

# THE

# WEEK

**A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS**

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CONTENTS

- PAGE 1 Editorial notes: That loan, Ascension Island, M.L.F.  
.....and Labour.
- PAGE 2 Trade union notes: Tied cottages - an answer to the N.F.U.  
Workers' control of hours' change in  
Belper.
- PAGE 3 Parliamentary notes: The week in Parliament.
- PAGE 4 Incomes policy discussion: NUFTO on the incomes policy.  
One form of incomes control.
- PAGE 5 " " " Incomes policy for top men.  
Wages not responsible for Britain's  
export lag.
- PAGE 6 Labour notes: N.C.L.C. republish pocket history.  
The Society for the Study of Labour History.  
Harlow Trades Council doesn't like T.U.C.  
Education Scheme.
- PAGE 7 Political notes: Why I joined the Government (Frank Cousins).
- PAGE 8 Political notes: The Director doesn't like Labour's measures.  
David Kitson legal aid fund.  
Anti-Apartheid progress in York, Pontypool  
and Nottingham.
- PAGE 9 Political notes: Under the Odalrune banner!
- PAGE 10 European notes: Right wing of Belgian Socialist Party  
launch witch-hunt.  
100 a day charged with political offences  
in West Germany.
- PAGE 11 Congo notes: The left in Belgium against aggression in the  
Congo.
- PAGE 12 U.S. notes: Proposal to withdraw 40,000,000 acres from  
agricultural production.  
U.S. sends more troops to South Vietnam.

EDITORS' LETTER

The issue of The Week the Wednesday before Christmas will be devoted to the struggle for comprehensive education and beyond. Articles on Hull, Bristol, Liverpool, Nottingham, etc., will be especially written by local correspondents. In addition there will be special articles by education experts on theoretical aspects of comprehensive schooling, streaming, etc. This special issue promises to be as relevant as the workers' control issue proved to be (2nd reprint this month). If anyone wants extra copies they should let us know soon, and, if at all possible, let us have a remittance.

Week supporters in Nottingham have organised a "Rebels' Do" to be held the Saturday before Christmas. A large room has been booked in a pub - the Rose of England (near Victoria Station) and the jollifications will begin at 7.30. Everything has been laid on and we are looking forward to a big turn out. Proceeds will go to the printing fund.



THAT LOAN, ASCENSION ISLAND, M.L.F.....AND LABOUR

"You can get into pawn, but don't then talk about independent foreign policy, or an independent defence policy..If you borrow from some of the world's bankers you will quickly find that you lose another kind of independence because of the deflationary policies and the cuts in social services that will be imposed on a government that has got itself into that position."

The speaker is Harold Wilson, in his widely reported statement to this year's TUC. Since these words were uttered, the crisis of the pound has compelled Mr. Wilson to borrow no less than \$3,000,000,000 from the U.S. Federal Reserve System, the Bundesbank of the German Federal Republic, the Banque De France, and other leading European national banks. Last week's Economist speculated that Mr. Wilson now faced two major dangers: the danger that the foreign bankers wouldn't realise what problems he was up against, and the danger that the left wing MPs would tumble to them.

Now Mr. Wilson is in Washington. The television commentators tell us that of the whole hundred days, the past two have been the most pregnant with consequences. No-one has yet told us what has been decided: but the line-up prior to the talks has been ugly in the extreme. In the same week of the bankers' handout, the Government lent Ascension Island to Belgian paratroopers for intervention in the Congo, decided to deliver the Buccaneers to South Africa after all, and reversed its position on the MLF, in spite of all the promises of the election campaign. ("There will be no German finger on the nuclear trigger") The Government, before the Washington talks began, had already agreed to continue with the construction of the 3 Polaris submarines, to consider a joint NATO nuclear fleet, and to integrate the Bundeswehr (Nazi commanders and all) into the proposed nuclear force.

Let no-one believe that it is possible for Labour to carry out a schizophrenic policy, radical at home, reactionary abroad. Mr. Wilson was right when he talked to the TUC: the bill for tailing behind the NATO politicians will be presented to the working people, the aged, the school children, and all the other social groups Labour is pledged to protect. In Washington, as far as we can tell from the press, even more terrible retreats are being considered. There is even to be discussion about Britain's role in the war in Vietnam according to Mr. Wilson. At the beginning of the life of the new Government, we said that CND was still needed, as it never has been before. Our fears have been realised sooner than most of us anticipated. The protests must be immediate, and strong. Mail copies of Connor Cruise O'Brien's excellent article in last Sunday's Observer to Anthony Greenwood, asking him to think about it and act on it!. Write, phone and wire your MP about the Buccaneer deal! Above all, get organised to bring the maximum pressure to bear against the Multi-Lateral Force! All criticism of Labour's government should, of course, be constructive and helpful: but to abstain from criticism on these vital questions would be to sell the pass.

Too much progress has been made, in one way only, in involving CND activists in Labour Party work. The complementary work must now begin: CND must be reactivated, if necessary re-staffed, and set to work in preparation for an enormous revival. The Easter march must be prepared now, in a series of key demonstrations, which will ensure that all those who think Labour's commitments to peace and against Atlantic sabre-rattling are dispensable are quickly convinced of the contrary.



TIED COTTAGES - AN ANSWER TO THE N.F.U. from NUAW NEWS SERVICE

"The fact that agricultural tied cottages have been included in the Protection from Eviction Bill has occasioned pitiful outcries against the hardship that this could inflict on the farmers. It is extremely unlikely that any hardship will in fact result, but even if it did it could not in any way compare with the hardship that has been suffered by agricultural workers who have been imprisoned by this system ever since feudal times", said Harold Collison, General Secretary of the National Union of Agricultural Workers, at Exeter on Saturday 5th December.....

"There is a simple reason why agricultural tied cottages are referred to in the temporary measure which is now before Parliament: it is because only in agriculture do we find that occupants of tied cottages are in fact evicted from their homes - sometimes literally onto the road-side - before they have been able to make suitable alternative arrangements for their home and family.

"Nor is it correct to assume that, because the tied cottage system has its roots in antiquity, it has not been affected by the 1957 Rent Act. Any person who took over the occupancy of a tied cottage after the operation of the 1957 Act has had even less protection than the very limited protection that was afforded to him before that Act became law. The new legislation will ensure that employers have to go to the County Court before an eviction order can be enforced. This will rule out the present unsavoury practice of farmers going to the High Court to obtain a writ for possession - a procedure which gives the worker even less time to find alternative accomodation, which protects the farmer from the glare of publicity.

"When a case goes to the County Court for a possession order, the judge will now have power, after taking into consideration a number of relevant factors, to delay the operation of that order for a period of up to 12 months..... It is an earnest of the Labour Government's intentions to carry out its pledge that a possession order would not be made operative against an occupant of an agricultural tied cottage unless suitable alternative accomodation is available. The NUAW looks to the Government to fulfill this pledge when the major legislation goes before the House in a few weeks time and we welcome the words of Dick Crossman in the House last week when he said 'We are going to give security to the agricultural worker in our permanent legislation. Part of our legislation will refer to the agricultural worker and we shall work out a permanent system of security for him as we were pledged to do.'"

WORKERS CONTROL OF HOURS' CHANGE IN BELPER

Over 500 members of the National Union of Stove, Grate and General Metal Workers went on strike at Radiation Parkray heating appliance works at Belper, Derbyshire, December 8th, following a dispute over the implementation of the new 41-hour week in engineering. The management proposed that the one-hour reduction should be introduced by starting work a half-hour later from Monday to Friday and ending work a half-hour later on three nights a week. Further meetings of the strikers are to be held. They object to the later working as it cuts into their evenings. The management have economic reasons for their proposal.



THE WEEK IN PARLIAMENT

by Chris Arthur

Monday, November 30th saw questions on Aden, the Simonstown base, and Congo: Mr. Fisher (Surbiton) asked what was the policy of the Government towards the retention of the British military base at Aden. Mr. Healey - The Government's policy is to retain the base in agreement with the Government of the Federation of South Arabia for so long as it is required to serve the interests which we have in common. Mr. Fisher welcomed this decision. Mr. Wall (Haltemprice) asked why the joint British-Spanish naval exercises planned for next month had been cancelled. Mr. Healey - said that the timing of the exercise was such that the new Government was left with insufficient time to consider fully all the implications. Mr. Hamilton (Labour, West Fife) asked whether the Secretary of State does not think it reprehensible to be dependent on the good will of a reactionary Nazi-type regime? (referring to the Simonstown base). Mr. Healey. This base is of considerable value to the Royal Navy. We have no intention of seeking to abandon it.

Mr. Sydney Silverman (Nelson and Colne, Labour) asked if the Minister's attention had been drawn to reports of indiscriminate slaughter committed by the rescue party that landed in Stanleyville? Would he bear in mind that while many of us support intervention designed to save people from massacre, we are not in favour of interfering in the internal affairs of the Congo. Mr. Padley replied that the paratroopers had been withdrawn. It was necessary for Britain and her allies to effect this rescue operation (Tory cheers). Mr. Driberg (Barking, Labour) suggested that one of the lessons of the tragic business was that a number of nations should allocate standing forces for immediate use by UNO when another emergency of this kind arose. Mr. Padley <sup>said</sup> that while the Government were of the opinion that the peace-keeping forces of UNO should be strengthened (and one day we may be able to rely on UNO) this operation was vital (more Tory cheers). In reply to a question from Miss Vickers (Plymouth, Devonport, Tory), Mr. Healey replied that the cost to the Government of operations in defence of Malaysia, to date, had been about £5,500,000. Service casualties have totalled 49 killed and 82 wounded.

On Tuesday, December 1st, Cyprus, Polaris, Oil Licences and Malaysia, came up. Answering a question about Cyprus, Mr. Bottomley said, as regards our sovereign bases, it was pointed out that they have never formed part of the Republic of Cyprus and are not involved in the present dispute; and that we could not conceive (sic) of a solution which would not provide for British base facilities. Mr. Emrys Hughes (Ayrshire, South, Labour) said the Cyprus bases had cost £200 million - £20 million a year. Are we to take it that this Government intends to carry on this policy? Mr. Bottomley said that at this moment it is the intention of the Government to have a base in Cyprus (Tory cheers). Mr. Marten (Banbury, Tory) asked whether it was intended that U.S. base should remain in Holy Loch. Mr. Wilson - Yes. Mr. Marten then asked if it was agreed that keeping the U.S. base was an effective way of keeping the alliance strong. Mr. Wilson said that he repeated that the base would be kept in its present form unless and until as a result of possible changes in nuclear policy, there was a requirement for it as a NATO base.

In reply to a question by Mr. Sandys (Streatham, Tory) about Malaysia, Mr. Bottomley said that the British Government continued to support the Malaysian Government to the full but it had had no requests for the deployment of additional British forces. Mr. Sandys said this <sup>with</sup> statement would be widely welcomed. He added that this statement together ones about Cyprus, BAOR, Aden and Aden showed that there was not much change in the Government's defence policy. Mr. Lee, Minister of Power, said that since the licences for firms to prospect for oil and gas in the North Sea had already been issued it would not be in the public interest to disturb them.



NUFTO ON THE INCOMES POLICY

In the December issue of the National Union of Furniture Trade Operatives Record, an editorial had this to say about an incomes policy:

"...The Labour Government has stated its intention to seek to implement, by consultation, an incomes policy. This intention was clearly stated before the election" (it then goes on to quote Labour's election manifesto on the subject) "...At the TUC, Harold Wilson was equally clear and emphatic.... The discussions have begun, but no details have yet been disclosed. The Chancellor of the Exchequer has stated the difficulties, has indicated that no Government has yet devised an effective incomes policy, but also pointed to the 'rich rewards' if such a policy can be operated. It is the intention of the Government to proceed with the 'urgent consultations' because an incomes policy is, in its view, an essential part of an expansion policy.

"Our policy on wage freeze is clear - and unchanged. The Government has not asked for any committal in advance on an unstated 'incomes policy', but is dealing with the problem as part of its overall plan - again in accordance with the election manifesto. We cannot foresee the outcome of the discussions, but members should be aware that they are proceeding - as stated, against the background of a determination by the Government to maintain industrial expansion and social justice.

"The trade union movement is not committed in advance, without consultation, to all the detailed plans a Labour Government may bring forward. Criticism in consultations will no doubt be sharp on occasion. We must, however, at this stage be quick and ready to defend against attacks on the Government by those whose plans for an attack on the unions and on our standards of living were cut short by the result of the election. That, at this stage, is the primary task. We have to ensure that those with the responsibility of office under critical and difficult conditions are indeed given a full and fair opportunity to initiate their long-term plans and are not judged on the urgent proposals needed to deal with the immediate crisis."

ONE FORM OF INCOMES POLICY

from a Birmingham reader

The Birmingham Trades Council Journal for December carried the following satirical item by James Valentine:

"...isn't it dastardly that the British South Africa Company is being kicked out of Zambia by the wogs. In 1890, Cecil Rhodes offered one of the chiefs £2,000 per year for a monopoly of the mineral rights in Northern Rhodesia. So far, the company has only made a bare £161,000,000 on the deal and apart from taxes, it now turns 20% of its local royalties over to the local government. The government of Zambia denies the legality of the company's claim to the royalties. But the company says that in 1950 the Northern Rhodesian government guaranteed the company's claim to the mineral rights. And mind you, that was a proper all-white government. The niggers didn't have a vote, let alone rule the damned country.

"The ending of the company's royalties will lose it the £250 million that it would have gathered in by 1986, when the agreement was originally due to terminate. No wonder chairman, ex-Conservative M.P. Emrys Evans, calls it "bare-faced appropriation." Profits last year a bare £8 million, Earnings, after all expenses and taxes, a measly 99.2% of the ordinary capital. The 13 directors slaving away for a mere £70,000 between them. I'll bet the Zambian Government gets nearly that much...."



INCOMES POLICY FOR TOP MEN

by a special correspondent

Peter Shore, M.P. for Stepney, is introducing a bill to control the incomes of top management. The Endments of Top Management (Disclosure & Regulation) Bill will come up for second reading in the Commons early in the new year. It is a private member's Bill. Apparently Mr. Shore intends to construct the bill so as to require top people to disclose their full income to a reviewing organisation, and so as to equip shareholders with more information about their directors' rakeoff.

This measure is calculated to fit into the government's incomes policy offensive. Peter Shore was the man who drafted Labour's election manifesto, and this leads commentators to assume that the bill will receive government support. Until its details are published it is too early to comment at any length: but one obvious point needs to be made. It concerns the question of who should regulate the incomes of top management. To compel disclosure to an "impartial" commission, or to shareholders, is by no means enough to guarantee safe conduct to an incomes policy. Unless the workpeople themselves are able to control and judge top management incomes, and unless they have access to all the accounts in order to be able to check upon false declarations, the whole measure will prove to be meaningless.

Suitable amendments to this measure should be drafted, and tabled, by left wing M.P.s There can scarcely be any objection to the amendment of a private member's bill!

WAGES NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR BRITAIN'S EXPORT LAG

by Pat Jordan

Further to my article last <sup>week</sup>, some more figures have been issued comparing the performance of exporting countries. These were for the first half of this year. Comparing the performance this year with that of the first six months of last year we get the following percentage increases: Holland (23%), Belgium/Luxemburg (22%), Canada (21%), Sweden (20%), Japan (19½%), Italy (18%), USA (18%), West Germany (16%), France (12½%), Switzerland (11%), and, bottom of the table, U.K. (7%)\*. Only France, Switzerland and the U.K. were below the world average of 16%.

But when we come to Labour costs we find, according to a recent survey in Industrial News, the following picture:

	<u>Labour costs as a percentage of 1959</u>			
	1960	1961	1962	1963
France	104	107	113	121
West Germany	106	112	119	120
Italy	101	103	108	128
Netherlands	103	108	116	117
U.K.	100	106	108	110
U.S.A.	101	101	99	100

Taken in conjunction with the figures I gave last week of export growth year by year, it will be seen that there is no basis whatsoever for blaming Britain's lagging exports on to high wages. It should be noted that the actual <sup>rise in</sup> wage costs in most EEC countries is much higher than the increase in labour costs - the difference being due to increased productivity.

\* Percentages have been rounded.



N.C.L.C. REPUBLISH POCKET HISTORY

from the N.C.L.C.

A social class that is not proud of itself is not likely to have a fundamental influence, either in society or in the history of that society. It is, therefore, important that workers should be encouraged to know something about the history of their own class which has had such a growing influence in modern times, and is likely to have a still growing influence in times to come. This makes of special interest to trade unionists and members of the Labour Movement Raymond Postgate's Pocket History of the British Working Class. The first edition was published as far back as 1942, it was reprinted in 1943, and a second edition appeared in 1947. That edition was soon out of print. At long last Raymond Postgate has brought the book up to date, and a new edition has been published at 5/-, by post 5/5d, by the N.C.L.C. Publishing Society Ltd., Tillicoultry, Scotland. Get your copy today and see that it is read by your fellow trade unionists and members of the Labour Party. The book is illustrated by J.F.Horrabin who played an outstanding part in the Movement for Independent Working-Class Education as a lecturer, author, and illustrator.

THE SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF LABOUR HISTORY by Brian Pearce.\*

Since a mention of our Bulletin appeared in The Week for 18 June 1964, we have had numerous applications for membership from people who read that paragraph. We are grateful, and are confident that these new members will not regret their ten shillings subscription. As several began their letters "Dear Comrade", and ended "Yours Fraternally", it may be wise, however, to stress that our Society (unlike any other with a partly similar name) is not a propagandist body, nor is it at all committed at all to what is called the Labour Movement, let alone any particular trend therein. It is concerned to promote study of working men and women, in every aspect.

As might be expected, many members are, in their individual capacities, connected with the Labour Movement in one way or another, but as a Society we have no political bias. Speakers at our meetings have included Robert Mackenzie as well as Arthur Horner, our net will doubtless be cast no less widely in the future than in the past.

(Hon.Treasurer: John Simpson, Department of Scottish History,  
The University, Edinburgh 8.)

\* Hon.Secretary of the Society for the Study of Labour History.

HARLOW TRADES COUNCIL DOESN'T LIKE T.U.C. EDUCATION SCHEME based on Hebs report

The following resolution was passed after discussion at a recent meeting of Harlow Trades Council and forwarded to the T.U.C.:

"We request

(1) The T.U.C. reconsider its scheme and administer its Educational Classes through the NCLC form of organisation of local elected committee;

(2) The T.U.C. to allow the NCLC Publications Department to continue the publication of its journal Plebs and its educational books that are so close to the subject matter of the classes, and have proved the best introduction to real working class education for the rank and file."



WHY I JOINED THE GOVERNMENT\* by Frank Cousins

In the whole parliamentary history of this country, a newly elected Government has never faced the situation that Labour does today. We have to cope with the legacy of 13 years of Conservative neglect and complacency and make an urgent start on reforms which are really necessary but have been left in abeyance for so long. Major tasks have to be dealt with quickly, and they have to be achieved with a majority of only four votes.

This was the situation which faced the General Executive Council immediately after the election, when I reported to them that Harold Wilson had invited me to become a member of the new Labour Cabinet. Their decision, which followed a long emergency discussion on this matter, was that I should take leave of absence to undertake this work. The Executive took the view, shared also by my Executive Officer colleagues and myself that in the present situation the new Prime Minister had the right to call upon anyone within our movement to give such assistance as they possibly could. The problems are so big, the needs of the people of the country too urgent, for anyone to stand back. I had, therefore, reluctantly and regretfully to revise my own personal desire - often expressed publicly in the past - to remain actively working for the Union - and agree to take up a post in the new Government.

My appointment as Minister of Technology follows naturally upon the work we have been doing in the Union for the last few years. In resolutions, memoranda, speeches, at the T.U.C., the Labour Party and other conferences, through national and local agreements, we have urged the need to modernise industry in order to produce higher living standards and greater leisure. We have given a lead to the whole movement by insisting upon conditions of job security, re-training and higher wages which make a rapid rate of technology acceptable and welcome to the workers in industry. Through my membership of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, I have seen the other side of the story - the new ideas and developments of scientific thought and progress. Many from our movement have frankly been appalled at the great waste in talent which recent years have shown and the number of ideas which this country originated and subsequently lost to other countries, the projects abandoned through lack of finance or development initiative. We have also been concerned that so little thought was given to the needs and interests of the people who were affected in the factories, offices and garages. I am grateful that we now have a Government which is alive to these issues, and that I have been asked to play some direct part in the whole question of adapting science and technology in the service of the community.

This is a challenge to me personally in the new job - but it is also a responsibility for the whole of the movement. We now have the opportunity to prove that our criticisms of ineffective government were right, and we must now try to give the country the leadership it needs.

\*from the T & G.W. Record.



"THE DIRECTOR" DOESN'T LIKE LABOUR'S MEASURES from Dave Windsor

The December issue of The Director, the journal of the Institute of Directors, contains articles sharply critical of Labour's first moves. In an editorial entitled "Can we work with these men?", it has this to say: "They hamstring free enterprise when individual initiative is sagging for want of encouragement, they breed inflation when the urgent need is to make British goods more competitive, and they foster uncertainty in the Boardrooms. Half-way through Mr. Wilson's 100 days this is the progress report which businessmen must issue - reluctantly because there was a willingness, and doubtless there still is, to give the new and untried men at least a sporting chance." It goes on to query whether industry can be expected to support men who have shown little regard for the businessmen's point of view, and adds: "If the socialists continue along the lines they have followed so far, free enterprise will give them a very dusty answer indeed."

Professor Colin Clark contributes a study of Mr. Wilson's economic policy statements in the same issue. He describes them as those of an "intelligent and forward-looking economist of the 1930s." What upsets Clark most of all is what he calls "its blatant protectionism and mercantilism." Furthermore, according to Clark, there is an implication that all imports are bad. He proceeds: "Mr. Wilson must be one of the few political leaders anywhere in the world to step right back into old-world protectionism; and the new surcharges will probably not be temporary. It is difficult to see how Mr. Wilson's proposals for restricting imports, agricultural as well as industrial, are to be reconciled with his plans for a council for developing Commonwealth trade - unless we read the work 'developing' in the Orwellian manner, to mean 'restricting'".

Whilst it is a pity that The Director is not taking Labour to task for instituting fully-fledged socialist policies, one can draw some comfort from the thought that it is when The Director is most enthusiastic about Labour that we have the most to worry about!

DAVID KITSON LEGAL AID FUND

from Tom Nicholls.

DATA, the Draughtsmen's Union, is appealing to all its members to contribute at least £3,000 towards a legal aid fund for the defence of Mr. David Kitson, a member of the union, now under trial in South Africa on charges of sabotage and contravention of the Suppression Of Communism Act. The trial of Kitson and four other South Africans was due to begin on 18th November. Before that he had been detained under the "90-day rule" since June of this year. Letters from the editor of the Draughtsmen concerning the case have appeared recently in a number of left wing journals. Those wishing to contribute to the fund should send their donations to the Kitson Legal Aid Fund, Onslow Hall, Little Green, Richmond, Surrey,

ANTI-APARTHEID PROGRESS IN YORK, PONTYPOOL AND NOTTINGHAM

York University formed an Anti-Apartheid group last week. After hearing a talk by Dennis Higgs, who figured earlier this year in the famous kidnapping incident, some 20 students decided to form the group. They soon got the 30 other names necessary to form the group as a section of the students' union. Pontypool, at its last Council meeting, voted to become the 30th Council in Wales to boycott South African goods. Prevented by Standing Orders from again raising a Co-op boycott, Nottingham IMS voted at its December meeting for the segregation (with suitable labeling) of all South African goods at Co-ops.



UNDER THE ODALSRUNE BANNER!

by a special correspondent

For the benefit of the unenlightened, the Odalsrune is the letter 'O' in the Gothic or Runic alphabet. It is also the symbol of one of the more recent crypto-fascist organisations to emerge from beneath the stones - the so-called British National Youth. This describes itself as "Britain's only patriot movement for young people." Its "faith" is based upon the "eternal principles of folk patriotism, which lie deeply rooted in the ancient history of our homeland." (a reference to the Vikings?). Its manifesto speaks of the "urgent necessity for unity of the White people on more than just a purely 'national' level." (One is reminded of Hitler's attempt to 'unify' Europe). One of the movement's aims is the "teaching of self-discipline, loyalty to nation and folk, patriotic duty to the state...."; another is to make illegal the Communist Party and its "friendship and pacifist front organisations..." It is opposed to democracy and goes on to demonstrate this in its "Method of Organisation." To quote:

"..(a) The chief officer of the BNY shall be the National Secretary..(b) A Directorate composed of Department officials shall act as an advisory council to the National Secretary. The Directorate members shall be appointed annually by the National Secretary...(c) Members of the BNY can be expelled at the discretion of the National Secretary..." Certain people are allowed to appeal to the Directorate, but "the final decision still rests with the National Secretary." We are not told how the National Secretary is appointed.

It would be tempting to dismiss these people as being purely cranks; but whatever else they lack they appear to have considerable funds. They have a monthly paper: The Bugler; a publishing firm, Northland Press, which publishes a review; they have recently bought a house in London, known as the Northland Press London Centre; their London and Middlesex division publishes its own bulletin; the latest issue of its Adult Supporters League Bulletin reports the formation of a film unit; and the movement is holding an Easter Camp next year. Their activities include: leaflet distribution calling for an end to coloured immigration and retention of the H. Bomb; a "Buy South African" campaign; a "clean-up TV" campaign (started by the wife of a rector in Wolverhampton); and a campaign against cruelty to horses! Their journals report that members have lectured to Boy Scout troops, and distributed literature (with permission) in London schools.

In case any reader feels inclined to join the BNY, we are duty-bound to point out that "Beatniks, race-mixers, ban-the-bomb supporters and long-haired louts are Not wanted; they can join the rest of the 'great unwashed' rabble in the CND and anti-apartheid mobs."

It must be stressed that movements like this could exert some influence in particular localities and situations. The recent hysteria in the capitalist press about the "Stanleyville massacre" gives filth like the BNY a stimulus. The fact that the Tory Party in particular localities is playing about with racialism encourages this lunatic fringe. The Labour Government by associating Britain with the Congo operation, by its failure to denounce the essential hypocrisy of the stunt, and by its general policy in relation to the remnants of British colonialism is helping to sow the seeds of racialism in this country. Racialism does not spring from an instinctive xenophobia, it is a reflection in men's minds of economic and political relationships. The idea in men's heads that the black man is inferior to the white man would be impossible unless the black man was held down in an inferior position by white men. It is tragic that the obvious good intentions of Labour (witness Wilson's speeches and the elevation of Brockway) are being negated by international policies which indirectly encourage racialism in general, and scum like the BNY in particular.



RIGHT WING OF BELGIAN SOCIALIST PARTY LAUNCH WITCH HUNT from Brussels.

The Bureau (daily leadership) of the Belgian Socialist Party adopted a resolution November 23 stating that the party leadership intends to place a motion before the party congress, scheduled for December 12-13, declaring that participation in the leadership of the Walloon Popular Movement and any form of collaboration with the two weeklies, La Gauche and Links, is incompatible with membership of the Socialist Party. The news broke the next day in the Belgian daily papers. It was important news. The proposed proscription will provoke a crisis in the Socialist Party of some import.

The Walloon Popular Movement was founded by the late Andre Renard, the leader of the left wing of the Belgian trade unions, after the general strike of December, 1960, - January, 1961. It is closely identified with the left wing of the unions in many industrial regions of the southern part of the country, especially Liege. The French-language La Gauche and the Flemish-language Links are very popular among left-wingers. Their combined circulation exceeds 10,000 copies per week.

The decision of the reformist leadership to open up war on the left wing follows on the heels of a heavy defeat which the right wing suffered in a witch-hunting attempt to repress the left wing on a local or regional scale. In the Charleroi region, a right wing attempt to expel a local section with a moderately left leadership received only 40% of the votes at a regional party congress. In the Nivelles region, the attempt of the right wing to discipline four members of the regional committee for oppositional activities was reduced to six weeks suspension...as members of the regional committee. In Liege, a right wing move to expel Jacques Yerna, regional secretary of the trade union movement and legal editor of La Gauche did not receive the necessary two-thirds majority to pass. In fact the motion got less than fifty per cent of the votes. Following this, the right wing moved to suspend Yerna for six years. When this failed they made it four years. Then three. Next one year. Finally a motion to temporarily suspend Yerna for a few months as a member of the regional committee of the party was passed.

In addition to this, the party had to make a hasty retreat after an attempt to ban members of the socialist youth in September. The right wing has now decided to disregard all these defeats and to plunge ahead in its witch-hunting campaign. The reason appears to be its fear that the left wing will score big victories in the coming primaries at the end of December. These will determine the slates to be run by the Socialist Party in the general elections in 1965. The attack has been met head on by La Gauche and Links, the Socialist Youth, the Socialist student organisations and many local sections of the Socialist Party in both Flemish and Walloon parts of the country. They are mobilising for an all-out fight. In view of the determination they have displayed, the possibility of a split looms large unless the right wing decides at the last moment to make a retreat, a turn that does not seem likely.

100 A DAY CHARGED WITH POLITICAL OFFENCES IN WEST GERMANY based on GDR report

Every day of the year, some 100 West German are drawn into political persecution in West Germany. Their homes are searched, they are blacklisted and interrogated. The "offences" include visits to relatives in E. Germany, working for unorthodox political candidates, and publicly espousing views which can be described as 'Communist'. Though only a minority of them are actually charged the whole system adds up to a powerful system of intimidation.



We reported last on week on the world-wide protest movement against the attack on Stanleyville. This week we want to give extended coverage to the protest movement in Belgium. This movement can be said to be an extraordinarily heroic one: it is always much harder to struggle against one's own Government than against the actions of a foreign state. Also the press hysteria was that much greater in Belgium and the organised right took advantage of the general situation (an attack was made on the Algerian Embassy, for instance). Socialists in Belgium were more than hindered by the fact that it was Social Democrat members of the coalition Government who were the most prominent in the execution and explanation of the attack.

Of the daily papers only Le Drapeau Rouge (the C.P. paper) and La Wallonie (the paper of the Walloon Popular Movement) attempted to give a balanced account of events. However, sections of the movement soon began to make their position clear. The J.G.S. (Young Socialists) were early in the field with a declaration on November 22nd which said: "...that only the Congolese people can work out the problems posed by the civil war in the country. Young Belgian soldiers can in no case join forces with the bloody dictator Tshombe." At Antwerp on November 25, a demonstration of protest was broken up by the police. On the same day workers at Cockerill-Ougree, Liege, (Belgium's biggest factory) belonging to the 2 to 10, and 7.30 to 4.00 shifts, stopped work. They held a meeting to discuss the Congo events and passed a resolution in which they (1) Opposed foreign intervention (and particularly Belgian) in the Congo; (2) Called for the immediate withdrawal of Belgian forces; (3) Denounced the Belgian Government's threat to expel Congo students from Belgium; (4) Expressed the fear that the intervention could lead to general war in Africa; and (5) Expressed solidarity with the Congo people in their struggle for independence.

At Gand a joint demonstration of Communist and Socialist students held out for an hour against attempts by the police to break it up. In Brussels, a united front for action was formed by all working class youth organisations: the Federation of Brussels Socialist Students, the federation of Brussels J.G.S., the Union of Communist Students of Belgium, the National Union of Communist Students (the pro-Peking and pro-Moscow wings), the Union of Young Communists of Belgium, the Belgium Young Communists (ditto), and the Union of Jewish Progressive Youth. These organisations issued a very forthright leaflet in French and Flemish all over Belgium and called for a mass demonstration (which was banned by the Government). It is noteworthy that this was the first time the pro-Moscow and pro-Peking young movements had worked together since the split. An interesting example of the sectarianism of the pro-Moscow wing was that <sup>its</sup> paper avoided mentioning all the signatures of the leaflet - the pro-Peking paper listed them all.

Other protests came from: the Brussels Teachers' Union, the Liege Federations of Communist and Socialist students, and the Committee of Action Against Neo-colonialism and Fascism, other sections of the Cockerill Ougree, workers at the huge Charleroi plant - A.C.E.C., and many others.

In addition a special campaign is being waged in solidarity with the Congolese students who were expelled from the country. La Gauche has been very prominent in this and all the other actions; the November 28th issue carried the complete text of the General Union of Congolese Students, and denounced the Government's action in handing the leaders of the UGEC over to Tshombe's torturers. The same issue of the paper carried an article by Ernest Glinne, M.P., in which he exposed the way Spaak, the 'socialist' Foreign Minister, had turned down a realistic scheme to save Belgian children held as hostages. Glinne charged that Spaak did this so as not to displease Tshombe.



PROPOSAL TO WITHDRAW 40,000,000 ACRES FROM AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION

The Financial Times of December 3rd reported:

"Recommendations for large-scale withdrawal of farm land and more stringent controls on tobacco and milk marketing have been offered in a series of proposals submitted to the U.S. Agriculture Department by the National Agriculture Advisory Commission. The commission is one of the first to have reported among a series of study groups which President Johnson set up earlier this year to consider a range of economic and other issues. In the recommendations, only minor changes are called for in existing support programmes for wheat, feed grains and cotton.

"To curb the growth in U.S. farm surpluses, the Commission calls for 40 million acres of marginal land to be withdrawn from agricultural production over a five-year period. The cost of the programme, through reimbursements to farmers who cease to grow crops, would amount to \$4.2 billion, with annual payments decreasing from \$550 million initially to \$300 million at the completion. The proposals come close to repeating the operations of the existing Soil Bank which is now about to expire. But whereas the bank merely took land out of production so as to improve soil for future cultivation, the commission's plan would provide for land to be withdrawn permanently from cropping."

Comment: This is a typical piece of capitalist logic - whilst  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the world is hungry, and at least  $\frac{1}{3}$  under-nourished, huge sums like this are to be paid to keep down production. All in the interests of private enterprise, i.e., the profit system.

U.S. SENDS MORE TROOPS TO SOUTH VIETNAM from a Far East correspondent

Western news agencies, quoting authoritative U.S. military sources in Saigon, have reported that in November alone, the United States sent 800 troops as reinforcements to South Vietnam. On December 4, another 150 U.S. marines landed at Da Nang in the Northern part of South Vietnam, thus doubling the cordon of leathernecks around the U.S. jet base at Da Nang. Still more troops were reported as having been sent to the U.S. base at Bien Hoa, which suffered heavy damage after an attack by the Vietnam Liberation Front forces in November.

According to a UPI report from Saigon, December 6th, the United States is sending 25 more Skyraider fighter bombers to South Vietnam to replace those destroyed in the attack on Bien Hoa. The report added that the U.S. is sending more "advisers" to each South Vietnam military unit. The number is being increased from 3 to 5 per battalion. "Other Americans were long ago assigned to give even more advice at the headquarters of each of South Vietnam's 45 provinces," the report continued, and "now more of them are being assigned to give military advice to the chiefs of districts." Another UPI report, same day, stated that "senior Americans" in Saigon "are hard put to think of anything else the U.S. can do inside the country. They are pretty well convinced that few uses can be found for still more American men and money within the frontiers of South Vietnam."

These reports are very disturbing in view of the continued discussion in the U.S. press about extending the war to the North. It would be the height of folly for Wilson to, in way, shape or form, underpin U.S. Vietnam policy.