THE WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

VOL. 2. No. 9 9d.

16 th Sept 1964.

THE WEEK Vol 2. No 9. Business Address: 54 Park Road.
Lenton.
Nottingham.

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CONTENTS PAGE.

Letter To Readers. Election is October 15th. We appeal to all comrades, to the Trade Unionists, Labour Party members and Y.S to get into their wards and constituency's, and work for the return of a Labour Govenment.

Published by THE WEEK. 54 Park Road. Lenton. Nottingham.

Does The Left Need A New Educational Society.

The following memorandum has been circulated by Ken Coates and Tony Topham for discussion among the leading circles of the New Left, the Worker's Control Movement, the Trade Unions, Constituency Labour Parties, and Young Socialist branches. We think it will interest readers of 'The Week', and would welcome any comments which they may have.

On Socialist Education.

"The left badly needs its own means of educating itself as well as educating others. The time has surely come for it to create its own organisation for that purpose, which will do for socialism what the Fabian Society has done for social reform."

-John Saville and Ralph Milliband.
The Socialist Register, page 156.

1. This crucially important prescription of Saville and Milliband has already caused some discussion among socialists. We think the time has come to extend this discussion, give it focus, and take the necessary steps to form such a body as they advocate.

2. The demise to the N.C.L.C. and its replacement by a centralised agency of the T.U.C., highlights both the need and the opportunity to create such an educational organisation, which would become the only specifically socialist educational body in the field. The need for such a body is underlined by the surprising initial success of the new movement for workers control, and by the declared intention of some N.C.L.C. colleges to continue their work, even though their parent body has been wound up.

3. The problem faced by the left in creating such an organisation is not primarily one of lack of means or personnel, but one of disorientation of purpose, lack of focus, and fragmentation. In terms of its general educational role, this presents itself as a problem of <u>which</u> socialism to teach: in terms of its role as a forum and research centre in which socialists can clarify their ideas, it presents itself as a problem of <u>who</u> its educational efforts are ultimately directed at.

4. None of these difficulties can be met by the establishment of a purely abstract socialist educational society, because if the fragmentation of the left cannot be solved in the day to day struggles of the socialist movement, it simply will not solve itself in terms of discussion, which outside practical committments producing common problems, can only produce further division.

5. But a society which did not teach abstract ideas would not be a socialist one; and what the Labour Movement needs today is certainly not another laboratory for the perfection of short range, empirical reforming projects.

Continued....

6. The solution to this dilemma must be sought by attempting to centre both the broad educational activities and the internal discussions of the new body around the kind of issues that have both an immediate relevance to the Labour Movement and strong implications for Socialist theory. Foremost among these, in the present context is that posed by Clause 4 of the Labour Party's Constitution: which is basic for a number of reasons. First it provides such focus as there is for all the explicitly socialist argument in the Labour Movement. Second, since the debate of a few years ago, it has become a renewed doctrinal obligation on the Labour Party, which cannot with ease be set aside. Third, and perhaps most important, that part of it which speaks of" the best possible system of popular administration", much neglected though it is, provides a connection with a growing mood of active trade unionists, who are increasingly disposed to challenge the perogatives of management on a whole number of different but connected points.

7. These things point to the need for a body founded on a fairly simple charter based on Clause 4, and emphasising the need for the training of Workers in those practical skills and theoretical insights which would prepare them for Self-Management.

8. Such a body (called, perhaps, the Workers University...?) could set up a collegiate system based on a number of large towns or enterprises, in which the kind of structure [illegible]rly established by the NCLC could be developed and expanded. It could train students and active trade unionists to take classes of shop stewards, preferably short courses of five or six meetings, both on problems of socialist theory, and on the techniques of communication, student and organisation which are not taught from a socialist standpoint by other bodies.

9. Such a body would necessarily be organised under democratic lay control.

10. A number of already existing publications might be placed at the service of such a body. Other existing publications could also mesh into its work most profitably.

11. Such a body could, if it were able to perform a useful service to trade unionists, also convene more general forums of discussion which could considerably extend previous socialist discussion circles.

12. Part of the duties of such a body would include the preparation of model syllabuses on such matters as the conduct of meetings; speaking and writing (oriented to Union Meetings and the socialist press respectively); workshop organisation; the conduct of disputes; and the theory of trade union and political action. In time, out of such work it may be possible to gather resources to promote a programme of correspondence courses and publication.

13. Funds for this work could be raised by individual and group affiliations.

ON SOCIALIST EDUCATION (CONT)

14. A special appeal could be made to trade unions to support this work. Trade councils in particular could help very considerably. Their model rules include provision for the support of educational activites, and the approach outlined in this memorandum should evoke widespread sympathy amongst them.

15. If such a venture is to embarked upon, sponsors need to be assembled, and initial preparations made in time to launch it before the present debate on labour education has exhausted itself. It is therefore urgent to settle the matter quickly.

16. This document is being cirlculated for discussion purposes only, and the authors of it would appreciate comments upon it. If there is sufficient interest to indicate that a meeting on it would be useful, then we are willing, either to convene such a meeting, or to support any other initiative to do so. We would emphasise that we are as interested in adverse commentary, as we are in support for the project, because whether it can be launched or not will depend on the attitude of all the existing left forces in the field.

17. Until a more permanent arrangement can be made, this address can be used as a postbox:-

19, Greenfield St., Dunkirk, Nottingham.

Ken Coates Tony Topham.

Comment: Those comrades who wish to submit remarks for publication in the Week should mark them accordingly. Unmarked contributions will not be published, but circulated privately to those who signify an interest in them.

BRITISH JOURNALISTS PROTEST AT INTIMIDATION OF THEIR COLLEAGUES IN SOUTH AFRICA.

A letter strongly protesting against 'raids made recently on South African Journalists' and at the arrest of six of them has been sent to Mr B.J. Vorster, the South African Minister of Justice, by the British National Union of Journalists. The letter points out that the union regards 'these acts as a gross violation of the freedom of the press, and as evidence of a campaign of intimidation of journalists'.

CIVIL DEFENSE GENERAL SAYS C.N.D. QUESTIONAIRES UNDERMINE SECURITY.

Brighton's Civil Defence Officer (Major General C.M.F. White) has accused C.N.D. of undermining national security by attepting to obtain official answers through questionaires sent out by local C.N.D. branches. He holds that they are "undermining morale"..."ignorantly jeopardising our democracy",..... and "undermining the British will to resist". He claims that if the questionaires are answered and the results correlated, the information, which is secret, could help a potential aggressor.

INDUSTRIAL NOTES

TILBURY DOCKERS PUBLISH "WORK TO RULE" PAMPHLET

From a Docks Correspondent

Dockers throughout the country are being offered a "guide for working to rule" pamphlet to be used if the present port pay deadlock continues.

A group of Tilbury dockers has prepared the pamphlet which lays out how a work to rule could be operated among ships' gangs and quay workers.

Details of the document were given to a massmeeting of Tilbury dockers. Copies are being sent to London, Hull, Manchester, Grimsby, and Southampton for approval and further circulation.

One of the Tilbury men is reported to have said "We have waited long enough If union officials won't act the rank and file will. But strikes are out. A work to rule is a much better weapon to employ and I am sure we will get the support of all dockland."

BELGIAN TOBACCO WORKERS OBTAIN WAGE INCREASE

From ICFTU Bulletin

The principle under which certain privileges or benefits accorded by management are only applicable to trade union members has been at the forefront of recent discussions throughout the Belgian trade union movement. It has been applied in the tobacco industry, where, under the terms of an agreement recently reached between management and the trade unions in the industry a bonus of 900 Belgian francs (six pounds nine shillings) is to be paid this year to all workers belonging to a trade union working in factories producing cigars, cigarettes or tobacco, provided they remain permanently in the industry and the trade union movement. Such a bonus was first paid to workers in the tobacco industry in 1963, but at that time it amounted to 750 francs (about five pounds seven shillings)

DRUGS MARKETED "TOO QUICKLY"

From a Financial Times Report

Drugs, insecticides and food additives have been rushed onto the market "too quickly" in some cases ..according to Dr.W. Mitchell, chairman of the Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain. He told the 101st meeting of the British Pharmaceutical Conference that so far research has aimed mostly at producing new drugs without a true knowledge of how any drug acted on the living organism. Because a prompt financial return could only be expected from the discovery of new drugs themselves, the industry had tended to concentrate on the direct search "leaving the more expensive fundamental work to others"..In the light of obvious ignorance of the action of chemicals on bodily function, Dr. Mitchell said he was appalled at the lack of humility of some chemists, amounting occasionally to "recklessness"

However, reaction had been setting in, hastened by the Thalidomide disaster and the publication of Rachel Carson's "Silent Spring" Wonderful ammunition was being supplied to politicians who told people "they are poisoning your food" by some toxicologists who fed suspect materials to test animals at a high percentage of their total diet. Not surprisingly, the wretched animals may display adverse symptons..Such accelerated toxicity tests could be misleading if not downright alarmist, Dr. Mitchell asserted.

EDITOR's NOTE: Comrades are reminded of the 'Save the Young Socialists' rally that will take place on Sunday, Sept. 20th, 2.00pm at the Mahatma Gandhi Hall, 41 Fitzroy Square, London, W.1. Speakers will include Roger Rosewall, Chris Arthur, Roger Protz, Gus Macdonald, Gavin Kennedy, Peter Taafe and Fred Lindop.

GLASGOW HOUSING ESTIMATES SHOW NEED FOR LABOUR GOVT. by Tony Southall.

£8,098,407 out of an expenditure of £12,514,834. This is the sum shown in this year's housing estimates as due to be paid in interest. This demonstrates in one sentence why the worst concentrated slum area in Europe will not be eradicated in 40 years if present policies are continued. Little wonder that the city can also lay claim to the highest crime rate and the highest incidence of T.B. and infant mortality in the country. The figures represent a social and human problem which must be one of the first reponsibilities of a Labour Government. To the declared policy of reducing interest on loans to local authorities must be added one of special provision for redevelopment of such black-spots.

Meanwhile, Glasgow's Labour Corporation is staunchly refusing to consider raising rents until after October. This policy is of course attacked by all sections of the Press, led by the Scottish Daily Express and the Glasgow Herald. Chief object of the attack is the loss of the Exchequer equalisation grant due to the low rents policy. However, this would bring in only an additional £133,000 - hardly a solution to the problem. The object of the Labour Movement in Glasgow should be to convince the 'ratepayers' many of whom are themselves living in slum property, that they too are the victims of Tory policy.

OFFICIAL LABOUR ON VIETNAM by Chris Arthur.

In view of the continuing silence on the recent incidents in Vietnam by official Labour Party circles, the following extract from a background paper on Vietnam prepared by the Labour Party Overseas Dept., may be of interest to readers. The section concerning the United States attack goes as follows:

> "The US Govt....by her total reply to the attacks on her shipping has shown that she is not prepared to be a sitting target for North Vietnamese action. In fact, in making her raid, the US has exercised considerable restraint. The attack was limited not only to military targets well away from the centre of population, but to those military targets capable of mounting the earlier North Vietnamese attack on the US detroyers. Significantly no action was taken against anti-aircraft batteries, something which emphasises the strict limitation of the operation to retaliatory purposes.
>
> "The North Vietnamese attack was made in the knowledge that powerful individuals in the South Vietnamese had been putting pressure on General Khanh to demand an escalation of the war into the North. Whether Khanh wanted this or not himself, he began to advocate it, in public and in discussions with the US Ambassador. Not to have acted after the destroyers were attacked might well have brought down Khanh's Govt which with all its faults is the chief hope of political stability in the south."

The article continues to develop this theme. Apart from the general question of what the Labour Party is doing supporting the US war against the Vietnam revolution, one wonders how many more steps up the ladder of escalation the above specious and dangerous arguments will be used to justify - "to strengthen Khanh's hand". But as we report this article, news is heard of what "seems to be another coup d'etat in South Vietnam".

AN APPEAL FOR VIC ALLEN.THE TRIAL DRAGS ON. From a Hull correspondent.

The trial of Doctor Victor Allen drags on,and his position is not aided by his dire financial situation,or by the scantnews and coverage afforded him by the popular press. At a recent W.E.T.U.C. meeting in Hull a collection was taken and sent to 'Amnesty',which has already sent an observer out to the trial. David Goodman organised a petition protesting to the Nigerian Government and demanding Doctor Allens release.It was signed by Students, W.E.A. Members,Trade Unionists,Trades Council Delegates, Housewives Etc, and it is hoped that other people who feel that Doctor Allen is being unjustly tried will take some action.It is to be hoped that members of Anti-Apartheid and Movement for Colonial Freedom or any other likely body will contact David Godman.48 Gillett Street.Hessle Rd.Hull. with the intention of making a really substantial drive for financial aid for Doctor Allen.

THE GENERAL STRIKE IN NIGERIA. From a special correspondent. The Joint Action Committee formed in Oct 63 united the Trade Unions who called for a Federal Minimum Wage of £20 ($ 56) per month in May 64. In Lagos the min was £7-12.($ 21.28).The govenement enquiry by Chief Justice Morgan recomended £12 ($ 33.60) a month.The government were slow publishing the report and the Unions began Strike preparations.It began on June 1st.June 3rd the government offered £9-2.($25.48),and the Strike mounted. Free speech,and the rights of demonstration had been declared illegal for some time.Meetings,political freedom had been severly curtailed.Despite these difficulties,at a rally M.A.O.Imoudu,a T.U.Leader and Alhaji Adchdlu were carried off on the shoulders of workers,and a spontanous demonstration started.This was met with Baton charges by the police who injuredAdehhlu.On the next day the headlines were'Workers Leader Beaten up by Police and Taken to Hospital'. The strike then spread all over the country affecting all sections of workers including Clerical & Municipal Workers.June the 8th P.M. Balewa issued ultimatum.Return to work or face the most dire consequences,including dismissal. Inside 48 hours the country was covered with leaflets giving the government an Ultimatum that stated that unless they implement the Morgan Report within 48 hours they would face the wrath of the Workers.

The demonstrations increased,the police used Tear Gas, Baton charges,and fixed bayonets,the Youth came out in the streets and the Police retreated. By Saturday 14 th June the Government agreed to accept the Morgan Report as a basis for negiotiation and the workers had won their point. The most important gain of the 1964 General Strike,was however the great rise in the political consciousness of the workers.

Editor's Note. Further information on the Nigerian Scene is in the No 4 issue of I.S.J. Basil Davidson's article

LABOUR

THE WEEK

CHEMICAL UNION'S AMALGAMATION TALKS BREAK DOWN.

BOB EDWARDS, MP., General Secretary of the Chemical Workers' Union told the TUC last week that the merger with the National Union of General and Municipal Workers favoured by his union's executive had broken down at the discussion stage by his union's shop stewards. It is felt that militant left-wing elements in the C.W.U. will veto any further link-up approaches with the N.U.G.M.W.

Writing in the N.U.G.M.W. Journal this month, David Bassett, one of the union's industrial officers criticises the C.W.U. and accuses it of disregard of facts. "It is hoped", he says, "that the C.W.U. will in time come to recognise their importance". But Mr. Bassett's reprimand may well be an attempt to overlook the political facts surrounding the merger, for the question of the merger as seen by C.W.U. shop stewards will be measured against any decrease in militancy which might result from involvement in the NUGMW, with its concern for many more sectors of industry and less intimate knowledge of the Chemical Workers' problems.

PORT OF LONDON CLERICAL WORKERS GAIN 35 HOUR WEEK.

An important group of over 1,300 members of the National Association of Local Government Officers - the clerical and administrative staff of the Port of London Authority has secured a 35 hour week. All time worked in addition to the 35 hours will count as overtime for all grades up to and including executive officer class 3 and higher clerical officers (i.e. for staff up to a salary of £1,625 per year).

The PLA are according to J. L. Doyle, the president of NALGO's PLA Branch, the first large scale employers in the country of clerical and executive staff to introduce the 35 hour week.

U.S. Notes.

BIG BUSINESS SWITCH OVER TO JOHNSON From 'The Militant'.

"...The declaration of support for Johnson by Henry Ford II was at first considered just an individual gesture. Since then a considerable stream of big businessmen have swung over to Johnson, a number of them making their positions known publicly. This shift of capitalist support to Johnson became so marked in the weeks prior to the Democratic Convention that the Aug 17 New York Times ran an extensive feature article by M.J. Rossant describing the extent of the shift of business support to Johnson. Rossant writes:.... 'Support for President Johnson is particularly marked in'big' business circles- the nations major corporations and banking houses- that have traditionally backed Republican politicians and policies'. The Times cites a representative of the Business Council, which comprises some of the nation's top executives, to the effect that more than 60% of them will be backing Johnson solidly. Johnson according to the Times, has sought businessmen's support "and offered them a chance to make their influence felt". One executive is quoted; "He is the answer to our prayers". Senator Goldwater, saya the Times, will not lack financial and moral support from some business elements, "but the assumption that most businessmen will automatically rally behind the Republican Party no longer holds true."

...The Sept 2 New York Herald Tribune, a traditionally Republican paper reported a "strange" development at a recent Minneapolis meeting of Republican "business heavyweights": eight of 17 said they planned to vote for Johnson, only six for Goldwater, and three were undecided. "The Republican Party's traditional dependence on business for election year contributions...is threatened.... as never before in this centrry."

The facts cited above make it clear that any talk of the Democratic Party being labor's party is hokum. The Democratic Party is clearly revealed as a capitalist party bought and paid for by big business elements".

CORE HITS CLEARING OF N.Y. KILLER?COP. FRom 'The Militant'

"A hand picked grand jury on Sept. 1 returned the expected decision refusing to indict New York City Police Lieutenant T.R. Gilligan for the killing of 15 year old James Powell last July. It was the killing of the negro student which precipitated the fighting between police and negroes in Harlem, A special report prepared by the legal staff of CORE assailed the clearing of Gilligan.

Grand-jury reports are usually kept secret but a special white wash report on the case was released to the press by District Attorney Frank Hogan's office as thegrand-jury decision was announced. This report does not even mentioned witnesses to the killing, including adult whites, who testified that the 122 pound Powell did not have a knife when the 200 pound, six foot tall Gilligan shot twice.... Grand-juries in this city are notorious as tools of the prosecutors and police departments. They are chosen, not from the ordinary Jury lists, but from special lists drawn up by the authorities.... The grand-jury action and Hogan report were immediately denounced by many conservative civil rights leaders "It shows" said Rev. Hildebrand New York NAACP president "that a Negro's life in New York has no more value than a Negro's life in Mississippi"...The CORE legal document challenges the Hogan report on a provocative and extremely dangerous interpretation of the law. The Hogan report states that if there is'disorderly conduct', the policeman may kill if he is resisted. "In other words comments the CORE report "a violation of law not even a crime can be transformed into a situation in which police become judge, jury and executioner

Extracts of a letter from Mrs.D.B. Alexander dated July 7, 1964.

'I appeal to you on behalf of my son and 10 others who have leave to appeal on certain portions of their convi tions .....'

'With this aim in view we beg for assistance from outside as our position is such that we cannot do anything.!..

'Please help us in collecting any funds possible.'

This poignant appeal on behalf of Dr. Neville Alexander and ten of his friends who are preparing to make their appeal to th e Bloemfontein Supreme court against their sentences of 10, 7 and five years in South Africa's notorious gaols, must surely stir everyone into action. Action to raise as much money as possible to send to 'Defence and Aid' for the appeal.

The prisoners concerned are: Dr. Neville Alexander, a doctor of philosophy and high school teacher; his sister Dorothy; Don Davies, a minister; Marcus Solomons, a teacher; Elizabeth van der Heyden and her brother and sister Leslie and Dorothy; Fikele Bam, a law student; Lionel Davies, a clerk; Gordon Hendriks and Dulcie September, a teacher.

Arrested in July 1963, thay were accused of having committed an unspecified number of acts of sabotage and detained in custody under the 90-day detention law. During their detention they were subjected to police brutality and torture. They were brought to trial on November 4, 1963, and charged under article 76 of the Sabotage Act. This act makes every action directed against the racial policy of the government punishable by a minimum of five years in prison.

The prosecution read "more than fifty documents" to the court as evidence that the defendants were guilty of sabotage. These included 'Strategic Problems of the Anti-Japanese Guerilla War, by Mao Tse-tung;'The Paris Commune' by V.I.Lenin, and issues of 'Liberation' organ of the National Liberation Front. One prosecution witness, a paid police informer, Mr Cecil Dempster, admitted in court on November 21 that he had not told the truth when giving his evidence, as he had been instructed by the police to keep secret'certain facts.' Three Africans, Cyril Jacobs, Daniel Zwavel and Josef Lucas, refused to give evidence. Mr Jacobs was warned that if he persisted in his refusal he would be regarded as an accomplice but would be'absolutely free" if he did give evidence. For refusing to be intimidated the three

witnesses were themselves charged under the Sabotage Act. Miss Dorothy Adams, who refused to testify against the defendants, was also arrested. Reginald Francke, another state witness, admitted that the police had offered to release him from the ninety day's detention as soon as he made a satisfactory statement.

On February 5, 1964, the defence claimed that "the basis of a fair trial had collapsed." During the trial the prosecution never brought any proof that any of the defendants had committed one single act of sabotage. Yet they were found guilty. Judge van Heerden admitted that no actual acts of sabotage had been committed, but said evidence existed of discussions on the "elimination of apartheid" and "plans to introduce the technique of armed insurrection in the struggle." On May 27, 1964, Judge van Heerden refused the prisoners the right of appeal but allowed "special entries" to be made in the record, of some points made by the defence.

This means that the prisoners can now appeal to the Bloemfontein Supreme Court. Such an appeal will of course entail considerable expense. No campaign can be organised in South Africa to help the defendants, as people participating in such activity could themselves be then charged under the Sabotage Act.

At a meeting attended by 100 people in the Caxton Hall recently it was unanimously decided to set a target of £2,500 as the British contribution to the appeal fund. The British Alexander Defence Committee, composed of individuals and representatives from 'Defence and Aid - Christian Action' 'Anti-Apartheid', 'South African Coloured people's Congress', ''African National Congress' 'NALSO', 'National Chemical Workers Union'' and other African and British organisations, will be pleased tosend speakers to meetings or help in any way possible to raise this sum.. Postal Orders and Cheques should be made out to 'Defence and Aid, Alexander Appeal', and sent to 'Christian Action', 2, Amen Court, London, EC4, or to Mrs. Connie Kirkby, 27, Thursley House, Holmewood Gardens, London, SW2.

It is hoped that the appeal trial will take place in November. THERE IS LITTLE TIME TO SPARE.

START A COLLECTION NOW WITH YOUR FRIENDS AND FELLOW WORKERS.

SEND IN YOUR DONATION RIGHT AWAY.

Alexander's mother has written again:

'There is a very short time left to gather money .....'

'Please let me know if any funds have been collected to help us further'.

"THE SOCIOLOGY OF THE 'SUN'". Alex Acheson.

The lead article on the Daily Heralds coming matamorphosis states that Mark Abram's "The Newspaper Reading Public of Tomorrow" commissioned by Odham's Press is basic research which has guided the launching of THE SUN.

If this factual research cannot be controverted, then it has lessons for the left. We know that semi-skilled piece rate workers and service and distributive workers have increased tremendously absolutely and relatively in recent decades. Ministry of Labour statistics show immense decline of workers in older and heavy industries, e.g., coalmining: from 800,000 to 550,000 since the war, or a decline of 30%. Cotton workers have declined by 70% since 1914, a drop of 40% since 1950. Standards of living have improved not only relatively, but absolutely for several strata. So the specific weight of several groups of workers has changed drastically without an equivalent change in representation in the Trade Union and Labour movements. Propaganda and programme must take into account real and illusory gains in status, economic gain, consuming power, housing and durable consumer goods ownership. Abrams has done research, it may be slanted, imperfect or superficial, but what factual basis have we for opposing it or challenging its conclusions ?

It is not unreasonable to suppose that the importance to King and the International Publishing Co. of the successful launching of THE SUN and the huge expenditure must pre-suppose that Abram's research is worth getting hold of and analysisng.

New Society (3rd Sept 1964) had this to say on the same subject: "Abrams rubs in the changes of the last 10 years. He sees the early 1950's as 'the beginnings of slow and stumbling transistion from a 19th Century society'. In the year 1952 Before Bloom only 11% of British households owned a washing machine, Hardly anyone with an income of under £1,500 (im 1964 terms) had a fridge. People still went to the pictures, listened to the Home Service, went to the dogs. He points out the characteristics of today's society (in which a Ministry of Labour report last week would cite garage mechanic and hairdresser as two of the fastest growing jobs). Throughout the country, labourers and craftsmen have moved into the minority. They are also getting comparatively worse pay. The average person spends about a quarter more (in real terms) than 10 years ago. He mainly spends it on household durables, cars, leisure and clothes. The home has become the centre of people's lives. It is more than a castle; it is also a 'bank vault and music hall'. People entertain at home more: and for some reason, education makes the visitors more likely to be friends than relatives. Social contacts are getting wider.

The population is expanding briskly, By the end of the 1960's half the people in Britain will be under 35. This half of the population will increasingly determine the trend of British society. By past British standards, a high proportion have had, (or will get) education beyond the minimum school leaving age. The political outlook of this half of the population is 'secular and critical rather than ideological and undiscriminating'. People would rather talk about clothes, cars or holidays, anyway, than politics. With their growing leisure people play golf. fish, sail, go for unorganised rambles."