

The Week

A news analysis for socialists

Once more on Workers' Control

25th February, 1965. Vol. 3, No. 8

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**Business and
Editorial Address:**

54 Park Road,
Lenton, Nottingham.
Tel. Nottingham 49369.

Editors:
Robin Blackburn,
Ken Coates

THE weekend brought stern news. "Hard, tough and unpopular decisions must be made if Britain is to get the rate of economic expansion it needs," said Harold Wilson at the meeting of the Southern Region of the Labour Party.

No-one on the left will deny for a second that the crisis of Britain's economy is serious in the extreme. None of us would suggest that socialist responses to this crisis can be easily or painlessly transformed into hard policies. Neither would any of us suggest that the workers should ignore appeals for sacrifices, if these are needed to ease the way to a socialist transformation of society. But we all should, indeed must, insist, that such sacrifices are only justified if they do result in changes in the balance of power in favour of the working people.

Indeed, the danger at the moment is that the most productive force of all, that of the creative initiative of the workpeople, will be left out of the calculations of the economic planners who are advising the government. The a marriage of technocratic skills with neo-capitalism and dangers which were so widely feared a few months ago, of its standards, seem to be markedly increased with every new problem the government faces. There are no satisfactory solutions to the present crisis on the purely administrative plane. Our problem is to transform the structure of society, to develop socialist reforms, and to overcome the priorities and motivations of capitalism along with its manifest inefficiencies.

For this reason, all eyes must be focussed on the new steel bill. A bureaucratic transformation of the industry will scarcely touch the problems it faces, leave alone inspire the Labour movement and its supporters to new efforts. Only the introduction of real democratic controls, harnessing and developing every initiative of the steel workers themselves, can open the possibility for a renewed movement to public ownership of industry, which alone can tackle the difficult planning problems which are facing Mr. Wilson and his team.

The steel workers have begun the struggle for such solutions. We must see to it that they win.

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ANY QUESTIONS?

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 Frank Allaun, M.P.

On Wednesday, March 17th
 in the House of Commons at 7.30.

USE THE WEEK CO-OP NUMBER
 NOTTINGHAM 25637

Left-wing Victory in USDAW

MR. R. B. SEABROOK, of Norwich, has been elected president of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers, in succession to Mr. Walter Padley, M.P.

Mr. Seabrook has been a consistent advocate for Left-wing and militant policies within USDAW. He is

an active Labour Party member and a sponsor of *Voice of the Unions*.

In the voting Mr. Seabrook received 103,543 votes; second was Mr. R. Hanes with 97,825 votes, and third Mr. S. R. Watts with 39,438. Mr. Padley resigned the presidency on his appointment as a Minister of State at the Foreign Office.

Young Socialists' Summer School, 1965

TWO Young Socialists' Summer Schools will be held this year— at Coleg Harlech, Merioneth, from 10th - 17th July and at Ruskin College, Oxford, from 31st July - 7th August.

The cost at each school will be £9. Applications must be made to the Chief Youth Officer, The Labour Party, Transport House, Smith Square, London, S.W.1, which must be accompanied by a booking fee of

£1/10/0 for each place reserved.

Each school will deal with the problems and work of the Labour Government and there will be a separate course on Overseas Affairs and Home Policy.

It is to be hoped that CLPs will send Young Socialists to these schools—they can be important forums for discussing the basic questions facing us. *The Week* would like to hear from any delegates to these schools.

MALCOLM X

The terrible news of the murder of Malcolm X reached us as we were going to press. In subsequent issues we shall be writing about his recent visit to England. He was a very brave man, who was widely misunderstood outside the negro community. It appears that he was killed because he was about to divulge important information about the activities of racialists in the United States. He spoke from within the torment of the negro people. We sometimes disagreed with him, but came to follow his utterances with increasing respect. His murder shocked and stunned us. We pay tribute to him.

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WORKERS' CONTROL

STEEL CONFERENCE

DEMANDS NEW FORM OF NATIONALISATION

*Report of Conference of Steelworkers
which met in Sheffield on Sunday,
February 7th and 14th, 1965*

FOR some considerable time, a Study Group has been meeting in the Sheffield district to discuss problems of steel nationalisation.

It has consisted of Trade Union members and Officials (in their personal capacity) drawn from several of the different Unions in the steel industry. A few weeks ago they circulated a document to steel workers in other Areas, Members of Parliament and a few University Lecturers and others, calling them to attend a meeting in Sheffield. Sixty-five people attended the meeting, coming from Sheffield, Rotherham, Stocksbridge, Scunthorpe, Staveley, Stanton, Manchester and elsewhere. A detailed exchange of views took place which was carried on from one Sunday to the next.

Those present were not official delegates, apart from four delegates sent from the delegates' Council in one of the works of the still not denationalised firm, Richard Thomas and Baldwins. Leading members of Steel Unions attended in a personal capacity. One M.P., Eric Varley of Chesterfield, attended on behalf of a group of members interested in the problem.

Very great concern was expressed by men who claimed to represent the feelings of the workers in the industry at the possibility that the industry might not be nationalised in the present session of Parliament. Any one who doubts the interest of steelworkers in nationalisation would have had his doubts dispelled. Those who attended the meetings agreed to go back to their union branches, Constituency Parties and Trades Councils to organise meetings up and down the country in favour of early nationalisation.

At the same time, almost equal concern was expressed at the possibility that the 1949 Act might be

re-enacted. The following main reasons were put forward:

1. This would seem to be a mere act of revenge and would make the necessary rationalisation of the industry exceedingly difficult.
2. This would not break up the British Iron and Steel Federation—with its control over ore and scrap supplies, prices and other policies—the rock on which the last nationalisation attempt foundered.
3. This would leave the present companies and directors with great power, not only to hive off profitable bye-products, but to subcontract profitable parts of the industry, leaving the state corporation to supply cheap bulk steel to private enterprise.
4. This would do nothing to bring workers in the industry into the sphere of management, where the crucial changes required by rationalisation and growing automation are going to be made.

The third aspect of nationalisation that aroused strong feelings especially from Sheffield workers is the possibility that only bulk steel producers, producing over half a million tons, will be nationalised. This would leave out all Sheffield firms, yet they produce probably as much as a fifth of the value of national steel output, in the form of special steels. Again, this is the more profitable section of the industry, where firms often have a true monopoly of special products. To leave them out of nationalisation is both to miss the chance of economies of integration and to leave the state with only the least profitable end of the industry. Steel making firms that were not brought into national ownership should operate under licence.

In the matter of the participation of workers in management, the general view was expressed that despite the risk of finding themselves saddled with unpopular national policies which they could not alter, trade unions should take responsibility for electing men to sit on the managing Boards at every level of industry. These would not be trade union officials nor would they in any way supplant the negotiating role of Trade Union officials in collective bargaining on Wages and conditions; except on the national board they would not be full time, but they should be elected at least in part through trade union organisations. One way of doing this which seemed satisfactory is suggested on the report that goes with the document. Workers' Councils representing Trade unions and wider Shop and Department Committees should also have some power of veto on management appointments. The lessons of the powerlessness of workers in the coal industry to influence management decisions, which they had nevertheless to defend in the general interests of a nationalised industry, were not lost on members who raised those questions. The right to ask for detailed costings was essential if fair and correct decisions on rationalisation were to be made.

Many delegates spoke of the importance of taking steps towards uniting the various Unions working in the steel industry. It was agreed that the best way forward was a Federation on the same principle as the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. Great emphasis was also put on the importance of persuading white collar and technical workers to join their appropriate unions. A nationalised steel corporation should be required to negotiate wages and conditions only with *bona fide* national unions.

INCOMES POLICY

DATA's Statement of Intent

At its January meeting the Executive Committee of DATA adopted the following resolution on the recently signed Joint Statement of Intent on productivity, prices and incomes:

THE E.C. of DATA has given careful consideration to the Joint Statement of Intent signed by representatives of the Government, the TUC and employers' organisations.

It reaffirms its belief that a solution to Britain's economic problems will be achieved only through planning for general benefit in a society in which the people have adequate control over the means of production, distribution and exchange. Under such conditions trade union participation in an incomes policy would be a logical and rational outcome.

"The E.C. sees little evidence of such conditions today and is aware of

the contemptuous manner in which manufacturers and merchants have increased the prices of many commodities since their representatives signed the document.

"The E.C. believes that the interests of DATA's members in these circumstances can only be defended by maintaining its resolve to press for improvements in their standards of living.

"We remind the TUC, the Ministry of Labour and the employers of the views of a number of independent committees — principally the Fielden Report to the DSIR — that many engineering employers fail to recognise the importance of design in their business and the need to improve the wages and working conditions of design technicians not only in the interests of the workers concerned but also in the interests of the engineering industry."

Only Answer—Profit

F.B.I. Chief

JUST what big business thinks of efforts by the Government to achieve an 'incomes policy' is shown by a speech made by Sir Peter Runge, president of the Federation of British Industries.

Sir Peter, speaking at a dinner of the Ayrshire Chamber of Industries, at Kilmarnock, called for industry to rivet its attention on efficiency.

"You may all ask how I measure efficiency," he declared. "I have only one answer—by profit.

"This is a word from which people appear to shrink. It is as though it carries a murky association, as though it is synonymous with money grubbing and is no more than the means by which business and industry line their pockets."

But is was only through profits that the country's economy could expand, the national wealth increase, and the nation's standard of living improve.

If Sir Peter's criterion is accepted, the incomes policy must be in ruins. Obviously if profit is the measure of efficiency there can be no limitation on dividends, etc. This could only be interpreted as interfering with efficiency.

by Dave Windsor

MORE CUTS IN STORE?

THE *Financial Times* correspondent in Paris has been reporting on pressures which are being applied on the Government to carry out deflationary measures.

The Group of Ten, which includes the richest members of the International Monetary Fund, is unlikely to provide financial help for Britain if the Government does not introduce stringent deflationary measures in the Budget.

European officials at the O.E.C.D. have been urging more drastic action by the U.K.

Unless this advice is followed "it is doubtful whether the Group of Ten's General Arrangements to Borrow can be activated," according to a source close to the group.

The arrangements were brought into action for the first time last November and provided \$400m. of Britain's \$1,000m. drawing on the I.M.F.

The source emphasised that there

is no ground for believing that the pound should be devalued. But he emphasised that there was a strict limit to the concessions European Governments were prepared to make to avert a sterling devaluation.

The essential point, he said, was that Britain must eliminate its balance of payments in the very near future, and although there was considerable sympathy in Europe for the Labour Government's desire to get away from stop-go policies, the agonising decision must be made.

But he also stressed that, once the U.K. balance of payments position had been restored, it would be incumbent on the international community as a whole to ensure that Britain would be in a position to conduct a long-term policy of steady growth. Britain's reserves were far too small at present to permit such a policy, and other countries with a strong reserve position would have to contribute to a long-term loan to the U.K.

Good advice from the Sunday Express

IT is not often that one can read in the Beaverbrook press suggestions that trade unionists should follow. However, the following appeared in John Gordon's regular column: "Current Events" in the *Sunday Express* edition of February 21st:

"The doctors are being told that they mustn't hold a pistol at the Government. They must take what the politicians give them — whether it satisfies them or not. Nonsense.

"What I am delighted to see they seem to be learning is that in this age unless you have a strong union to back you and are determined to strike if driven to it, the Government — whether Socialist or Tory—will just laugh at you.

"But have power behind you, and mean what you say, then you can have what you want. That's the lesson the dockers, dustmen, bus crews, railwaymen, etc., have taught us."

Jean Holman

News from the Unions

Praise for NCLC

THE National Council of Labour Colleges was founded in 1921 by the Labour Party, and various trade union and co-operative organisations to provide independent working class education for the British labour movement. H.A. Tulatz, Assistant General Secretary of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, attended a dinner held to honour the NCLC and its founders on 23rd January, 1965 in London.

In a speech on this occasion, Tulatz underlined that quite a few NCLC trained trade unionists had co-operated in the educational work of the

International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, and that this collaboration had always been deeply appreciated. He added that the NCLC had had the foresight to include international problems both in its publications and courses early in its history, thus helping to give men a broader outlook. He paid tribute to those who had built up the NCLC, J. P. M. Millar, General Secretary of the organisation, and his wife Christine Millar, who founded the Postal Courses Department in 1923.

* from International Trade Union News.

AEU Foundry Workers

MERGER BASIS AGREED

AGREEMENT was reached last week on the basis of amalgamation between the im.-strong Amalgamated Engineering Union and the Amalgamated Union of Foundry Workers, which has 70,000 members.

Executive representatives of both unions, approved a plan which would, in effect, mean the creation of a new engineering union based on separate trade groups. The next stage will be to draw up a new list of rules acceptable to the two unions and then to hold ballots of the joint membership.

A change in the title of the AEU is envisaged to give it a wider industrial appeal than it has at present. In 1963, the AEU offered to change its

name to the Amalgamated Engineering and Foundry Workers' Union in a bid to attract other unions with foundry members into a new organisation.

The Manchester-based Foundry Workers' Union, which has a strong Left-wing tradition, agreed to set up a joint committee to investigate the proposal, but other smaller craft unions refused to participate.

Mr. David Lambert, general secretary of the Foundry Workers, will now approach these unions in an attempt to secure their support for an extended merger to bring most of the engineering and shipbuilding industry's 150,000 foundrymen within one union.

Ambulance men join N.U.P.E.

MERGER proposals have been agreed between the executives of the National Union of Public Employees and the National Ambulance Services Association.

Mr. Frank Journeaux, general secretary of the 4,000-strong NASA, will join the staff of NUPE as its Ambulance Service Officer. The merger will come into force on July 1.

A joint statement said that developments now taking place in the formulation of a national incomes policy made the need for all sections of public employees to articulate a common policy "of critical importance."

NUPE is confident of reaching its 250,000 membership target in time for announcement at its annual conference in May.

Labour College News

from 'PLEBS'

COUNCILLOR E. F. Doyoy of 169 Cromer Street, Grimthorpe, near Barnsley, is the Secretary of the Barnsley College which will continue to lead an independent life, like Hull and other old N.C.L.C. Colleges.

Barnsley College is holding a Conference at the beginning of January and expects to remain independent.

The Independent Fife Labour College held a school on "Co-operative Adult Education" in the Co-operative Educational Hall, Natal Place, Cowdenbeath, on Saturday, 16th January. The Fife Secretary is R. Plunkett, Chairman, 54 Sinclair Drive, Cowdenbeath.

PLEBS understands that the Rhondda College is likely to maintain an independent existence. Particulars can be had from D. Knight, Secretary, 10 Inverleith Terrace, Llwynypia, Rhondda, Glam.

Belfast College, one of the N.C.L.C.'s most active Colleges in the past, is another likely to remain in existence as an independent unit. A new Secretary is being appointed.

Bristol Bus Strike

from a Bristol Correspondent

BRISTOL'S bus services were brought to a halt on February 16th by a one-day unofficial strike. The lightning strike took place because of dissatisfaction with the pay offer of 8/6 a week increase to provincial busmen. Municipal busmen are getting 15/- and the Bristol busmen feel they should be on the same footing even though the bus service is not run by the Council.

The men are in a militant mood and further strikes are expected, especially as this was 100% despite the efforts by local officials of the TGWU to keep the men at work. Tempers flared at the mass meeting which took the decision and two reporters, who had been waiting outside for the result of the meeting, were smuggled out of the union building by the fire escape.

Cuba's way for Latin

THE following interview with Che Guevara, which appeared in *Revolution Africaine*, was reported by Josie Fanon, widow of the Algerian revolutionary figure Frantz Fanon, author of *Les Damnés de la Terre*. The translation is by *World Outlook*.

Josie Fanon: *What is the reason for your visit to Algeria?*

Che Guevara: The reason for my visit is very simple. In a few days I am going to visit a number of African countries, and to go to Africa, it is necessary for us to come to Algeria first. We are also utilizing the occasion, before we leave, to discuss general international and African problems with our Algerian government brothers. We are thinking of staying two or three days longer in Algeria.

Josie Fanon: *Would you indicate in broad outline the position of the Cuban government in relation to Africa as a whole?*

Che Guevara: Africa represents one of the most important, if not the most important, fields of battle against all the forms of exploitation existing in the world, against imperialism, colonialism and neocolonialism. There are big possibilities for success in Africa, but there are also many dangers. The positive aspects include the youth of the African peoples as modern states, the hate which colonialism has left in the minds of the people, the very clear consciousness which the peoples possess of the profound differences existing between an African man and the colonizer, the conviction that there can never be sincere friendship between them, except after the definite departure of the colonizer. There are also other positive aspects: the present possibilities of a much more rapid development than even a few years ago due to the aid which some of the capitalist countries can likewise provide under certain conditions (but on this point we must be vigilant).

What we consider to be the principal danger for Africa is the possibility of division among the African peoples which appears to be continually rising. On the one side there are the lackeys of imperialism, on the other the peoples seeking to free themselves along the roads suited to them. We have concrete reasons

for fearing this danger. There is the phenomenon of unequal exchanges between the industrialized countries and the economically dependent countries. This relation of inequality is shown in the most brutal way in connection with colonialism. But the completely independent countries also risk finding themselves locked up in the prison of the capitalist market because the big industrialized countries impose this through their high technical development. The big developed countries begin, after independence, to exercise a kind of "suction" on the liberated countries and after a few years the conditions are again ripe for political domination.

We believe that in Africa the bourgeoisie still has a word to say today. This is quite different from Latin America where the national bourgeoisie no longer has any choice but to submit completely to the orders of imperialism. In many independent African countries, the bourgeoisie has, in the beginning, the possibility of developing and of playing a "relatively" progressive role. It can, for a time, mobilize the people and the forces of the Left under the slogan of the struggle against imperialism, but inevitably the moment comes when this bourgeoisie and the government representing it end up in an impasse. It is not possible for the bourgeoisie, by its very nature, to follow the road into which the people seek to push it. The only course remaining open to it is collaboration with imperialism and oppression of the people. In brief, it can be said that there are at present big possibilities in Africa because of the effervescence existing in this region of the world but that there are also real dangers which we have to keep in mind. There are important economic problems that must be remembered. Unequal relations in international exchanges leads to an impasse where it becomes very easy to concede to imperialism and to oppress the people whom, for a short period, they appeared to serve.

Josie Fanon: *If you were asked what road of economic development was best suited for the African countries, what would you say?*

Che Guevara: If my advice were asked, or rather my opinion, as Cuban Minister of Industry, I would say

simply that a country beginning to develop itself must, in the first period, work above all at organization and that one should approach the practical problems by "using your own head". This may seem to be an abstract and rather vague opinion but it's something very important.

In Africa, where many countries have already carried out very extensive nationalizations, there is perhaps the possibility of creating certain enterprises to provide products for other countries lacking them and vice versa. It is necessary to work in the spirit of mutual profit and for that it is necessary to know each other better and to establish relations of confidence. At first this must be limited to very simple things. It may be necessary at times to set up small plants requiring a lot of workers and offering jobs for many unemployed, rather than highly mechanized enterprises employing a reduced number of workers. In certain cases, a sector must be rapidly mechanized; in other cases this is not necessary. In fact, in a country on the road to development most problems involve agriculture and extractive industry, but it is quite evident that these problems are posed in a different way in each country, and that one must pay attention above all to particular realities. That's why it is impossible to give a general formula that could be applied to all the African countries.

Josie Fanon: *What are the perspectives, in your opinion, of the revolutionary struggle in Latin America?*

Che Guevara: You know, that is something close to my heart; it's my keenest interest. We believe that the revolutionary struggle is a very long struggle, very hard. It is difficult to believe—difficult, but evidently not impossible—in the isolated triumph of the revolution in one country. Imperialism has been preparing an organized repression of the peoples of Latin America for some years. In different countries they have formed an international of repression. Right now, in fact, in the Latin-American countries where the last battles were fought for the liberation of America from the Spanish yoke, in Peru, military manoeuvres are being held. Various countries are participating in these manoeuvres, conducted by the United States, in the Ayacucho region. What we are witnessing in

America

this region is direct preparations for repression. And why are these manoeuvres taking place precisely in this mountainous region of Peru, in this jungle zone? It is because Ayacucho is situated close to the place where important revolutionary bases exist. Ayacucho was not chosen by accident.

The Americans are paying a lot of attention to the problem of guerrilla war. They have written some very interesting things on this. They have grasped the quite correct idea that guerrilla war is extremely difficult to liquidate if it is not liquidated as soon as it appears. All their strategy is no worientated o nthis objective, taking two main form: first of all, repression; secondly, the isolation of the revolutionists from their main base—the peasants. I read in an American document the very expression used by Mao Tse-tung: "*Among the people, revolutionists are like a fish in water.*" The Americans have grasped that the power of the guerrilla fighter resides in this, and they have grasped that everything must be done to stop this from continuing.

Clearly, all these factors make the struggle more difficult. But against the international of repression will come the inevitable and natural reply of the international of the struggle of the proletarians and the peasants against the common enemy. That is why we foresee the organization of a continental front of struggle against imperialism and its domestic allies. This front will take a long time to organize, but when it exists it will be a severe blow against imperialism. I don't know if it will be a definite blow, but it will be a very hard blow. It is for this reason that we pose this fundamental principle: the struggle for freedom must be not only a defensive struggle but likewise an offensive struggle against imperialism.

We will even add that the working class in the United States, because of its high standard of living, does not see in a keen way the contradictions existing in American society. To the American workers, these contradictions appear softened and they cannot gain clear consciousness of their own exploitation as long as they continue to get the crumbs which North American imperialism tosses to them from the feast.

SUKARNO :

We have 21 million volunteers

PRESIDENT SUKARNO said, "If necessary, I will arm all our workers and peasants to defend the independence of the Indonesian Republic," in Djakarta on February 11th. He said this at a rally attended by fifteen thousand workers.

Sukarno said, "The British have concentrated their fleets, aircraft and troops in Malaya and North Kalimantan (Borneo) in an attempt to frighten us. I have said more than once that our withdrawal from the United Nations is not aimed at launching a war. But, should we be attacked, we will fight back, and we will smash completely the aggressors!"

He continued: "I would like to tell Imperialism and old and new colonialism: the Indonesian armed forces are the strongest in South-East Asia. Apart from the regular troops, we

have twenty-one million men and women volunteers, and if necessary I will arm all our workers and peasants to defend the independence of the Indonesian Republic."

The President said that Indonesia did not suffer any loss from its withdrawal from the United Nations and its specialised agencies. "Without the United Nations, without the UNESCO, UNICEF, FAO and ILO the Indonesian Revolution will continue to march forward!" he added.

"Some foreign correspondents and diplomats here whispered just a moment ago that the people gathered here are all Communists because they shouted 'Independence!'. This is not true. Gathered here are workers believing in Islam, Nationalism and Communism. However, all Indonesian workers are revolutionaries," Sukarno concluded.

INDONESIA :

Workers take over plantations

EIGHT U.S.-owned rubber plantations in North Sumatra province were taken over by the local workers on the morning of February fifteenth, as a reply to U.S. hostility towards the Indonesian republic, and the U.S. aggression against Vietnam. This was disclosed in a press release issued by the National Council of the All-Indonesia Central Organisation of Trade Unions (SOBSI) on February 17th.

Of the eight, two belonged to the U.S. "Goodyear Company" and four to the U.S. "Sumatra Rubber Plantation Company Limited".

A thirteen-member managing committee has been set up in the Wing-foot plantation affiliated to the U.S. "Goodyear Company". The Goodyear signboards over the doors of all the offices, residences and hospitals were taken down and replaced by those inscribed with the words: "the property of the Indonesian Republic".

The U.S.-owned rubber plantations in Indonesia are mainly located in North Sumatra. The U.S. plantations there covered an area of nearly

160,000 acres, employing 17,500 workers.

The North Sumatra Provincial Committee of SOBSI issued a statement on the fifteenth, expressing full support for the action of the workers. The statement declared that after the take-over, the history of U.S. capital in North Sumatra was brought to an end.

The National Council of the Indonesian Waterside Workers and Seamen's Union, on February 13th, instructed its members throughout the country to boycott U.S. ships and prepare to take over U.S. enterprises as a reply to aggression against Vietnam.

The instruction said that the U.S. imperialists' savage attack against Vietnam was aggression against the Indonesian Republic. The U.S. imperialists had supported the British in setting up "Malaysia" as a military base to encircle and crush the Indonesian Republic.

This proved, the instruction continued, that the peoples of Vietnam and Indonesia faced a common enemy, U.S. imperialism, and that they should carry on a joint struggle.

ALGERIA :

Councillor J. A. Spencer

Does Self-management Work ?

THIS was the main question I tried to ascertain in Algeria; I am now convinced that it does. Take these examples: I have seen three large farms, one of 6,250 acres (near Oran), one of 4,500 acres and one of 1,750 acres, both near Alger. On the biggest farm, the former owner, a French company, had only utilised a portion of the land for agriculture, and a portion for pastures, whilst a big part was not used at all. Now 100% of the ground is used. On the formerly unused land, they are growing vegetables and potatoes and were just preparing to grow sugar beet. Irrigation water pipes have been laid everywhere since the revolution. The production of wine, without increasing the size of the vineyards, has gone up from 65,000 to 85,000 hectolitres. The number of tractors was increased from 8 to 33 and all repairs are now made on the spot, the workers having been taught how to do it. The increase in the number of tractors was paid for out of profit. The last payment of profit shares to permanent workers has been £17/5/0 each on the basis of equal shares. The council of 35, the Executive of 5, of whom we saw the president and vice-president, do not seem to find any difficulty in organising the activities of 500 permanent workers and up to 1,300 seasonal workers, and controlling a diversified production including wine, cereals, oranges, mandarines, vegetables, potatoes, sugar beet, 58 milk cows, 1,100 lambs and 3,000 olive trees.

At the same time, in less than two years, they have built new houses to house all their workers and families, to destroy all the "gourbis" in which the people used to live and to convert a disused former hangar into an attractive meeting hall and a cultural centre, used for film and television shows and to enlarge the small school, originally built for children of the French supervisory staff, to accommodate all the children of the locality.

Or take the example of "CIMOR", an "Auto-Gestion" (self-management

unit) in Oran, consisting of 17 workshops and central offices with a large manufacturing programme, including steel castings, bronze and aluminium castings, steel furniture, boilers, marine propellers, etc. These workshops have been closed for over a year after the French owner and his specialists had left, who had been involved in terrorist activities. It was re-opened by the initiative of former employees who re-organised these workshops in a streamlined way and introduced using trolleys for a system similar to that of conveyor belts. As I am no expert on casting, I rather looked at the beautiful steel furniture they had made. One of their workshops has now started on an order for 20,000 school desks with benches for two, with wooden table tops and seats, which we found absolutely beautiful. In this case the director was only appointed (owing to a shortage of specialists in the country) several months after the workshops had been opened and re-organised, and found all functioning wonderfully and is therefore full of admiration for the work done by the elected board.

As another example, I may mention from my long list a "carrosserie" in Alger. A firm which used to do repairs only and occasional construction jobs on order, has now a large production programme of national importance; ambulances complete with stretchers and other equipment, vans, minibuses and telephone repair vans, general overhauls. All these vehicles are being made on basis of imported chassis or by conversion of existing vehicles of a different character. The 72 workers have decided to re-invest their profit of £18,750 in order to expand and to train unemployed men to join them.

As a last example I should like to mention a bus company, "Auto-Gestion Colonel Lotfi" which has a function comparable to our Green Line, that means it covers transport outside the town of Alger, with a radius of 187½ miles and their vehicles run at present 355,550 miles

a month. Under private ownership 70% of the vehicles were normally in use; now they are not only using their vehicles 100%, but they have bought six new buses from the profits of the last three months. The workers' share of the profit was divided according to qualifications. As distinct from London Transport, they do not find difficulties in agreeing time tables with the length of the working day.

Rhodesia-Portugal — 'Closer Links'

from a Portuguese Student

CLOSER co-operation in almost all fields is expected to be the result of talks between the Rhodesian Government and a Portuguese delegation.

The main object of the 39-man Portuguese delegation is to negotiate a new trade agreement with Rhodesia, to take the place of the old agreement with the deceased Central African Federation.

It is believed not unlikely that the two Governments will in addition discuss common "security" problems.

Suggestions of a military pact between Portugal and Rhodesia have been raised again here, but it is pointed out that such an arrangement is out of the question while Rhodesia is still constitutionally dependent on Britain.

The links between Rhodesia and Mozambique are strong. They share thousands of miles of common border; Rhodesia depends for its exports and imports on Beira, and with the big sugar development in Rhodesia there is a need for the expansion of rail, road and port facilities.

Trade between Rhodesia and the Portuguese territories is not large. Last year upwards of £1.1m. worth of goods was exported to, and just over £1.5m. worth imported from Portugal, Mozambique and Angola.

Letter

THE CONGO—A COMMENT

BASIL DAVIDSON'S article on the Congo (WEEK, February 10, 1965) is a very cogent plea for rational judgment of the press ballyhoo about "bloodthirsty rebels", of which so much has been heard in recent weeks. With this, no socialist would disagree.

But when he appeals for an initiative to reassure the Americans that a withdrawal by them will not lead to "a hostile Congo" he treads on dangerous ground. The Americans and Belgians have no right in Congo, whether or not the people of that territory choose a government which is hostile to imperialism. It is not surprising that the Congo liberation movement has been troubled with grave problems of leadership: the intervention of American and Belgian interests has been calculated to disorientate and neutralise all but the firmest nationalist leaders. Basil Davidson is entirely right to say that a solution to Congo's problems may not be produced by the "personalities now on stage": but the main reason for the instability of so many Congo politicians is precisely the effect of foreign bribery and intimidation.

Only a total and unconditional withdrawal of imperialism from the Congo should satisfy Africans and socialists everywhere. I am sure Basil Davidson would entirely support such a withdrawal: but the form of his advice to the British Government is to conciliatory. Britain should unconditionally recognise the right of all nations to self-determination. The fact that imperialist hangovers still linger oppressively in the cabinet does not mean that anything is to be gained by soft words on the matter.

F. GREEN, London, SW2

Rebels capture important Congo town

REBELS have captured Lulimba after routing 750 Tshombe troops, according to reports from Elizebethville.

Lulimba is an important road junction about 110 miles north of Albertville, capital of North Katanga Province.

It was reported that the guerrillas

Mass Arrests in Malaysia

from Hsinhua

THE Malaysian authorities made mass arrests of those who took part in the February 13th anti-Malaysia demonstration.

Between February 13th and 14th the authorities arrested three hundred and forty-five persons. Among those arrested were Chairman of the Malayan People's Socialist Front, Inche Hasnu Hadi; General Secretary Tajuddin Bin Kahar, Deputy-General Secretary Tan Kai Hwee, and former MP and General Secretary of the Transport Workers' Union, V. David.

On February 13th, the day of the Kuala Lumpur demonstration, two hundred demonstrated in Malacca

city against Malaysia.

The Singapore Socialist Front issued a statement on February 14th strongly condemning the Rahman Government for suppressing the peaceful rally and demonstration.

"The Malaysia regime," the statement said, "is suffocating democracy, robbing the people of their rights and imposing military dictatorship."

However, it would not be able to suppress the people's opposition nor save the anti-people's regime from collapsing. The statement called upon the Malayan people to carry on their struggle against Malaysia and dictatorship and for Liberty and Liberation.

Spain stops Cuba trade

SPAIN has now bowed to American pressure and agreed that Spanish ships of more than 1,000 gross will no longer trade with Cuba.

The American Maritime Administration's two-weekly blacklist of ships forbidden to carry U.S. Government cargoes on the grounds that they have traded with Cuba, states that "the Spanish Government has pledged that no Spanish ship shall trade with Cuba."

It also shows that the five Spanish ships previously on the blacklist as Cuban traders have now been removed. When Congress in 1963 cut off foreign aid to countries trading with Cuba (including France and the U.K.) Spain was made the subject of a special dispensation and aid has continued primarily because the strategic value of the network of

American air and naval bases in Spain was considered to alter the case.

However, American diplomatic pressure has continued, and the Spanish Government, which had originally pleaded that a number of contract agreements between the Cubans and Spanish shipping lines had still some time to run has lost some of this defence with the expiration of a number of contracts.

Pat Jordan

U.S. blamed for Uganda bombing

THE bombing of two Ugandan villages by U.S.-made and manned planes "it is a gross violation of our territorial integrity and we condemn it in the strongest possible terms," said John Kakonge, leader of the Ugandan delegation, at the seventh session of the U.N. Economic Commission for Africa in Nairobi according to an *East African Standard* report on February 16th.

He said that the two villages within the Ugandan territory were bombed by American-made planes flown by Americans and mercenaries with the knowledge of the American Government.

"Africanus"

VIETNAM : MARCH ON WASHINGTON

PLANs for a student March on Washington to protest against the war in Vietnam are taking shape. The demonstration is scheduled for Saturday, April 17, and will begin with a picket line at the White House.

The Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), who are organising the march, issued their official call on Feb. 14, urging "the participation of all students who agree with us that the war in Vietnam injures both Vietnamese and Americans, and should be stopped."

The SDS call says, "The current war in Vietnam is being waged on behalf of a succession of unpopular South Vietnamese dictatorships, not on behalf of freedom. No American-supported South Vietnamese regime in the past few years has gained the support of its people, for the simple reason that the people overwhelmingly want peace, self-determination,

and the opportunity for development. American prosecution of the war has deprived them of all three.

"This war is fundamentally a *civil* war, waged by South Vietnamese against their government; it is not a 'war of aggression'. Military assistance from North Vietnam and China has been minimal; most guerrilla weapons are home-made or are by forced settlement in "strategic hamlets"; again and again Government military attacks fail because the people tip off the guerrillas; the people and the guerrillas are inseparable . . ."

The call goes on to point out that the war is a losing war. "Well over half the area of South Vietnam is captured American arms. The areas of strongest guerrilla control are not the areas adjacent to North Vietnam. And the people could not and cannot be isolated from the guerrillas

already governed by the National Liberation Front . . . Thousands of Government troops have defected — the traditional signal of a losing counter-guerrilla war. **How many more lives must be lost before the Johnson administration accepts the foregone conclusions? . . .**

"It is a war never declared by Congress, although it costs almost \$2 million a day and has cost billions of dollars . . . We are outraged that \$2 million a day is expended for a war on the poor in Vietnam, while government financing is so desperately needed to abolish poverty at home. **What kind of America is it whose response to poverty and oppression in South Vietnam is napalm and defoliation? Whose response to poverty and oppression in Mississippi is — silence?**

"It is a hideously *immoral* war. America is committing pointless murder."

For more information on the March write: Students for a Democratic Society, 119 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10003. U.S.A.

Bob Gregory

SPAIN : Workers want own Unions

A STRONG protest was issued by workers grouped in the official trade union centre for the fuel industry, at a meeting held on 5th February 1965 in Madrid. These workers criticised the "vertical" system of trade unions in Spain, which groups workers, employers and technicians, and through which the whole trade union movement is under the entire control of the Falange, Spain's only legal political party. The meeting rejected the "paternalism" of both state and em-

ployers, and called for the re-establishment of free trade unions. It also demanded a wage increase and the re-establishment of the right to strike.

This was the second big workers' demonstration to be held within the past two weeks in Spain. On 26th January 1965, some 2,000 Madrid metal-workers demonstrated in front of the state-run trade unions' headquarters, launching anti-regime slogans, calling for free trade unionism and an increase in the minimum daily wage to 175 pesetas. According to a governmental source, 22 people were detained for further interrogation on this occasion and they will have to stand trial.

Over one thousand Spanish workers employed in Germany participated on 7th February 1965 in a silent march through the main streets of Frankfurt, for the release of political prisoners in Spain, for the right to strike and for democracy. They also called for the re-establishment of the free trade union movement in Spain, under the auspices of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

G. Powe

JAPAN : Workers demand safe conditions

A BOUT one thousand six hundred Japanese workers of Hosokura Mine in Miyagi prefecture downed tools for two hours and held a rally in protest against labour accidents on February 15th.

The walkout and rally were staged to protest against the management over the death of two workers through gas poisoning while doing repair work at the lead smelting shop of the mine.

Meanwhile, on February 12th some one thousand two hundred workers of the Miike smelting in Ohmuta city in Fukuoka prefecture likewise walked out for two hours and held a rally. One worker of the smelting works was poisoned by arsenic gas on January 1st. Workers called the strike and rally in order to protest against the neglect of safety maintenance on the part of the management.

J. Westby

Socialist Leader: still only 4d. for an 8-page paper. This is the lively political weekly of the Independent Labour Party, founded in 1894 as the Labour Leader. Single copies by post 3s. for six weeks or 25s. a year.

Social Service News

RENT CRISIS IN GLASGOW

THE perennial problem of rents has raised its head again in Glasgow as the result of a comparison of housing statistics published by the Institute of Municipal Treasurers and Accountants. This demonstrates that the rate subsidy to the housing account is larger here than in any other County Borough in Britain, while the Exchequer grant is second only to that for West Ham. Clearly in this situation, however much the Labour Party has ignored this in the past, there exists a conflict between the immediate interests of Council

House tenants (who represent a third of the City's householders) and owner-occupiers and tenants of privately - rented accommodation, many of whom are financially no better off than local authority tenants.

Glasgow's Labour-controlled Corporation resolutely refused to make any adjustment in their low rents policy before the election. It is therefore tragic that the policies of Labour in power are making a mockery of this stand. It is worth pointing out that a halving of current interest rates would effect a

saving equal to the Glasgow Rates Subsidy. In the long term socialists should also be seeking a complete review of the rating system, which imposes an intolerable burden on a city with an acute housing problem. Either some system of equalisation between local authorities must be devised or the rating system done away with and replaced by a new Exchequer controlled system of taxation.

Meanwhile the fight against rent increases and over differential rent schemes become increasingly difficult. While government action remains the only long-term solution, it would be interesting to hear, through the pages of *The Week* how comrades in other areas are facing up to this question.

TONY SOUTHALL

INCOME AS PROPORTION OF HOUSING ACCOUNT

	Rents %	Exchequer %	Rate Subsidy %	Other %
Glasgow	35	25.1	33.7	6.2
Birmingham	70.8	17.8	11.0	0.4
Liverpool	77.6	19.8	—	2.6
Manchester	70.8	20.3	8.1	0.8
Newcastle	73.0	20.6	6.3	0.1
Nottingham	83.0	15.9	—	1.1
Salford	47.9	23.9	28.2	—
Leeds	75.6	22.1	2.2	0.1
Sheffield	73.1	19.0	7.2	0.7
Cardiff	80.8	15.9	3.0	0.3

Education Row in Bristol

by TOM NICHOLLS

THERE is growing criticism by parents in central areas of Bristol over proposals recently announced which make it clear that the 11-plus has been scrapped only to be replaced by a different form of selection. Council plans to go all comprehensive do not include a large area of central Bristol, due partly to a present lack of suitable buildings, and a "two-tier" system is not considered practical for this area.

In contrast to previous protest groups, the new group is basically in favour of comprehensive education but feels that the existing Council plans do not go far enough in their areas. They are organising petitions and making approaches to MPS and councillors.

A letter from the "Dissatisfied Parents' Committee" to Mr. Will Wilkins, M.P. for Bristol South, sums up the feelings of the parents: "The vast majority are condemned, without option of any kind, to finish their education at one of four secondary modern schools. We believe we are supported by all impartial opinion throughout the city in our view that this is utterly contrary to the spirit of the proposal put forward by the chairman of the Education Committee when he announced plans for 'comprehensive schooling for all.'

A protest petition has been prepared and is available from Mr. P. Jordan, 18 Pembroke Road, Southville, Bristol.

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CAMPAIGN NEWS

Against Racial Discrimination

by Beverley McCaulay

THE government have promised to legislate against racial discrimination and incitement. It is vital that such legislation should cover employment and housing where discrimination causes the worst suffering. It is equally important that anti-discrimination laws should be enforceable and not mere dead letters. So far, the people most affected by racial discrimination—coloured immigrants and other racial minorities in Britain—have not been able to make known their needs and their views on laws against discrimination to the Government or the public.

CARD (Campaign Against Racial Discrimination) is convinced that legislation is one means of fighting racial discrimination, but it is clear from experience in other countries that the *enforcement* of such laws cannot be left to the ordinary courts. The object of the law should be to alter conduct, not to punish; and problems in employment and housing are too complex to be cured by criminal prosecutions, even if such prosecutions were ever successfully brought.

CARD proposes, as a matter of urgency, that a statutory commission be created to investigate allegations of racial and religious discrimination in a wide field. It would try to end discrimination by private mediation, and, if necessary, could hold public hearings, and make appropriately flexible orders to stop discriminatory practices. It would also help to educate public opinion by publishing annual reports on facts about racial discrimination. At present there is no information and no remedy. The commission could provide both.

The following resolutions were passed at a membership meeting of CARD on February 7th, 1965:—

1. that CARD is opposed to all forms of racial discrimination and calls for legislation as one means of fighting it.

2. that CARD supports the creation of a commission as the most effective means of enforcing laws against discrimination.

3. that discrimination on grounds of race, colour, religion or national origin be made unlawful in the following fields: housing, employment, advertising, insurance, public places, education, the grant of credit facilities, clubs offering largely public facilities and all Government Departments and bodies receiving Government grants, subsidies and licences.

4. that in the field of employment, legislation should include a refusal to hire, employ, refer for employment, grant apprenticeship, promote, admit to employers' or trade union organisations, dismissal and discrimination in the terms and conditions of employment, but should exclude employment in private houses and bona fide religious bodies.

5. that in the field of housing, legislation should include a refusal to sell or rent, or to offer to sell or rent or to publish discriminatory advertisements and should extend to all estate agents, but should exclude lodgings where the landlord shares private living facilities and resides on the same premises, and bona fide religious bodies.

6. that legislation should include all private education other than bona fide religious schools.

7. that legislation against racial incitement should include racial propaganda by speech or writing which incites to violence, hatred or contempt, but should not encroach upon legitimate areas of free speech.

Anyone wanting further information about CARD should write to 23 St. George's House, Gunthorpe Street, London E.1.

Bury CND Speaks

AT its last meeting the Bury and Radcliffe CND sent the following resolution to Mr. Wilson: "We, the Bury CND, condemn the bombing of North Vietnam and call upon the American forces to come out of South Vietnam. We call upon the Government to reconvene with the Soviet Government the Geneva Conference."

Bolton Voice Launched

ANOTHER new *Voice*. This week Labour's *Voice* are launching another new local edition—*Bolton Voice*, with a first print of 3,000. This development indicates a further increase of political activity in Bolton's labour movement. The local Labour Party is backing the paper. Copies are available from: *Labour's Voice*, 8 Ashkirk Street, Manchester M8.

Alan Rooney

ALEXANDER DEFENCE COMMITTEE

DEMONSTRATE

your opposition to apartheid
South Africa House

Friday, February 26th, 5.30-7 p.m.

Followed by PUBLIC MEETING

on

Recent Developments in South Africa and the Alexander Appeal

Unity Hall, NUR, Euston Rd.

7.45 p.m. (same evening)

Speakers include:

Stan Newens, MP; J. Kozonguizi, South West Africa People's Union; F. Landman, South Africa Coloured People's Congress; V. Pillay, Anti-Apartheid; M. Nkoana, Pan-African Congress;

Chairman, Chris Arthur, NALSO