive Council members should have extra powers so that they can act as chief officers in the union's territorial areas.

(3) Industrial branches should be established instead of the present system of area organisation. Each branch would have a full-time secretary who might act as chief negotiator in his particular industry.

(4) Financial control should be improved by appointing professional accountants as area treasurers (this is already permitted by the union rules but has rarely been implemented).

These major changes, for which there is no provision in the union rules, cannot be implemented without a rules revision conference. The next conference is not due until 1965, but a special one could be called if circumstances warranted it.

UNIONS WILL FIGHT TAKE-OVER OF BRITISH LION

A group headed by film producer Sydney Box announced on December 28 that it was negotiating to buy the assets of British Lion, the largest U.K. independent film distributor, from the Government backed Film Finance Corporation. The price is understood to be in the region of £1¹/₂m

Sir Tom O'Brien, president of the Federation of Film Unions, stated that this would be opposed "tooth and nail". He said that he and Mr George Elvin of the ACCT had asked the Secretary of State for a meeting immediately they heard rumours of this, and they had urged him to refuse to approve any sale of the company until after the next meeting of the Cinematograph Films Council in mid-January, when the trade association is to submit its own proposals on the findings of the Council on the present state of the film industry.

For the government-sponsored Film Finance Corporation to have recently bought up the shares from the independent group of producers of British Lion, and then to contemplate selling the whole company to an outside private bidder before the Secretary of State had received the recommendations of his own advisory Cinematograph Films Council could only be described as an act of wanton irresponsibility, Sir Tom added. He went on to say: "The retention of British Lion by the National Film Finance Corporation is essential if the problem of a third release or outlet for British^{Lion} is really to be solved.

The latest move in this struggle is the opposition of Mr. David Kingsley to the sale of British Lion to private interests. He said that this sale would contradict the British Government policy of 1948 which laid down that British Lion was to be kept going as a 3rd force opposite the Rank and Associated British combines.

JOHNSON -- ANOTHER MILLIONAIRE PRESIDENT

President Johnson's wealth was commented on in the U.S. News and World Report in its December 16th issue, and the Business Week in its December 7th issue, both articles based on material disclosed by officials close to the Johnson family. President L. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson own property that has an estimated value of several million dollars.

The assets of one of the Johnson holdings, the L.B.J. Company in Austin, Texas, alone totalled some \$4m. Mrs. Johnson is chairman of the board of the L.B.J. Radio and T.V. Broadcasting Company. Referring to the influence of the Johnsons, the Business Week said, "In Austin, the Johnsons are considered an important part of the business community, which has supported Johnson well in his political campaign."

The Johnsons are also landowners. They own four ranches that cover some 5,000 acres of Texas grazing land, and a tract of 3,000 acres of cotton and timber land in Alabama. They also own a house, valued at some \$200,000, in Washington D.C., and have shares in a real estate corporation. In addition, the Johnsons have an unknown number of stocks and bonds.

U.S. BANKS INCREASE ACTIVITY ABROAD

The American Economic Report for December carried an item about the activities of American Banks abroad. It disclosed: More American banks are opening branches overseas and moving into the financing of development, manufacturing and services overseas. By October 1 of this year the number of foreign branches had increased from 78 in 1945 to 160, and more are expected to open. Foreign banking and finance subsidiaries for banks were authorized by the Edge Act of 1919, but full advantage of this law was not taken until after the last war.

The magazine Business Week reports that deposits in foreign banks have increased considerably, and bankers acceptances, drawn on and accepted by American banks mainly to finance trade transactions, have increased from under \$500 million in 1950 to \$2,800 million now. Bank-owned corporations under the Edge Act have increased from six in 1955 to about 35 now.

Among the larger banks with overseas operations are: The Bank Of America, California, (22 branches and 11 representative offices, plus 81 branches in 97% owned Banca d'America e d'Italia; the First National City Bank of New York (100 foreign branches); the Morgan Guarantee Trust of New York (with interests in France, Holland, Australia, Spain, the Camerouns and Senegal) and New York's Chase Manhattan Bank (29 foreign branches, has also a majority interest in Brazil and a minority interest in Venezuela).

U.S. INVESTMENT IN CANADA AMOUNTS TO \$600 MILLION.

Of the one thousand million dollar capital investment in Canada's manufacturing industry during 1960 and 1961, no less than 600 million dollars came from U.S. investors. This was revealed in a report issued by the Canadian Dominion Bureau of Statistics in December. Another 200 Million dollars came from other foreign investors. Only 200 million dollars were invested by Canadians.

FOREIGN WORKERS IN SWITZERLAND SUBJECT TO SEVERE RESTRICTIONS

The December issue of EFTA Bulletin carried an article on the problems caused by the large numbers of foreign workers in Switzerland. The following is a summary of the most important aspects of the article: In August 1963 there were some 800,000 foreign workers in Switzerland, all of them, with the exception of some 100,000 'established workers, come under severe legal restrictions. This represents 28% of the total active population of the country. The number is rising rapidly; in the last 3 years there has been an increase of 58% despite attempts by the Government to keep the numbers down.

According to Swiss law, there are 4 categories of foreign workers: (1) established foreign workers, who, after ten years residence, are on the same footing as Swiss nationals; (2) non-seasonal workers subject to controls; (3) seasonal workers, who, because they are compelled to return home for part of each year, cannot achieve ten years residence; and (4) frontier workers, whose work permits are withdrawn if there is unemployment in Switzerland.

The last 3 categories hold work permits subject to many restrictions, including: (1) Change of employment is prohibited, even if two employers agree to a transfer; (2) Change of employment is prohibited, even within the same firm; (3) A foreign worker may not bring his wife and family into Switzerland. The reasons behind these restriction are largely that both politicians and trade union leaders wanted to be able to pack off the foreign workers, without complications, in the event of a crisis.

An attempt to restrict the entry of foreign workers ^{was made} by a Federal Declaration of March 1st, 1963. This seems to have been a failure. In the Canton of Geneva, for instance, the number of foreign workers rose by 5,659 between August, 1962, and August, 1963. In the Geneva metal working industry, 52% of the labour force is foreign, and in some cases the figure is over 80%.

The foreign workers are largely non-union. In the last ten years, membership of the two main Swiss T.U. organisations has increased by 88,000. In this period the number of foreign workers subject to control has increased by 558,000. This has weakened the position of the T.U.s as all relations between management and labour are based on collective conventions. The unions have undertaken not to strike, and the managements have renounced the use of lock-outs. Such undertakings are only conceivable if the power of the employers' associations is matched by that of union organisation.

Italian workers, who comprise 68.4% of all 'controlled' workers, are now making demands, including: (1) Admissions of representatives of the Italian workers to the workers' committees; (2) Admittance to Switzerland of foreign workers' families; and (3) Free movement of Italian workers from Canton to Canton. A struggle would seem to be looming, especially as the Italian workers are aware of their stronger bargaining position because of the improved employment position in Italy.

DUTCH DOCKERS REJECT WAGES PACTfrom Financial Times 31/12/63

About 9,000 Amsterdam and Rotterdam dockers have rejected a collective agreement which includes a 9% increase and two extra holidays a year. The dockers say that the increase has already been wiped out by recent price increases. The agreement also included a cut in hours.

REMARKABLE PROGRESS IN CUBAN EDUCATION

based on Hsinhua reports

At the University of Havana on December 23rd, Amando Hart, the Cuban Minister for Education, emphasised the tremendous progress that has been made in education in the 5 years since the Revolution. In 1953, 23% of the Cuban population was illiterate (41.7% in rural areas); in 1962, a year after the beginning of a nation-wide literacy campaign, which involved 180,000 teachers, students, and workers the illiteracy rate has fallen to 3.9%, most of whom are old or ill.

In the past 2 years, 416,000 workers and peasants have enrolled for special courses at either primary or secondary school levels. Now that a nation-wide network of schools has been established, the number of primary school students has increased from 580,000 to 1,270,000, and the number of secondary school students from 27,000 to 125,000, and 100,000 students from workers and peasants families are receiving government grants.

Hart said that Cuba had also set up a number of technical schools specialising in agriculture, fishery, water conservancy, and other subjects, where the policy of combining education with productive labour was followed. Agricultural schools were set up in farms, fishery schools had their own fishing fleets, and engineering schools had their own workshops or factories. Certain technical schools, normal schools and art schools had been enlarged and the number of students increased.

THE PROGRAMME OF THE VENEZUELAN F.L.N.

The October-November issue of Revolutionary Venezuela (referred to elsewhere in this issue) gives a summary of the programme of the Venezuelan National Liberation Front. The section on the content of the revolution is of special interest:

"We find it necessary to reaffirm that the popular and democratic government that will emerge after our victory will not be a government carrying out a communist programme, for the simple reason that the historical moment is not demanding a socialist transformation of our society; our task is to carry out a series of measures of a popular and democratic type which would open the way for our national liberation.

"However, we do not want to conceal the fact that if the development of our revolutionary process points towards socialism, we would not be afraid to take up the challenge, and we will certainly lead the country towards that path. We consider such historical development inevitable and if we do not want to betray the revolution we must go forward with our people.

"The F.L.N. is not a communist organisation...but we want to make it clear, in a categorical way, that in the F.L.N. are present all the progressive forces of our society, communist or not, marxists and democrats of all parties."

PROGRESSIVE FORCES OF MOROCCO ISSUE AN APPEAL

We have received from a London correspondent a copy of an appeal from the National Union of Popular Forces (Morocco). This appeal outlines the present wave of oppression in Morocco and lists the people who face various sentences, including the death penalty, for their opposition to the feudal monarchy in Morocco. The appeal asks all those "who believe in the rights and dignity of Man" for support. Readers should write to P.O.B. 93, Chambery, Geneva for copies.

SOVIET AND AMERICAN INDUSTRIAL OUTPUT COMPARED

Pyotr Lomako, Vice-Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, had this to say about the relationship of Soviet and American industrial production, when he reported to the recent USSR Supreme Soviet: "...As a whole, industrial output in the USSR in 1953 was only one-third of the American output. By the start of the Seven-Year Plan it was approximately 50%, and this year it will be about 65% of the present U.S. total. In 1965 we shall produce approximately as much as the United States did in 1958, or three-quarters of what it is producing today..."

HUNGARIANS CRITICISE COMECONbased on Financial Times report

Outspoken criticism of Communist Europe's Council for Mutual Economic Aid has been made by...Professor Imre Vadja...(who) is widely regarded as one of the foremost Communist authorities on international trade relations. Professor Vadja stated that Comecon was stagnating in a speech fully reported in the official monthly of the Hungarian Communist Party, Tarsadalmi Szemle.

....Realistic prices and effective cost comparisons were required to overcome a structural crisis in Comecon....Comecon growth of trade, particularly in engineering products, has failed to keep pace with the E.E.C.. Trade between the Common Market countries in 1958-60 almost doubled, but that between Comecon member states only expanded by 60%. During the past five years exports of machinery in the capitalist world rose twice as fast as total exports, while the Soviet Union and its European partners raised exports of machinery a mere 9% faster than the general level of exports.

.....Comecon lacks specialisation in engineering. Thus, only about 5% of the rolled steel products, 3% of the locomotives and 6 to 8% of the wheat combines and tractors produced by the Communist countries found their way into intra-bloc trade.....Without comparable prices reflecting relative scarcities the less developed countries of Comecon could not be convinced of the advantages that they were going to get from giving up the manufacture of certain production lines or groups of products.

....As the editorial board of the magazine includes prominent members of the Hungarian Party's Central Committee, it is safe to assume that the above devastating criticisms made by Professor Vadja meet with the partial - or possibly wholehearted - approval of Premier Kadar.

ALBANIANS SLAM KHRUSHCHOV FOR ATTITUDE TOWARDS JUGOSLAV WORKERS COMMITTEES

In a long article appearing ⁱⁿ the Albanian paper, Zeri i Popullit (Voice of the people), of December 6th which commemorated the anniversary of the Moscow Statement of 1960, the following passage appeared:

".....The Khrushchov group is not only keen on following the lead of the Tito clique in foreign policy. Recently, the Soviet leaders have extensively applied the methods of the Tito authorities to domestic affairs and state administration. During his visit to Yugoslavia, Khrushchov showed immense interest in various 'unique' methods in practice in Tito's Yugoslavia. He described the 'workers committees' as progressive and declared that he would send a Soviet delegation to Yugoslavia to study the experiences of such committees...."

£1,343,000,000 TAXES COLLECTED ON TOBACCO AND ALCOHOL

The Annual Report of the Commissioners of H.M. Customs and Excise was published just prior to Christmas. Drinkers and smokers are shown to be among the main financial supporters of the Government. We have extracted some of the more important figures from the report.

The report shows that the total revenue receipts rose to £2,670 million, an increase of £88 million over the previous year. This represents 40.6% of the total revenue from central government taxation. On tobacco the report shows that the duty collected was £878 million - $32\frac{3}{4}\%$ of total revenue, and £8 million more than the previous year; but the weight of tobacco retained for consumption dropped by 5.67 million lb. to 251.11 million lb.

The extension of purchase tax to confectionery, soft drinks and ice cream accounted for much of the increase of £49 million in the total yield of the tax which amounted to £570 million. Receipts on hydrocarbon oils amounted to £544 million - $20\frac{1}{2}\%$ of total revenue and £34 million more than the previous year.

Alcoholic liquors accounted for $17\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total revenue - £465 million, an increase of £22 million. Beer receipts contributed more than half of this figure. Consumption fell very slightly to 28.3 million bulk barrels but receipts rose by £7 million to £254 million.

Protective import duties fell by nearly £5 million to just under £145 million - $5\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the total revenue. This decrease was principally due to some reductions in duty rates following EFTA and GATT agreements. Other duties accounted for the remaining $2\frac{1}{2}\%$ of the revenue, of which the principal items were betting (£31.4 million), matches and lighters (£12.2 million), television licence duty (£12.3 million) and television adverts duty (£7.5 million).

MONOPOLY IN MOTOR CAR ELECTRICAL COMPONENTS SUPPLY

The report of the Monopolies Commission on the supply of electrical equipment for mechanically propelled land vehicles was published on December 19. It covered the supply of 8 separate classes of electrical equipment for motor vehicles: batteries, coils, dynamos, motors, fans, gauges, lamps and sparking plugs.

It found that there were monopoly suppliers in each class. Joseph Lucas (Industries) Ltd. for coils, dynamos, motors and lamps; Chloride Electrical Storage Co. Ltd. for batteries; S. Smith & Sons (England) Ltd. for fans and gauges; and Champion Sparking Plug Co. Ltd. for sparking plugs. Furthermore, nearly all the goods in each class were supplied by manufacturers who restricted competition by practising resale price maintenance (and, so far as the goods were resold, by distributors who participated in that practice)

The Commission found that Champion's price policy for sparking plugs, having regard to the high rate of profit resulting, has been against the public interest; they also found that the Lucas price policy for batteries also to be against the public interest. The Commission said that the distribution margins on goods sold as replacements are high compared with margins on other consumer goods. It also said that the failure by Lucas to disclose its ownership of certain subsidiaries was contrary to public interest. The report, which was unanimous, recommended the ending of the practise of resale price maintenance.

SWEDEN FACES BALANCE OF PAYMENTS DIFFICULTIES

Writing in the Financial Times survey - Europe in Balance - which was published last month, Gunnar Lange, Swedish Minister of Commerce, wrote: ".....In 1962 the deficit on direct trade was 992m. crowns (Ed. note: there are approx. 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ crowns to the pound sterling) which was pretty handsomely covered by a surplus in net shipping revenues of 1,445m. crowns. Other invisibles, however, reduced this surplus, so that the balance of payments finished in the red (a deficit of 47m. crowns against a surplus of 67m. for 1961). For January-August, 1963, we estimate our trade deficit at 863m. crowns, which exceeds the deficit at the end of August, 1962, by 384m. crowns.

Our gold and foreign exchange reserves have gone down for the first time in 3 years. At the end of 1962 they amounted to 4,361 m. crowns...By June, 1963, they had dropped 385m. crowns. Development then took a steadier course....But the August reserves were still 360m. crowns lower than those of August, 1962.

MODERATE UNION DEMANDS KEEP PROFITS UP IN WEST GERMANY

Also writing in the same survey, the Donn correspondent of the Financial Times had this to say about the trends of profits in West Germany: "...profits appear to be on the increase since the summer, except in certain depressed industries such as steel and shipbuilding.

"The reversal in the trend of profits has been due in no small measure to a more restrained attitude on the part of the trade unions. Wage demands have been more moderate during 1963 than in some recent years.....this relative moderation in union demands took effect at a time when over-full employment remained the order of the day. Though 800,000 Italians, Greeks, Spaniards and others were at work in Germany this year, the number of registered vacancies at all times of the year was a multiple of the figure of unemployed.

"There is some assurance that the pressure of wages on costs will remain under control in 1964, because the trade unions have in many cases agreed to enter into wage contracts valid for longer than one year. For instance, the Metalworkers Union, the largest in the country,has signed up until the autumn of 1964."

IRELAND WORRIED BY BRITISH ECONOMIC POLICIES

Another article in the Financial Times survey dealt with Ireland's economic position and the problems facing the country. It was written by Sean Lemass, Prime Minister of Ireland, and he had this to say about British policies: ".....The proposals for stabilisation of the British food market now being canvassed by the British Government have the disadvantage for us that they will tend to freeze the existing divisions of the market between home production and imports and between the exporting countries themselves. For various reasons, Ireland's share of the British market is small and our agriculture (is)more seriously prejudiced by British subsidisation policies...Britain is likely to remain the main market for Irish agricultural produce whether both countries are inside or outside the Common Market....Apart from developments in the agricultural field, our advantages in the British market are also being diminished by the loss of the industrial preferences which we enjoy vis-a-vis the EFTA countries - the bulk of our exports enter Britain duty-free.

RAPID GROWTH IN SELF-SERVICE TRADING

The December 20th Board of Trade Journal carried an article which summarised information derived from the Census of Distribution carried out in 1961 as far as self-service trading was concerned. The tendencies revealed are of considerable interest to the British labour movement especially those working in the US^{DAW} and the Co-op movement. The former must be concerned because of the much greater rate of exploitation revealed and the latter will note that the Co-op movement has lost its previous predominant position in this field of trading. We have taken extracts from the article:

"...In 1961, self-service sales exceeded £500m., $2\frac{1}{2}$ times the level of 1957. Allowing for non-respondents to the main census, over 9,500 stores were operated wholly or partly on self-service lines late in 1961, against nearly 4,000 in 1957, fewer than 500 in 1950, and 10 in 1947. By the spring of 1963, the numbers were over 11,000 and growing at a rate exceeding a hundred a month.

SELF-SERVICE SHOPS

	1957		1961	
	Number	Turnover	Number	Turnover
Co-op Societies	2,003	112m.	3,800	199m.
Grocery shop: Multiples with more than ten branches	771	49m.	2,569	212m.
" " 5 to 9	431	20m.	774	40m.
Independent			2,065	56m.
Others	717	24m.	212	21m.
Total	<u>3,922</u>	<u>207m.</u>	<u>9,420</u>	<u>528m.</u>

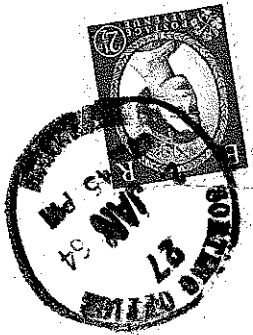
"The share of different forms of organisation in the total of self-service business was very different from 1957. Leaving aside the relatively unimportant self-service trading outside the grocery field (including department stores' food halls), the share of co-operative societies was 61% of the total in 1957, but only 39% in 1961. Larger multiples (with 10 or more branches) had about 28% of the turnover in 1957, but 42% in 1961. Retailers with 1 to 9 branches accounted for a about 11% ..in 1957 and 20% in 1961.

"Self-service grocers achieved 20% of all grocers' sales but accounted for only 16% of persons engaged; and they were less dependent on part-time staff than counter-service shops - under one in five self-service staff were part-timers against more than one in four in others..

"Average sales per person engaged (counting 2 part-timers as 1 full-time worker) were £6,200 in self-service shops against less than £4,700 in other grocers. But, as in 1957, the smaller self-service stores had lower sales per person engaged than did other stores of the same size.

"For the most part, sales per employee in co-op grocery shops are higher than in multiples, largely because of the greater importance of sales of cigarettes in co-op branches....Exceptionally, sales per employee in multiple branches with turnover above £100,000 were higher than those in corresponding co-op branches; this was true in both self-service and counter-service shops. Among independent retailers, except the smallest, sales per person engaged were for the most ^{part} very much higher in self-service stores than in counter-service shops."

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