

The Week

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS
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**U.S. delays
food aid
to India**

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**CROSSMAN
QUESTIONS
CUTS**

THE RUN DOWN

DOWN

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CROSSMAN OR CALLAGHAN?

On Sunday, Mr. Crossman said that Government should see the September production figures as a warning - and well he might. The drop of three points in the production figures is well-nigh catastrophic. What has happened to Mr. George Brown's "Plan"? What has happened to the promise that "Labour would get Britain going"? It seems scarcely possible that Labour won the 1964 election, ending the 13 years of Tory rule, on a programme of doing away with the Tory "stop-go" policy. Perhaps they have! Perhaps we now have a vista of "stop-go-back" instead. The figures not only revealed a huge decline but also that the most severely hit industry was engineering; so much for Mr. Wilson's shake-out!

But if Mr. Crossman spoke of the Government seeing these figures as a warning, Mr. Callaghan made it clear that so far as he was concerned the brakes are still on. He also confirmed the worst fears of trade unionists by speaking of unemployment "settling down" to about half-a-million. This followed by the Government's post freeze plans, amounts to the most ferocious attack made on the working class in this country since Baldwin said wages must come down. There is more to this than that, however: Mr. Wilson is now making a mess of things from a purely capitalist point of view. This is bound to have a political reflection in the near future. Perhaps the differences between the approach of Mr. Crossman and Mr. Callaghan indicate an incipient dispute as to the best way to run British capitalism.

For the left there can be only one question: how best to forge a united front to fight the Cabinet's policies. From this follows the need to work out a programme and ^{build} an alternative leadership to the existing right wing Cabinet clique. It is the height of folly to consider these as merely mistaken men. They must be fought and replaced.

DISCUSSION NOT VIOLENCE

One of the very positive aspects of the tradition of the British working class is a respect for democracy, and the right of people to put their point of view. We have received very alarming reports that indicate that this tradition is in danger of being broken. People have been threatened for selling publications and at least one person has gone to hospital to receive treatment as a result of a beating up. This must be stamped out immediately. The Week makes the following points:

- (1) Every organisation on the left must condemn violence as a method of settling political differences;
 - (2) Organisations must discipline their members if they take part in attacks on other left-wingers;
 - (3) The left as a whole must protect sellers of literature from attacks - we will not tolerate the fascists using strong arm methods, still less should tolerate people who call themselves left-wingers using these methods; and
 - (4) There must be an independent enquiry into all events of this kind, staffed by independent socialists of integrity to ascertain the truth.
- Those who refuse to support the above demands will stand condemned.

As readers will know millions in India face starvation and the Indian Government has been promised large-scale help by the United States to meet this drastic situation. Although the Indian Government has modified its foreign policy more than somewhat in recent years, apparently it has not gone far enough. The following report which appeared in the Financial Times of November 22nd, makes this very clear:

"A serious delay in U.S. commitments of food aid to India is likely to force the Indian Government to make an emergency purchase of \$90m. of wheat from Australia next month. The delay has apparently been caused by a deliberate act of policy on the part of President Johnson who has refused to approve the recommendation of the Aid and Agriculture Departments that a 2m. tons wheat agreement should be reached with the Indian Government at once.

"Dean Rusk, Secretary of State, at a press conference at the end of last week said that the U.S. is giving "urgent consideration" to India's food need, but he refused to give a date when a "particular decision" will be reached. The request for 2m. tons of wheat, in addition to the 8.5 m. tons of food already shipped by U.S. to India this year, was received in Washington five months ago. The failure to reach a final decision on this request means that there will be no immediate follow-on to the shipments scheduled to leave the U.S. in mid-December. Because of the normal delay in organising shipping a gap in the flow of food is now inevitable, even if the U.S. Government reached its decision today.

"To avoid a disastrous debacle just before the Indian elections, the Delhi Government has decided to turn to sources of supply a shorter sea voyage from home. The nearest available supplier is Australia, but because the Indians are anxious to avoid spending scarce hard currency at this time, negotiations on terms are expected to be difficult. The President's refusal to act has caused a good deal of dismay in several agencies of U.S. Government, notably the State Department, and it is not at all clear what motives lie behind it. Two factors are generally blamed here." (Washington)

"1. The U.S. is undoubtedly dissatisfied with the fashion in which the Indian Government has organised its food distribution programme. In particular, Central Government's failure to force the richer Indian states to give up a share of their food to the famine-stricken ones is considered intolerable.

"2. The stock of Mrs. Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister has been declining in Washington steadily since the highpoint of her visit here in March. This decline is due partially to her failure to cope with internal difficulties, but certainly her joint declarations with President Nasser and Tito, calling for cessation of bombing in North Vietnam, did nothing to recommend her to Johnson."

WIDESPREAD UNREST AND RIOTING IN JORDAN from a special correspondent

A wave of unrest has swept the Palestinian population on Jordan's west bank following last week's Israeli raid on the Jordanian frontline villages. There have been demonstrations at Hebron, Nablus and Tulkerim, while an attempt at rioting in Jerusalem was put down by the police. The authorities have put a complete blackout on news, but it is known that hundreds have been arrested.

Hugo Blanco has once again been placed under threat of execution. The sudden turn in the case of the Peruvian peasant leader - sentenced on September 8th to 25 years in prison, to be served in the island fortress of El Fronton- came on November 4th when the Lima papers announced the new move by the prosecution. The defence had appealed against the savage sentence passed by a military tribunal in Tacna. The appeal is now before the Supreme Council of Military Justice. This body of military officers was to review the Tacna Court decision between November 7th - 12th and then render its verdict. The date for this was not announced. The prosecution answered the legal moves of the defence by demanding that the appeals body sentence Hugo Blanco to death, alleging that he was guilty of "premeditated murder". In the trial at Tacna, where the military police acted as both prosecution and judge, the prosecuting attorney did not ask for death but for 25 years in prison. A consulting judge at the Tacna trial, Fernandez Hernini, recommended the death penalty, but the court did not follow his advice, probably in view of the widespread support Hugo Blanco was receiving on an international scale. The prosecution hinged its arguments on the fact that three policemen were killed during efforts of the Peruvian military to repress the peasant movement headed by Hugo Blanco.

The danger for Hugo Blanco is now even greater than at the opening of the Tacna trial. Under Peru's former military code, an unjust decision by the Supreme Council of Military Justice could be appealed to the Supreme Court. Last year, however, during a rabid McCarthy-type witch-hunt, the parliament enacted a new code. This bars any appeal from the decisions handed down by the Supreme Council. To save Hugo Blanco, an immediate mobilisation of international support is required. Student organisations and sectors of the labour movement in Peru will do what they can on a national scale, but they face a big obstacle in the witchhunt atmosphere still prevailing in the country. In addition, the defence is seriously hampered by lack of funds. The National Executive Committee of the Frente de Izquierda Revolucionario (left Revolutionary Front), the organisation headed by Hugo Blanco, has appealed for demonstrations of solidarity. Declarations protesting the new threat to Hugo Blanco's life and asking that he be guaranteed an immediate amnesty should be cabled to the Consejo Supremo de Justicia, Lima, Peru. Similar cables should be sent to President Belaunde Terry, Lima. Copies of these should be airmailed to Hugo Blanco's attorney, Dr. Alfredo Battilana, Av, Nicola de Pierola, 966; Oficina 215, Lima. Similar protests and appeals for an immediate amnesty could be lodged with consulates and embassies of the Peruvian government.

IT WORKED BEFORE

from "The Militant"

The Belaunde government in Peru opened its anti-guerilla campaign last year with similar measures to those of Guatemala's Mendez. These proved to be of sufficient merit in Washington to warrant the bequest of counter-guerilla weapons similar to those used in the early period of the Vietnam war- napalm bombs included. Although the Mendez regime has sort to represent itself as liberal, it recently mounted a military campaign in the north-east mountain region against the guerilla forces who have long been entrenched there. Mendez may be hoping to match Belaunde's success in utilising U.S. arms and dollars against the struggle for national liberation and socialism.

Sincerest apologies: We learnt too late that the last posting we did transgressed an obscure Post Office regulation. The Post Office authorities chose to apply the letter of the law and hold them up. We had no alternative but to agree to the sealing of the envelopes - hence the surcharge. We shall be more careful in future.

. Last week three important developments in the Vietnam campaign took place in Hull.

1. The Photographic Exhibition from the Bertrand Russell Peace Foundation visited the town, and was on show for three days. Hundreds of people saw the exhibition, which gives a moving pictorial account of the American aggression, and of the struggle of the National Liberation Front in South Vietnam. Supporters of the anti-imperialist movement against British complicity in the war should seriously consider inviting the exhibition to their town. It will greatly assist their educational and recruiting drives: it is excellently and professionally mounted, and covers 120 feet of wall space. During its stay in Hull, the literature table in the exhibition rooms was a constant scene of spontaneous and spirited debate on the issues which the exhibition raises.

2. The Struggle for Vietnam, a public meeting organised by the Hull Centre for Socialist Education, and sponsored by the Hull Peace in Vietnam Committee, the Society of Friends, the United Nations Association and the Solidarity with Vietnam campaign, took place last Friday. A packed audience of between two and three hundred people saw James Cameron's film on life in North Vietnam, and heard Peggy Duff, Charles Sweet, Bill Seaton and Dr. Malcolm Caldwell discuss the situation, and the responses which the British movement should be making. John Saville was in the chair. A resolution which recognised the right of the Vietnamese people to self-determination, called for the withdrawal of American troops, and warned of the dangers of escalation into nuclear war, was carried without opposition. A section of the meeting abstained, however, on the grounds that the resolution did not go far enough in full commitment to support the Vietnamese struggle. Speeches in discussion, which called for such a commitment, met with enthusiastic and prolonged applause, but no separate resolution was submitted.

3. The Vietnam Solidarity Campaign. The exhibition and the meeting have stimulated renewed interest in the V.S.C., and those who have participated in the week's events came together last Sunday to formally constitute a branch of the campaign. They will link up existing individual members of the campaign in the town. A particular job which the Hull branch has set itself, is to work with and towards the trade union movement, in the belief that only a co-ordinated international working-class movement will decisively shift the complicity of governments, and the apathies of people, in this situation. Special leaflets describing the struggle of Vietnamese workers and peasants, showing the impact of inflation and corruption upon the workers of Saigon, and the Nazi-type treatment of the villages by South Vietnamese government and American forces, will be prepared. The Committee formed in Hull last week is strongly representative of trade unions in the town. Plans are under way for a big public meeting in support of the War Crimes Tribunal, which it is hoped to stage in February.

Hull branch secretary: Alan Rooney, 12, Sunnybank, Hull. Tel: 41045.
Committee: Tony Topham (Chairman), Tom Watkinson (NUR), George Andrews (T & GWU), Mike Martin (literature secretary), Nita Rooney (Treasurer), Stan Suddaby (T&GWU), John Bumphrey (NUVB), Alf Mellors (T&GWU), Dan Brown (AUFW), Dan Hussey - others to be co-opted.

PRESS STATEMENT ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE INTERNATIONAL WAR
CRIMES TRIBUNAL.

The following have been appointed by the preliminary session
of the International War Crimes Tribunal:

- Bertrand Russell - Honorary President.
Jean Paul Sartre - Executive President.
Vladimir Dedijer - Chairman and the President
of Tribunal Sessions.

MEMBERS OF TRIBUNAL

- Bertrand Russell.
Jean Paul Sartre: writer philosopher.
Gunther Anders: writer, philosopher.
Mehmet Ali Aybar: Expert in international law. Member of the Turkish
Parliament, President of Turkish Workers' Union.
Lelio Basso: International lawyer, deputy in Italian Parliament and member
of Commission of Foreign Affairs, Professor of Sociology at
Rome University.
Simone de Beauvoir: authoress.
Lazaro Cardenas: former President of Mexico.
Stokeley Carmichael: civil rights worker, freedom fighter.
Vladimir Dedijer, M.A. (Oxon): Doctor of Jurisprudence, historian and
writer of books about laws of war.
Dave Dellinger: American pacifist and editor of Liberation.
Isaac Deutscher: author.
Amado Hernandez: Poet Laureate of the Philippines, Chairman of the
Democratic Labour Party, Director of the Philippines
Newspapermen's Organisation, Acting President of the
National Organisation of Filipino writers.
Mahmud Ali Kasuri: Senior Advocate Supreme Court of Pakistan.
Kinju Morikawa: Graduate of Tokyo University, Attorney at Law, Vice-
Chairman of Japanese Civil Liberties Union, Secretary-
General Japanese Committee for the investigation of U.S.
war crimes in Vietnam.
Shoichi Sakata: Professor of Physics.
Laurent Schwartz: Professor of Mathematics, Paris University.

TRIBUNAL COMMISSIONS

Public Liaison Commission

- Isaac Deutscher
- Amado Hernandez
- Lelio Basso
- Dave Dellinger

Finance Commission

- Yves Jouffa, Avocat à la cour de Paris
- Kinju Morikawa

Scientific Commission

- Chairman - Laurent Schwartz

Legal Commission

- Leon Matarasso Avocat à la cour de Paris
- Mehmet Ali Aybar
- Mahmud Ali Kasuri
- Gisele Halimi, Avocat à la cour de Paris
- Solange Bouvier-Ajam, Avocat a la cour de Paris
- Yves Jouffa, jurist counsellor to the Commission

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- General Secretary Ralph Schoenman,
Director, Bertrand Russell Peace
Foundation. Secretary to Lord Russell.
- Deputy General Secretary Russell Stetler,
Secretary New York Branch B.R.P.F.
- Setsure Tsurushima Professor at Kyoto University,
Japan
- Claude Cadart Founder member of the French Friends
of the B.R.P.F.

Other Officers

- Peter Weiss Member of the investigation team
- Ken Coates Director of the B.R.P.F.

NO BUS TODAY

An appeal to readers of The Week.

Dear Reader,

You are receiving (with this issue of The Week) a copy of "NO BUS TODAY", the strike pamphlet of the East Yorkshire busmen in Hull. It has been prepared by members of the Hull Workers' Solidarity Committee and officers and strikers of the union in Hull. It provides valuable information on the whole background of the busmen's situation, and of the monopoly structure of the industry. A special print of 1000 extra copies has been provided, to bring this to the readership of The Week. This has cost money: we need not only to cover the cost, but to raise more money for the strikers. They are in their second month on strike: the union's official strike pay is £4 a week. These men and women face real hardship in a cause which is national in its implications - against a huge monopoly, and against the wage freeze. PLEASE GIVE GENEROUSLY - in payment for your pamphlet, and to help the busmen. If every reader sends 5/- to the strike fund, we should have enough for 15/- extra strike pay next week.

The second thing we would ask is that you get in touch with busmen in your locality, and lend them your copy. The union is appealing nationally for support, to busmen up and down the country: it would greatly help if the busmen could read this case.

The third thing is to obtain further orders for the pamphlet - from you, your friends, from busmen and other trade unionists.

Finally, readers should consider the example of trade union-labour movement co-operation achieved in this case through the Hull Workers' Solidarity Committee, and ask whether a similar organisation is not possible in their own locality.

Send donations, and orders for further copies, to:-

Hull Busmen's Strike Committee,
Bevin House, George Street, Hull.

Many thanks,

fraternally,

Tony Topham.

POTTERY WORKERS TO BRING "WAGE FREEZE" TEST CASE

The Pottery Workers Society is to go ahead with the test case it is bringing in a bid to break the pay freeze. The case, originally due to be heard at Ilkeston, Derby, has been deferred to Derby County Court on December 21. The union, through one of its members is suing Denby Pottery, alleging breach of contract over a pay agreement for stoneware workers. An agreement for a 3d-an-hour rise was signed on June 22, to become operative on August 15, but because of the freeze the employers said they could not introduce it.

From a London Reader.