The Newsletter

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About Mr Jock Haston

The 23rd Congress and Soviet agriculture

page 3

page 2

Unite on May 25-Dockers' call page 4

Railwaymen face new attack page 4

The Newsletter

No time to lose! Mobilise now for **May 25** lobby

HIS is an extremely dangerous time for the trade union movement. Callaghan's budget proposals on the pay-roll tax which come into operation on September 5 will result in substantial increases in the cost of living. Meanwhile, many workers have been deliberately confused, because taxation on such commodities as beer and cigarettes was not increased.

The actual truth is that the pay-roll tax will considerably increase the cost of living for every working-class family as soon as it is applied. Most of the big wholesalers and retailers are already preparing to increase their prices, before the date when the tax

Meanwhile, there is the proposed legislation on the Devlin Commission and the Prices and Incomes Bill. These are to be pushed through parliament as speedily as possible so that the working class will be as hamstrung as possible when the cost of living goes up.

The campaign against the Devlin Commission and the anti-trade union legislation now assumes great importance. It is indeed very urgent that no time is lost in mobilising the greatest possible opposition to these proposed parliamentary bills

Time is decisive and we have none to lose. It was for this reason that the I ambeth Trades Council, as far back as last October, called the lobby of parliament on January 26. The lobby was opposed by the Communist Party leadership, although many of its rank and

file turned out to give it support. Unfortunately, this split in the ranks of the left has resulted in some serious victories for the right wing. Had there been a united campaign inside the factories and in the trade unions, it is highly possible that the USDAW National Conference and the AEU National Committee would have rejected the proposed anti-trade union legislation. Instead the working class suffered serious setbacks at both conferences.

When the Communist Party finally called a lobby on March 1, it was too late to halt the drift towards the right inside these unions. The Labour right wing is now pushing forward

its plans against the unions and the National Committee of the Young Socialists has called a lobby and demonstration on May 25. Once again the Communist Party deliberately

sets out to split the working class and calls a separate lobby on June 22—too late to be

Gollan and Co. know very well that there is no time to lose if the Wilson government is to be forced to retreat, yet they choose to split the working class just as they did on January 26.

The leaders of the Communist Party justify this on the grounds that it is necessary to get close to Labour's 'left' in parliament. But this is a fake 'left', and one which in times of crisis will always betray the working class. The Communist Party leaders are supported by the Tony Cliff state-capitalist, anti-Soviet Union group who publish a paper called 'Labour Worker'.

Moreover, when the attack on the dockers through the Devlin Commission report and the anti-trade union legislation is part and parcel of the Labour government's determination to weaken the working class, the Communist Party deliberately ignores the dockers' case in its lobby of June 22. They concentrate on the anti-trade union legislation, but not on the dockers' opposition to Devlin.

The time has come to expose Gollan and Co. as people who have sold out to some of the worst traitors inside the Labour Party.

Trade Unionists must fight now. We appeal to every militant and shop steward to support the March 25 lobby of parliament against the Devlin Commission and the anti-trade union legislation.

SEAMEN'S STRIKE - DEADLINE MAY 16

DANGER OF A OUT

by ROBERT JAMES

London, Thursday

S the seamen's strike deadline nears, the danger of a sell-out looms larger

and larger from the union-government-TUC discussions. The 48-man executive of the National Union of Seamen reaffirmed their decision to go ahead with the strike this morning, but then so did the railwaymen's executive in February before Wilson stepped in for the gigantic sell-out.

NUR secretary, Sidney Greene, following his executive meetings and pressure from the thousands of hopeful railwaymen, continued the 'strike-on' statements almost until the February 14 strike date, then accepted the government's proposal for a fullscale inquiry on wages and an interim pay rise well within the norm.

Now the seamen's struggle is following a similar pattern—a zig-zag course which could leave 70,000 seamen on a 56-hour week with a £60 a month wage.

Secretary of the NUS, William Hogarth, has met Minister of Labour Ray Gunter three times -on Wednesday he took along his executive in a coach to the Ministry—and George Woodcock, TUC general secretary, twice. Today Hogarth and assistant secretary Bill Marshall left the EC in session to answer a call to Congress House from Woodcock.

They have only to meet Wilson to complete the pattern.

The seamen's executive has continually rejected the employers' offer of a 13 per cent wage ncrease over three years, with a promise to base it on a 40-hour week, and stood firm by their demand, reiterated today in a statement, for '£14 a week for an able-bodied seamen after five years' service for five days work of eight hours

This demand would mean a 17 per cent wage rise immediately.

Plea from Gunter

This, along with the possibility of the ports being crippled, is the biggest threat to a Labour government attempting to carry out capitalist policies while its balance of payments crisis continues.

Meeting the full executive on Wednesday, Gunter pleaded with them to call off the strike because of the state of the country's economy. Asked about this later, Hogarth said: 'Naturally, none of us wants to see the economy disrupted, but the seamen want a decent liveli-

Hogarth then saw Woodcock, who told the press: 'At the moment I don't see a chink of light. It looks like a near certainty.'

Remembering the 1947 dock strike, when troops were used to run the docks, the news that 'the government is making arrangements to minimise interference with essential supplies and services in the event of a strike' ('Guardian'. May 10), takes on a greater significance.

24-hour re-call

The executive breaks up after today's meeting, but, a press conference was told, it can be recalled within 24 hours. A six-man strike committee has been set up to deal with discussions meanwhile. Only the full executive could call off the strike, which would mean Saturday at the earliest.

Questioned on Wednesday, Hogarth said that if Wilson wanted to see the NUS, he would have to inform them before 5 p.m. today.

But if the executive has really made up its mind to fight, there should not be any necessity to meet Wilson, or any half-invitation to step in.

Continued page 4, column 1 ->

More verbiage from the new 'left'

But no opposition to Wilson's policy

by John Crawford

AST week's 'Tribune' carried an article by Eric Heffer headed: 'What's Wrong with Labour's Left?'—the ques-tion is complacently answered in the sub-heading: 'Nothingas long as it prepares for the future'.

The 'plans' proposed by this one-time ultra-left make it plain that the 'new left' group of MPs will be even worse than the 'old left' of Michael Foot and Ian Mikardo.

In several hundred words, Heffer finds space for not a single criticism of Wilson, nor for a single reference to the working

Instead, he presents vague phrases about the need for 'a sort of Bow Group of the Left'.

'Like the Fabians'

'Such a group,' he says, 'could carry out research, set up working parties, hold discussions and conferences, issue pamphlets and documents, and thereby influence policy in the way the Fabian Society does.

The problem, for whose solution Heffer's group will be searching, is really this: how to evade struggle against the employing class and its agents in the Labour Party leadership.

To retain a reputation for 'teft'-ism sufficient to keep a parliamentary seat, while at the same time remaining within the bounds set by the right-wing leaders is a harder job than it used to be. The failure of the 'lefts' in the

last parliament to do more than

murmur at Wilson's treachery had nothing to do with the small Labour majority. Now that the majority has been swollen to 97, even Heffer has to point out that 'the government has no alibi, neither has the left'.

But to join in protests against the right wing in the 1950s was one thing. To pose a real opposi-tion to Wilson in 1966 is quite

Respectable

The Labour leaders carry out an essential job for the bosses today. In the present crisis position of British capitalism, the Labour government has to prepare the attack on the trade

And so many a sectarian phrasemonger of former times appears as a respectable 'left'

Heffer, who once denounced both parliament and the Labour Party, discovers that 'it is not possible for the Labour government, with its substantial parliamentary majority to really begin to transform society by demo-

cratic parliamentary means.

The Socialist Labour League and the Young Socialists, whose aims embody the real aspirations of millions who voted Labour in the election, must learn from the degeneration of the Labour 'lefts', both 'old' and 'new' varieties.

It is not verbal opposition to the right wing which matters, but a fight to mobilise workers in a movement which will smash the employers and their Labour

NOBODY knows whether the U.S. president and his advisers are addicts of LSD, but their latest actions in relation to Vietnam seem to indicate that they are drugged with hallucinatory visions of power, a power which is largely mystical.

So obsessed are they with the prospect of military defeat in Vietnam that they will stop at nothing to uphold the myth of U.S. invincibility in South-east Asia.

A bloody demonstration of this fact was the insensate murder of innocent men, women and children in Saigon on Monday by U.S. troops and

In

MPs when a Vietcong mine blew up. This arrogance and bloody-mindedness is reflected in the

Grim

outlook

for U.S.

Vietnam



Crisis of decision

The first alternative will lead to an escalation of the opposition to the war in the U.S

The second will lead to a massive opposition abroad - particularly from China.

This situation has been aptly summed up by the Washington correspondent of 'The Times':

'The reasons for what is known here as the crisis of decision are clear. In spite of all the costly ground action and increased bombing and gassing, the games theory approach has again failed. The pacification programme is almost at a stand-still, and the infiltration of North Vietnam troops has continued to increase from a previous estimated total of 4,500 a month to perhaps 7,000.

'If the games theory approach has failed, it has not been discarded by the President's advisers. This is evident by their response—a choice of alternatives, both of which are further steps up the escalation ladder.'

'The Times' reporter continues ominously:

'. . . the enormous machinery-is now in full swing.' The devastation of Hanoi and

Haiphong, not to mention Laos and Cambodia, is now very real and very grim reality.

Grim for U.S.

Nevertheless, just as grim-for the U.S. that is-is the reality that America's supremacy in the air and sea cannot and will not compensate for her extremely vulnerable and precariously fragile situation in Saigon and Da Nang. Here the war is well and truly

In Central Vietnam the disen-chantment with Ky's regime is total and complete. So complete that Buddhist leaders are training para-military commandos 'in case the junta had second thoughts'. Continued page 4, column 7 ->

Painters' support for May 25

At its last meeting, the Shepherd's Bush branch of the Amalgamated Society of Painters and Decorators voted to support the lobby of parliament, called for May 25, against the Devlin Report and the government's anti-union legislation.

A full site meeting at the Grimethorpe Coalite plant in Yorkshire is to be called next week following a meeting this Thursday when workers from a sub-contractors heard a speaker outline the campaign for the May 25 lobby.

Car cuts only one of many causes for Wall Street slide

THE week ending May 6 saw the worst slide on Wall Street since June 1962. The Dow Jones industrial average fell 30.85 points to

Thursday, May 5, alone accounted for over half of this fall. The avalanche of share prices was set off by the news that eight of General Motors' 23 plants were going on to shorttime working.

General Motors were having to rectify defects in their Cadillacs and Oldsmobiles, exposed in the course of a drive for safety in US cars. Fords and Chryslers have also been forced to call in many cars and have announced cut backs in production with an ending to some overtime working.

The Ford announcement was followed on Monday by the largest single drop recorded in one day on Wall Street when the Dow Jones industrial average fell 16.03 points to 886.80.

(Meanwhile, the National Safety Council announces, 10,710 people were killed in US car

BY OUR OWN CORRESPONDENT

accidents in January, February and March.) Earlier this year General Motors had already announced a fall in profits and its dividend

But the troubles of the car industry were only one of the immediate causes of the Wali Street slide.

was cut.

At the beginning of the week, statements by Gardner Ackley, Johnson's chief economic adviser, and McChesney Martin, chairman of the Federal Reserve Board, had started the movement.

Each had pointed to the dangerous trend towards infla-tion in US capitalism. Ackley said that prices and profits were too high, especially in view of government calls for wage re-

Company profits this year are expected to top 80 billion dollars,

9 per cent up on 1965 and 88 per cent on 1961. No wonder Martin said that only an increase of taxes could hold back inflation. Deep worries

JAILED FOR LIFE

DR. Abram Fischer, the

who defended Nelson

Mandela and others at

the Rivonia Trial, was

this week jailed for life

after being found guilty

on 15 counts by the

South African Supreme

Court. The British labour

movement must imme-

diately demand his re-

lease and the release of

all political prisoners

• Fuller story—page two

from Verwoerd's jails.

58-year-old barrister

The wave of share selling re-

flects deep worries in business circles that the $3\frac{1}{2}$ year boom cannot continue indefinitely. The Vietnam war places a tre-

mendous strain on the economy and on the financial system. Many sections of industry are suffering from an acute shortage of skilled

Combined with the international liquidity problems threatening the dollar, this constantly raises the possibility of deflationary action being taken.

Such action would have important international repercussions, especially on sterling.

The US economy appears on the surface to be very healthy, breaking new records in sales and profits. But the deep-going problems of world capitalism are present at all levels, and Wall Street only reflects them.

PROTEST

against the secret trial and imprisonment of Polish Trotskyist teachers and students by the Gomulka government in a

March to the Polish Embassy

Saturday, May 21

Assemble Park Crescent, W.1, at 10.30 a.m.

Dockers may 'black' cargoes

seamen announced their strike, London dockers expressed their solidarity in terms of possible 'blacking' of cargoes. One South London newspaper reported a Surrey Dock crane

INTERVIEWED soon after the

driver as saying: 'We've heard nothing official about the part we may have to play in the strike, but most of the blokes would be willing to make sure they get out full support.'

A stevedore said that dockers might refuse to work foreign ships used as substitutes for British ships—it is thought that some cargoes heading for Britain may be off-loaded at Continental ports onto foreign coasters to bring them into the country.

-About Mr Jock Haston-

AIRFIELD'S shipyard in Glasgow has now become the scene of an intense drive to increase production. Trade union practices are being jettisoned almost daily and wage rates are kept down to an absolute minimum with the backing of the right - wing trade union leaders.

The same right wing has invested thousands .of pounds in Fairfield's in order to encourage the management to pull the firm 'out of the red' and start making profits. All in all it is a demonstration of the confidence which the trade union bureaucracy has in capitalism.

German lesson

Such experiences are nothing new in the history of relations between the Labour and trade union bureaucracy and a capitalist class in crisis.

The history of the German Labour leaders in their dealings with the German capitalist supporters of Hitler, during the years before he took power in 1933, were similar. Under the constitution of the Weimar Republic they set about implementing all sorts of classcollaboration schemes in order to help the pro-Nazi capitalists out of their diffi-

The Fairfield's 'experiment' is just such a scheme. The shipyard bosses, who in the depression of the 1930s sacked their workers, smashed up the shipyards, and sold the proceeds for scrap, now want to introduce automated processes for shipbuilding at the expense of the wages and working conditions of the sons of those who were unemployed in the 1930s. The trade union right wing in the Amalgamated Engineering Union and in the Electrical Trades Union support Fairfield's proposals for rationalisation and speed up in the shipyards.

This, we repeat, is normal so far as the relations between the capitalists and the trade union leaders in the present crisis goes, with only one proviso. The German Labour and trade union leaders did their best to get an agreement to work under Hitler after he took power-we have still to arrive at this position here, but the trend is unmistak-

One of the main differences between the experiences of the pre-Hitler period in Germany and now is the role of some renegades from our movement such as Jock Haston, General Secretary of the Trotskyist movement between 1940 and 1949.

Right-wing choice

Mr. Haston was appointed Educational Director of the ETU after the ultra rightwing Cannon and Chappel took over from the Stalinists as a result of the court action some years ago. He was especially chosen, not just for his educational abilities, which in our opinion are very limited, but for his anti-communist and anti-Trotskyist record.

The 'Daily Mirror' on Tuesday, May 2, reported that Haston was in charge of a special one-week school, for which Fairfield shipbuilding bosses were paying £6,000, in order for him to

He died shortly afterwards

brought on by dizziness after

TRAGIC CLIMAX

climax to a series of right-wing

attacks from fascist students

and thugs from outside during

elections over a number of

One student told the 'Sunday

'Every time there are

university elections, fascist

goon squads-we call them

"beaters" — infiltrate the

university from outside and

seek to "influence" students

known to be against their

'Their tactics are a hang-

over from the old fascist

regime days-a survival of

mob rule. The fascist

"beaters" usually stalk in

gangs of 10 or 15 and, like

the cowards they really are,

attack only much smaller

'If they don't beat you

they waylay you outside or

'It was these goons who

beat up Rossi before he died.

Sometimes they use knuckle-

dusters. We know quite well

It is now thought that the

struggle against the fascists

may turn into a more objec-

tive struggle for a reform of

It is believed that several

'The Economist' comments:

'The uncharitable explana-

tion is that so many university

professors in politics fear that

they might themselves be vic-

PROTECTION

tims of the reform.'

projects have been frozen in

university government.

parliament.

follow you home.

who they are.'

years.

Times' reporter:

policies.

people.

His death was the tragic

convince shop stewards and managerial staff of the need to boost production.

The 'Daily Mirror' report praised Haston by implication and in an editorial of May 3, when it said:

All praise to everybody concerned with this enlightened scheme. To the ETU for its initiative in this kind of industrial education. To the shipyard unions who are co-operating with the firm in the project. To Fairfield's management for pushing this particularly bold experiment in work study, carrying it through and footing the bill.

Jock Haston is today applauded not only by the ETU right wing but by the most reactionary press lords. He has gone a long way from when he was General Secretary of the Trotskyist movement in Britain.

During the second World War he fought for socialist principles in relation to the ownership and control of industry. Now he fights for capitalism to function as a system. That is the meaning of his intervention at Fairfield's.

Haston at that time preached the following policy:

Workers' control of production to end chaos and mismanagement in industry to be exercised through workers' committees.

After the second World War when a Labour government took over in 1945 he preached again the same policy:

A genuine socialist government would have issued a call to the workers to seize the factories and take control into their own hands. Such a government would prepare a national overall plan based on the workers' interests. The plan would be drawn up, not by capitalists and their economists, with a trade union bureaucrat looking on, but by delegates from the workers' and technicians' organisations and after the widest discussion in the ranks of the organised workers. operation would be super-

RELEASE

vised by planning commissions of workers' representatives in every area.

The government would explain that an efficient plan needs the socialisation of all the basic industries and banks at once. It would call on the workers to aid the government by introducing workers' control of production. Committees of workers and technicians would be in a position to make a survey of the entire resources of the country in factory equipment, manpower and raw materials.

(See 'Socialist Appeal', mid-August, 1947.)

Now he has changed his tune and we ask all workers in Fairfield's to take note of

the reason why. He deserted our movement in February 1950 in order to politically move in the direction of the right wing of the Labour Party. For years he was the national organiser of the National Council of Labour Colleges and then he got a job with Chappel and Cannon of the Electrical Trades Union.

So far as his ideas are concerned this man is a

turncoat. During the war and up to 1950 he advocated the revolutionary socialist policies in relation to capitalism. Now he advocates pro-capitalist policies.* We ask every worker who attended this school from Fairfield's shipyards to recognise what Haston represents.

Will he reply?

He has got nothing to do with Marxism or Communism. He is, in our opinion, the most conscious representative of the right wing in the Labour Party and the trade unions. We say further -if Haston wants to reply to these things we will be only too willing to publish

Once upon a time, during the Second World War, Haston, and the Trotskyist movement of which he was a member, declared that he would give £10 to any member of the Communist Party who could contest the fact that the policy of the Stalinists in relation to the Trotskyists was lies.

We say to Haston, now prove us to be liars. The pages of The Newsletter are open to you.

Students fight against fascism for rights

TUDENTS in many countries are now taking up the cudgels against oppression; and, in Spain and Italy, it seems from the events of the last two weeks, they have a common adversary-fascism.

In Spain there has been an ever-increasing battle against the open fascism of the Franco state, and in Italy left-wing students have faced attacks from a hidden fascism which many thought had died with Benito Mussolini.

Barcelona and Madrid have been the scenes of battles between the notorious National Guard and students demanding the right to organise their own unions-like the workers, they have for years been tied to the government-controlled 'Sindi-

POLICE STONED

It was before Christmas that the country's 75,000 students rejected the 'Sindicato' and elected officers for their own organisation.

Strengthened by the apparent weakening of the state — and the Generalissimo himself — the liberation of Italy—when

Newsletter Correspondent

Barcelona students took up fascist thugs beat up Paolo their demands again on April Rossi, an architecture student 27, running through the town and Young Socialist standing demanding the dismissal of for election to the students' their rector and throwing union. stones at the police.

After the Spanish Education after falling from a wall-Minister had closed the uni versity—and received object the attack. tions from 67 professors— 2.000 Madrid University students voted to strike in support of their locked-out

'LIBERTY' CALL

On May 2, 1,500 students clashed with riot police and 50 were arrested later when a crowd marched towards the Chancellor's office.

Three days later students ran around the campus shouting 'Liberty'.

To really gain some success for their demands the Spanish students must unite with those trade unionists who marched on May Day in many Spanish towns, and who are also demanding their own unions and freedom of association.

The student riots in Rome also began on April 27-two days after the anniversary of

ABRAM 'The police had stood by

Then students and professors organised a sit-down strike, saying they would not move until Professor Papi resigned.

Papi called in the police to remove students.

The government intervened after there were reports of workers throughout the country expressing their support for the students.

Interior Minister Taviani ordered police chief Dr. Vicari to police the university. Vicari received a deputation of students and professors and the police are now holding the fascists in check.

'INDONESIA'

'The Economist's' correspondent reports that the fascists 'have adopted a strange slogan, "Indonesia"; presumably refering to the recent mass butchery of communists in Indonesia.'

He reports that the Rome University is spacious and well laid out, but has 'grown out of its skin', having 60,000 students. Students have no union

groups of two or three buildings, there are no amenities and there is no personal contact between students and within the university itself, professors. There is overcrowding in the

> lecture halls and many students have to clock in for lectures which they cannot hear. Administration is in the

hands of the Rector and 260 of the 9,000-strong teaching This comparatively small

group appoints 'non-staff' lecturers and assistant lecturers, who are tied to their professor. 'At its worst,' says the cor-

respondent, 'it breeds corrup-In the most powerful facul-

ties of law and medicine the private activities of the professors provides them with their main source of income. Therefore, actual teaching goes by the board with many professors 'cramming' lectures to leave them time for outside activi-

The growing resentment against this state of affairs finally exploded with the fascist activity and the death of Rossi.

Professor Papi has been forced to resign, and university government may be reformed.

But in their struggle for real self-government - not simply through reforms—students must link with the workers who gave them support in defence squads to clear the fascists off the campus and out of Rome.

INDIAN FAMINE

Stubborn denial reflects crisis

Newsletter Correspondent

which is threatening millions of Indian peasants and workers with starvation in the next few months comes from the 'Sunday Telegraph's' correspondent Rawle Knox.

The mystery of whether or not there is famine in India is easily solved, he says:

'There is when Mr. Subramaniam, Minister of Food and Agriculture, or Mr. Mehta, Minister of Planning, is in to produce more American

'There is no famine when they return home to their parliamentary benches because that would reflect adversely on their respective Ministries.'

Contempt for dying

Mrs. Ghandi, too, has shown similar contempt for the dying millions-time after time she has denied that the 19 million ton food gap means starvation, despite the 12 million population increase.

'There will be no famine. We have a scarcity, but there is no question of starvation. It ning can save 10 million has been highly exaggerated. Indians from starvation.

RY comment on the undeniable famine but if we get help it is welcome, but if we don't get help, we shall manage,' she said earlier this year.

The US has boosted its 61/2 million tons offer to 10 million tons of grain and President Johnson has warned: 'We may stand at the thresh-

hold of a great tragedy. Unless the world responds, India faces

Harrowing photographs

It cannot be denied, especially after harrowing photographs of the Calcutta Death House, where Belsen-Washington, since that is likely like figures, young and old, wait to die from hunger and poverty, appeared in an 'Observer' colour supplement recently.

The stubborn denial is merely a reflection of a desperate bourgeoisie caught in the backlash of the crisis of imperialism which heightened by the social and religious differences nurtured by imperialists, and their Congress Party lackeys, in their drive for profit.

Neither industrial nor agricultural aid will solve the problems inherent in a country like India. Only a socialist revolution and socialist plan-

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to 186A Clapham High Street, London, S.W.4.

In what, for this magazine, is an outspoken article, the Rome correspondent says the fascists were encouraged by the all-powerful Rector, Professor Ugo Papi, who refused to allow students to commemorate the Resistance movement on liberation day, a public holiday.

Two days later, when Rossi was killed, demonstrating leftwing students were held back while the police, on orders from their district chief, protected the fascists.

unmoved while Rossi was being FISCHER! beaten up,' the correspondent

NCE again the fascist and racialist justice of Verwoerd's regime has been dealt out—this time jailing 58-year-old white South African lawyer Abram Fischer, defence counsel in the infamous Rivonia Trial

Jailed for life on Monday, after being found guilty of 15 charges last week-including being a Communist Party member—Fischer left the South African Supreme Court with a smile and thumbs up sign', salute of militant African National Congress.

The life sentence was for conspiracy to commit sabo-

Fischer was also sentenced to eight years' jail for being an office bearer of the Communist Party, taking part in Communist Party activity before he went underground last year for nine months after jumping a £5,000 bail, and taking part in Communist Party activity during

those nine months. charges These brought under the regime's repressive Suppression of Communism Act.

Under the country' Aliens Act, he was fined £10 or one month's jail, for using a false name; sentenced to two months for forging an identity card; and one month for forging a driving licence.

All sentences are to run concurrently. In South Africa a life sentence means exactly that for political prisoners.

Fischer told the court that all the charges arose out of his attempts to bring about more links between whites and non-whites.

'If such a bridge is eventually established, I will be able to bear with fortitude the sentence which the court will impose,' he added.

Mr. Justice Boshoff said in sentence Fischer, as a member of the Communist Party, had conspired with the African National Congress ('Spear of the Nation') to procure and commit acts of sabotage.

Fischer, he said, recognised only one loyalty . . to the Communist Party. Every possible protest

must be made by the British labour movement against this vicious sentence. Demands must be made now through the South African Embassy for the release of Fischer, the liberation leaders whom he defended at Rivonia, and all political prisoners of the Verwoerd

OUT NOW

Fourth International

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A Journal of International Marxism

Published by the International Committee of the Fourth International EDITORS-TOM KEMP, CLIFF SLAUGHTER

CONTENTS

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ROBERT BLACK WRITES ON:

other workers' states.

After a year of advance publi-

city, the 20-year plan for build-

Union (not conditional on any

successful revolutions in the

capitalist world) was adopted

by the 22nd Congress of the Soviet Party in 1961, being accompanied by further ritual

denunciations of Stalin, by the

very men who assisted him at

every stage in his liquidation

The successful implementa-

tion of this plan hinged, it was

Gomulka re-established the

bureaucracy in Poland

made clear, on the rapid expan-

sion of Soviet agriculture and

Soviet Union would be ap-

proaching a society of abun-

dance in material goods, in

which the role of money as a

means of consumption ration-

ing would be fast withering away. The central thesis of the

20-year Plan was 'to ensure a

gradual transition of the Soviet

countryside to communist social relations, and to elimi-

nate, in the main, the distinctions between town and country on the basis of a powerful expansion of the pro-

ductive forces in agriculture'.

(Khrushchev, Report on the programme of the CPSU, 22nd

PRODUCTION

FIGURES

How far has this 'powerful

expansion in the productive forces in agriculture' taken place? What is the reality of the Soviet economy in 1966, and how does it stand in relation to the Khrushchay Uto

lation to the Khrushchev Uto-

pia of 'communism in one

Below are set out the targets

Column A gives the level of

and actual levels of production

in key commodities in agricul-

production as it stood in 1960,

column B the target for 1965

according to the 20-year plan.

Column C is the target set by the same plan for 1970, while

column D gives the levels to

be reached by 1980, the beginn-

ing of Soviet 'communism'. Bracketed under column B is

the actual level of production reached in 1965, while bracketed in column C is the

target for 1970 as revised by

the 23rd Congress.

ture and light industry.

country'?

Congress, 1961.)

By 1980, it was claimed, the

light industry.

of the Bolshevik Party.

ing communism in the Soviet

HILE the question of Stalin was never allowed to intrude into the bureaucratic stupor of the 23rd Congress of the Soviet Communist Party, it would be wrong to say that its proceedings were unrelated to the history of the Stalin era of Soviet politics. First of all it confirmed that the removal of Khrushchev in October 1964 was directly linked to the crisis of the Soviet economy, and in particular to the collapse of its agricultural programme.

In Brezhnev's report to the Congress, he drew attention to 'serious shortcomings in the system of procuring farm products', 'hindered the which planned management of agriculture'. An equal obstacle to expansion was 'the unjustified reorganisation of agricultural bodies, the imposition of stereotype recommendations from above and the underestimation of science and the experience of long years of practice'.

HOPELESS **POSITION**

Much of the background to the general problems of the Soviet economy has been dealt with by Michael Best in his two recent articles in The Newsletter. but a closer look at the problems in agriculture would help to round out the picture of the antagonisms within the bureaucratised Soviet economy, and underline the hopeless position of the Stalinists in their attempts to realise in a rational way the potential of a planned economy linked to automation and atomic power.

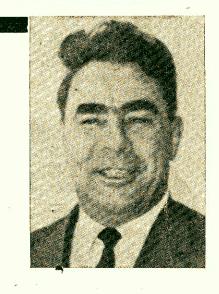
Starting with the 'secret speech' which debunked the Stalin myth at the 20th Congress in early 1956, Khrushchev began a series of maneouvres on behalf of the Soviet bureaucracy, designed to postpone or head off a clash with the East European and Soviet working classes, who were pressing more and more for the settlement of accounts with the accomplices and heirs of Stalin. This bogus 'de-Stalinisation' — Stalinism without Stalin—combined with promises of a rapid improvement in living and working conditions, formed the essential plank in Khrushchev's domestic platform.

NATIONAL REVOLTS

But it was these same half measures and glib promises that became factors in deepening the crisis in the bureaucracy. The revelations about Stalin, coupled with deep unrest at the continued lag in living standards in relation to the sacrifices made by the working class. triggered national revolts against the bureaucracy in Hungary and Poland, with the working class youth in the leadership.

While Gomulka, by balancing between the church, the working class and the army, and breaking with the most discredited Stalinists, was able to re-establish the rule of the bureaucracy without the intervention of Soviet troops, the Hungarian Stalinists found themselves isolated to such a degree that their restoration to power could only be carried out through the use of Soviet armed forces, many of whom either went over to the Hun-

The 23rd Congress and Soviet garian workers or simply regarian workers or simply refused to fight. This chain of events, particularly the sympathy shown amongst the Soviet people themselves for the overthrow of the bureaucracy (Moscow students were expelled for calling meetings in solidarity with the revolution) forced the bureaucracy to take panic measures to defend its own position in both the Soviet Union and in relation to the other workers' states. agriculture Hurried plans were drawn



Stalinist movement in all the

capitalist states, it would be

wrong to separate this develop-

ment from the internal crisis of

the Soviet bureaucracy. The

sharpness of this crisis will give

the lie to all those political

tendencies that face all their

hopes in the 'self liberalisation'

Much of the regime of terror

that was an essential part of Stalinism in the 1920s and

1930s remains behind the

'liberal' screens in the form of

'corrective' labour camps, 'mental hospitals', and trials in

camera of writers and intellec-

The recent arrests of opposi-tionists in Poland by the so-

called liberal regime of

Gomulka is more evidence of

this hardening of the line against would-be doubters and

critics of the bureaucracy. All

those who cover up for and

adapt themselves to the 'soft'

wing of the bureaucracy not

only confuse workers who seek

to break from these capitalist

agencies in the workers' states,

but also dig their own political graves at the same time.

of the bureaucracy.

The antagonisms within the bureaucratised Soviet economy, which Brezhnev (above) admitted was leading to 'shortcomings' in agriculture, emphasise the inability of Stalinism to defend and extend the conquests of the Russian Revolution.

up for the emergency 21st Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union in 1959 by which, it was claimed, the living standards of the working population would be increased These figures, all taken from Soviet official sources, reveal at an unprecedented pace.

> For example, grain production stands lower today than it did at the outset of the plan, as does potato production. The target for meat has been cut by over half for 1970, while milk and eggs suffer almost equal reductions. Nearly all the targets set for 1965 will not be reached even by 1970, such is the chronic lag in the development of Soviet agricul-

purges of the apparatus, as in the days of Stalin, are solving nothing.

very clearly a profound crisis within the Soviet economy. They prove that the 20-year plan for building communism has already been silently scrapped.

It is by the crucial test of labour productivity that any productive system is in the last analysis judged, and in this respect the Soviet economy, and in particular its agriculture, lags far behind the United States, where, in some departments of production, output per man hour is over 10 times as high. The fortunes of the bureaucracy are therefore closely bound up with the success of its attempts to provide a rapidly rising level of living standards for the Soviet people. We can see from the figures quoted that periodic

PROGRESS WATCHED

The most important factor, however, is not reducable to a bare statistic. It is the Soviet working class. We can be sure that its most conscious layers are watching the progress (and the shelving) of the 20-year plan with great attention, and have already noticed that the alleged march to communism is not accompanied by either an equalisation in the distribution of the national income, or a decline in the privileges and social aloofness of the ruling bureaucracy.

Far from moving towards the Communist social relation of 'from each according to his ability, unto each according to his needs', the New Plan adopted at the 23rd Congress envisages 'the steady enhancement of the stimulating role of wages in the solution of the major tasks of the Five Year Plan'.

These factors, taken together with its international role as an ally of imperialism, separate the bureaucracy from the mass of the Soviet people more and more sharply. The East Euro-pean and Soviet working class will be driven into struggles against this reactionary force at a time when the bureaucracy leans increasingly on imperialism to defend its position at

Gromyko's visit to the Pope, and his clinching of the deal with Fiat, together with the sinister collaboration between the East German Stalinists and the top West German social democrats for a fake German unity over the heads of the German working class, are all part of this rightward anti-

	A	В	C	D
Commodity	1960	1965	1970	1980
(millions of tons)				
Grain	132	180 (120)	225 (167)	290-300
Meat	8.7	16 (9.3)	25 (11)	30-32
Milk	62	105 (65)	135 (78)	170-180
Potatoes	84	147 (81)	140 (100)	156
Raw Cotton	4.3	6 (5)	8 (5.8)	10-11
Mineral Fertilizers	14	50 (31)	77 (62-65)	130
Eggs (1,000 millions)	27.4	37 (29)	68 (34)	110-116
Leather Footwear				
(Millions of pairs)	419	515 (486)	825 (625)	1,000

socialist trend of the bureau-

Within the USSR, the bureaucracy attempts to overcome these contradictions in several ways. It tightens up labour discipline in the factories by the introduction of workers' record books and the increased use of the Leiberman costing system. It seeks to ease the social tensions caused by these measures through the use of scapegoats (the removal of Khrushchev and the execution of Jews for 'economic crimes' are examples of this) and by holding out the everlasting carrot of 'a planned all-round increase in the wellbeing of the people'.

In order to plug the yawning gaps now appearing in the Soviet economy, the bureaucracy reaches out tentatively to the most powerful of the capitalist monopolies such as Krupps, I.C.I., Mitsubishi and now Fiat. Without the advance of the workers' struggle for power in the imperialist states, this growing together of the two sectors of the world market, ruptured temporarily by the Russian Revolution, contains within it the danger of restoration of capitalism in the Soviet Union. This restorationist pressure exerted on the Soviet economy finds an echo within certain layers of Soviet society itself, not the least im-

portant of these being the peasantry.

It was the bungling of collectivisation of agriculture by Stalin from 1929 to 1932, carried out in a brutal and empirical way as a panic response to the grain strike of the richest peasants, that alienated the vast mass of the rural population from Soviet power, thus breaking the link between town and country so carefully nurtured by Lenin and the Soviet government in the early days of the revolution.



Khrushchev's removal linked with agricultural crisis

The political neutrality and even hostility of the peasantry was dramatically revealed during the Nazl invasion of Russia, when, after years of anti - German propaganda, millions of Ukranian peasants welcomed the imperialist armies as liberators from communist tyranny.

Thus the question of Stalin did loom very large over the 23rd Congress, but in such a way as to prevent its participants from even touching on the darkest days of the Stalinist terror in the Soviet countryside. The deeply rooted mistrust of the Soviet system by the majority of the rural population is a barrier that can only be broken down by the re-establishment of Soviet democracy, and the planned development of the economy under the direct control of workers, peasants and consumers' committees.

INTERNAL CRISIS

In its turn, the internal inthe Soviet balances economy, inevitable even with the most highly developed of democratic planning and control, can only be resolved by the integration of the Soviet economy into a world-wide system of planned economy harnessing all the latest advances in science and technology. Seeing as we do now the rapid going over to right-wing social democracy by

The class struggle, both in Western and Eastern Europe, will pass these appendages of bureaucracy by. The unity of these struggles is bound up with the construction of Trotskyist parties of the Fourth International, basing themselves on all the lessons of bureaucratic betrayal. There is one thing the 23rd

Congress could not conceal, with all its bureaucratic smug ness, and that was its total inability to defend and extend the economic and political conquests of the Russian revolu-tion. That responsibility long ago passed into other hands the Fourth International.



The 20-year plan has, in its first years, failed to meet targets.

Anti-Communist campaign in Cyprus

BY KYPROS TOFALLIS **Cypriot Journalist**

ODAY, the island of Cyprus is in as big a political mess as it was three years ago, when inter - communal troubles started. The inability of the Makarios regime to settle the problem had been manifested, first by accepting the London Conference of January 1964, and secondly, by applying to the United Nations to help him restore order. The United Nations. always eager to work as agents of the imperialists, immediately stepped in and managed to keep the Greeks and Turks apart (instead of bringing them together).

The Makarios-Grivas Differences

The present so-called differences between Makarios and Grivas are merely differences of personal ambition in controlling the machinery of the government of Cyprus (this is to represent the interests of the ruling class).

Their differences are not of an ideological character. In fact both of them want and foster Enosis (Union with Greece), a solution which actually means throwing the island into the arms of NATO.

General Grivas, the extreme right-wing leader of the armed forces in Cyprus, and a former collaborator with the British during the Greek Civil War, wants to have Enosis at once, whereas Makarios, supported by AKEL, the island's Progressive Working People's Party, believes that a plebiscite should take place to enable the people to choose whether they want to join with Greece or not.

The A.K.E.L. Standpoint

AKEL, the official Communist Party of Cyprus, has no programme of turning Cyprus into a socialist

Like many other Stalinist

Parties, instead of taking the initiative and leading the people to socialism, it cooperates with the agents of the oppressors of the Cypriot masses. So far, it has not made a single call to both the Greek and Turkish peasants and workers to join forces and face the enemy, which is a combination of foreign imperialism and native capital-

By fostering Enosis, AKEL is isolated from the Turkish workers and peasants. AKEL is afraid of the Greek right wing (as well as the Turkish right wing) and hence, it fears alienation. A Communist Party which has no Communist programme to offer the masses is not worthy to be called Communist.

The Greek right-wing press

The Greek right-wing press and especially the newspaper 'Machi' ('Com-bat'), edited by Nikos Samson, a former EOKA member, has started just recently a fierce campaign against AKEL and all Communists in Cyprus by calling them traitors and agents of the Soviet Union.

Everyone knows AKEL is a pro-Makarios Party, but Samson wants to stir further trouble during this difficult period when the big monopolists and Anglo-American imperialists will rejoice to see a further split in Cyprus, i.e., a split be-tween the Greeks.

Unity of people urged

The left-wing newspaper 'Haravghi' ('Dawn') calls upon the Cypriot masses to ignore the provocateurs and remain calm. This futile attempt, originating from NATO circles, will not succeed. The people of Cyprus should realise that if they want to achieve a socialist victory they should first and foremost throw out the British bases and the UN troops as well as the Greek and Turkish forces stationed

in the island. On eliminating the foreign interests then and only then can Greeks and Turks proceed to the socialist road, the road which will bring everlasting harmony and peace to the long-suffering Cypriot workers peasants.

UNITEON MAY 25th

Mersey dockers' call

BY NEWSLETTER CORRESPONDENT

IN their latest leaflet, the Merseyside Portworkers' Committee calls for united action in a lobby of parliament on May 25 against the Devlin Report and the proposed anti-union legislation tabled by Labour government.

'For us to unite in action as dockers with workers in other industries would be a big blow against the employers and the government in their attempts to shackle workers' militancy, the leaflet says, adding:
'Either you support action such

as that proposed by Merseyside, or you meekly accept being parcelled out among big employers and tightly controlled by them and with laws against militancy. That is your choice.'
The Portworkers' Committee

says that the government's proposed inquiry into the amendments to the Dock Labour Scheme, which includes decasualisation of the docker, is 'a trap to force the Devlin proposals on us'.

No security

'Any leader, official or unofficial, who accepts this inquiry, really approves of the Devin Report'.

'Security' promised in the Dev-lin Report, it says, means security for the employers. The amend-ments mean that dockers will be employed directly by individual

port employers.

The committee says that the government is attempting to 'kid along' the dockers to accept Devlin by hinting at nationalization of the industry.
'The docks could be national-

ized now, under committees of dockers. Every thinking docker knows they could be run more efficiently and with real security guaranteed that way, the statement says.

This can only be achieved through united action, and that was why Mersey dockers had decided to lobby on May 25—a decision in line with the feelings of the rank and file in other

Nothing gained

the London liaison committeel and others opposing the policy of action from Merseyside and

during the wage struggle of 1964 and this had led to the Devlin

Commission and Report.
'Waiting for an inquiry means waiting while preparations go ahead to push through the main union leaders, employers and the government have agreed. It means waiting while employers get added strength by laws which will impose legal penalties on rank-and-file militants who break

Seamen

unions connected with the in-dustry are asked to give every

LATE NEWS—Later today, it was learned that the TUC's 'inner Cabinet'—the Finance and General Purposes Committee—was meeting this evening while this afternoon Gunter was meeting representatives of the Confederation of British Industries.

In the light of these developments the executive was deciding this afternoon whether or not to continue its meeting until to-

to give 'everybody a chance to

intervene' The strike, he said, could be

their meeting with Gunter for an hour and had reaffirmed the deci-sion to strike. 'While we feel upset at causing disruption to other workers and the country, our needs have got to be heard.' Asked about any hopes from discussions with the TUC he

said: 'Where there's life there's hope,' but reiterated that the strike would go ahead unless there was an improved offer from the



BELFAST MAY DAY

Workers back youth against witch-hunt

By our Northern Ireland Correspondent

R IGHT-WING stewards used police to stop Northern Ireland Young Socialists marching on the annual May Day parade. The youth, who had marched every year since they were formed in Belfast four years ago, had made a float consisting of an eight-foot gallows with the theme: 'Trade Union rights on the gallows-Defeat the anti-union laws'.

The float, bedecked with red bunting and political slogans caused quite a sensation when it arrived at the assembly point in May's market.

Right-wing stewards scurried to the police, instructing them not to let the youth march.

Though various trade unions invited the Young Socialists to march as part of their contingents, the police cordoned off the youth and held them in the market Stewards made no objective. market. Stewards made no objection to the CND, Young Communist l marching. League or anarchists

WITCH-HUNT INTENSIFIED

This act marks the intensifica-tion of the witch-hunt against the Young Socialists who have already put up a struggle with the Lambeth Trades Council against the anti-union laws.

A Belfast Trades Council official and Communist Party member jeered at the youth as she went past: 'Who is going to make the revolution now?'.

Asked for support against the right wingers, a Young Communist League member suggested that the Young Socialists should hide their banners against the anti-trade union laws and march as individuals.

Determined not to take this action lying down the youth quickly prepared a leaflet.

When the May Day march returned to the market, it was met by the youth with their banners against anti-union laws and the leaflet calling on trade unionists to pass resolutions in their branches condemning the action of the right wing in excluding the Young Socialist con-

WORKERS LEAVE

At the open-air meeting afterwards demands were made for the right wing to explain their action in calling in the police. There were considerable verbal exchanges and when the Young Socialists left the meeting they were followed by most of the trade unionists.

The newspapers, which normally operate a boycott on the Young Socialists, broke it to attack the youth for their stand on May

The 'Sunday News' carried the headline 'Young Reds Mar May Day Rally', and reported that there were 20,000 people at the open-air meeting.

There were, in fact, about 3,000 people marching, of whom only 200 stayed for the meeting.

On Wednesday, the Young Socialists held a meeting in preparation for the May 25 lobby of parliament against anti-union laws. The meeting also commemorated the 50th anniversary of the execution of Connolly, the leader of the Easter Rising.

THE National Committee

gineering Union passed by

40 votes to 12 a resolution

welcoming the Labour government's policy on the

An amendment which

of the American

called for the immediate

war in Vietnam.

of the Amalgamated En-

Sparks reject package deal

T a mass meeting last week over 150 members of the Electrical Trades Union voted unanimously to reject the three-year package deal signed for the electrical contracting industry.

The meeting was at the site of the new Ford Research Centre at Dunton, Essex, where a dispute is now taking place.

On the following day, the 'Daily Telegraph' pointed out that the deal is likely to be referred to George Brown's Prices and Incomes Board as it provides for wages far in excess of the 3½ per cent. norm.

The proposed increases in hourly rates were, of course, the bait with which it was hoped to hook ETU members into agreeing to grad-ing of electricians, probable abolition of the full price rates, redundancy and speed

With the bait gone, one wonders who will be hooked: the rank and file or the right wing full-time officials and the executive council of the ETU?

Two hundred and fifty electricians at the Tilbury 'B' power station were sacked on Monday after taking strike action the previous Friday.

The strikers are demanding the re-instatement of 11 of their work-mates, sacked by the main electrical contractors on the job.

Railwaymen face new attack

on wages and liner trains

BY ANN GRAY

MINISTERS of the Labour government are now moving in for the kill as far as the rank-and-file members of the National Union of Railwaymen and their pay claim, launched in February, are concerned.

CP's builders' rally

Discussion closed as YS lobby is raised McGree ignores previous campaign

by Geoff Penn

THE 70 workers who attended the Communist Party's 'rally' for building workers in London last Thursday (May 5) heard Leo McGree —billed on the publicity handouts as a 'famed Merseyside builders' leader'—produce a wealth of detailed statistical information, but no policy for a struggle against the government's proposed anti-union legislation.

Nor did his speech afford any

comfort to those who, mistakenly, had hoped to hear an alternative communist policy for building workers.

McGree failed to mention to

the ever-dwindling audience the Prices and Incomes Bill or to make any analysis of the Labour

government.

In reading out list upon list of tables relating to strikes, wages, unemployment, the 'famed' Amalgamated Society of Woodworkers' organiser (retired) found 'our' country at the bottom of

A case for laws

McGree claimed that despite the vicious Taft-Hartley Acts, more hours per man were lost in strikes in the United States of America than in any other country.

The significance of this infor-

mation was not explained. Could it be the beginning of a case in favour of repressive legislation against the unions?

Despite treacherous leadership the building trades unions, which had led to package deals with miserly wages increases, the situation in the rest of the official' labour movement was far

ment,' McGree continued—failing to mention any names.

The leadership of the Transport and General Workers' Union was one of which we could all justly proud, he added! (He should tell that to the dockers.)

Inspire confidence

This was the whole tone of the the social-democratic leaderships,

This lobby has already received widespread support in the labour movement and is aimed at preventing the introduction of laws against the trade unions.

government given by the Young Socialist speaker was in sharp contrast to McGree's hesitation when confronted with question: 'Would you say Wilson is a traitor?'.

McGree was unsure. One had to be careful about making such declarations, he said.

Forgetful?

Trades Councils—not from a political organisation'.

workers from participating in the January 26 lobby of parliament, which was organised by the Lambeth Trades Council.

He forgets that the Trades

Council was accused by leading Communist Party members of isolating itself from the labour movement because of its coura-geous stand in defence of the trade unions.

He forgets to mention that there had been no call from a single Trades Council in which the Communist Party has in-

considering the alternative poli-cies advanced by the Young Socialists and Socialist Labour League to those of their 'leaders' in King Street.

As the Minister for Transport, Mrs. Barbara Castle, one time supporter of the 'left', is the spearhead of the Labour government's battle to get the executive of the National Union of Railwaymen to accept most particularly the liner trains scheme, with its policy for allowing private contractors to use the liner train terminals.

The Minister of Transport in fact appeared to be so anxious to convince the NUR executive that she made a precedent in being the first Minister to address a meeting of the executive at NUR headquarters.

Redundancies?

Whilst the national papers made a point of reporting Mrs. Castle's enthusiasm for moderni-sation on the railways—under the National Freight Authority, which the government will set up—no mention was made of plans for redundancies on the railways, which will must surely follow the introduction of liner trains.

No mention was made either of the fact that introducing the practice of private contractors at the liner terminals means the virtual de-nationalization of the

Following closely on the heels of Mrs. Castle, who met the executive in the morning, Minister of Labour Ray Gunter took part in talks with the union representatives of railwaymen and other heavy industries along with Stanley Raymond, chairman of the British Railways Board.

Pay examined

This meeting, on pay, was the follow-up to the conference held at Downing Street on March 10 following the calling off of the strike by NUR general secretary Sidney Greene in February. At that time angry rank-and-file railmen saw the intervention of men saw the intervention of Wilson and the staving off of their wage demand until an inquiry was held.

Yesterday's decision was to set up an examination of pay and

next month Gunter is to chair another rail industry meeting at which, it is reported, productivity will be the main question under discussion. The full implications for rail workers are clear.

After a strike sell out following intervention by the Labour government, a long period of time before anything constructive is done to even discuss the wage increases, and big publicity about London Transport's losses, rail-waymen will probably be tied to a deal which will involve a big speed up and redundancies.

Vietnam

From page 1 In Saigon the situation is 'hope-

less, but not serious'. Ky, who at first appeared to concede the Buddhist demands for free elections to a constituent assembly and a civilian government this year, quickly reneged on his promise. When the delegates to the pre-

liminary meeting to select an electoral commission demanded from Ky that he respect and accept the findings of the proposed commission, he refused.

Ky threatens coup The delegates unanimously

threatened to boycott the commission. The arrogant and wily Ky then retaliated by threatening to stage a coup if a 'neutralist or communist government' was elected. He further demanded to remain

To strengthen his position still

further, he appointed Col. Ngoc Loan as chief of the Military Security Force.

Col. Loan's plot is to depose the members of the military junta and install Ky as a civilian president, thus giving Ky a free hand to arrest his civilian opponents and hold the elections on his own terms!

Whichever he does, Ky's goose is cooked, and with him will go he only prospect of a stable pro-U.S. regime in South Vietnam. As a Saigon bourgeois reputedly

told a 'Newsweek' reporter:

democracy for too long. If the government abandons the elections after it has promised them, I am afraid that many of the nationalists in the country might turn to the National

Devlin-style plan

Welsh

ship

repair

men

By a Cardiff

Correspondent

New rates of 8s an hour, and 7s an hour 'idle time' to be paid.

The main purpose of this is to

split workers at the small, largely unoccupied, and less well-

organised yards from those at the main yards at Cardiff.

With these proposals agreed 'in

principle', the employers are naturally thinking in terms of big

The local ship repairers' asso-

ciation demands that unskilled and semi-skilled labour be re-

duced to the following numbers

Newport: 30 (approximately

Port Talbot: 40 (approx. 70).

Cardiff and Barry: 260 (approx. 500).

Swansea: 70 (over 100).

themselves those who will stay. This is the obvious opportunity

to remove leading militants and

Also all men over 65 will be

'In this present era of full em-

ployment we are sure that none

of these individuals will find diffi-

culty in obtaining employment

outside the ship-repairing indus-

try,' but for special cases employers 'might be prepared to

consider some form of ex-gratia

payment in accordance with the

Having secured agreement to their plans from full-time union

officials, the employers can afford

merits of the case.'

retired immediately. As though determined to add insult to injury

the association concludes:

shop stewards.

The management intend to pick

(present numbers in brackets):

Redundancy:

cuts in the labour force.

FORTY to fifty per cent redundancy, abolition of aimed at registration and complete mobility of labour are the main proposals contained in a draft already agreed in principle between union officials and employers affecting Transport and General Workers' Union members on the South Wales dry

This agreement is a most serious threat to the livelihoods and trade union rights of ship repair workers.

One union official described it Report on shipbuilding.

There is no doubt that the antiworking-class policies of the government on anti-union laws and re-organisation of the docks have encouraged the dry dock employers to renew their attacks on the men.

If the agreement is carried out, it will mean the following changes:

Registration:

The Joint Registration Scheme, which gives priority of employment to registered union members, and means virtual control of recruitment by the union branches, will be cancelled. This scheme has been in existence since 1933.

Further, all previous working practices and customs will be cancelled.

Mobility of Labour:

Men will be fully mobile between all ship repair yards in South Wales ports (Newport, Cardiff, Barry, Port Talbot and

Swansea). The one-man, one-job principle will be scrapped. 'The men . . . shall form a general labour pool available to carry out all unskilled and/or semi-skilled work in yards at the discretion of the management,' says the proposed

agreement. A three-shift system would be introduced.

Wages:

Many special conditions rates to be abolished. For the rest, a standard special conditions rate estimated that this could mean a

loss of £2 a week in some cases. Wages will fluctuate with national fluctuations. This is a clear attempt to take away local

AEU BACKS WILSON'S VIETNAM POLICY

Again the Stalinists inside the AEU have lost on an important international issue to the right wing of the

defeat on the question of proposed legislation against

to press home the attack all the harder. These officials may quibble over some points, but in the long run

they will accept the consequences of their agreement with the management. The union officials and the workers do not talk the same language; one union official talks of 'speeding up our negotiations'.

The attitude of the men is—

who wants to speed up these negotiations?

It is absolutely clear that the fight against these proposals involves a struggle to build an al-

ternative leadership to the present union officials. The draft document proves how right The Newsletter has

been to warn against placing any reliance on union leaders who want to compromise with the em-Similar schemes to this are being introduced for members of the Amalgamated Engineering

Union and the Boilermakers on the dry docks. The point of carrying on negotiations with separate unions instead of with the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Workers has been to split up the dry dock workers.

Unity between all unions and grades is now essential if the new proposals are to be defeated.

Most important is the recogni-Most important is the recogni-tion that this is a political struggle. The attacks on the South Wales dry dockers is closely connected with the pro-posals of the Devlin Report on the docks, the Geddes Report on shipbuilding and the proposed Incomes Bill against the trade

unions. These are all aspects of the government's attempts to maintain the capitalist system at the

expense of the working class. Ship repair workers should establish the widest unity with other sections of the working class by joining the campaign against the anti-union legislation and the Devlin Report, and giving full support to the lobby of par-liament called for May 25.

Writs out on deliverymen

By Newsletter Reporter

WRITS were issued last week against 50 Coventry car delivery drivers. Along with 300 other drivers they struck last month after a workmate had been dismissed for allegedly striking a job allocator, because of his attitude towards a grievance.

After re-instatement had been refused, the drivers came out on strike in the face of bitter opposition from Transport and General Workers' Union officials. The employers, Port Car Deliveries, are alleging con-spiracy, inducement of breach of

contract and disregard for agreed settlement procedure, and withdrawal of labour.

'The Observer' pointed out: 'The case could be as significant for labour relations as Rookes v. Barnard. It should be the first big test case of the Trades Disputes Act which was passed last year to reverse the effects of the House of Lords ruling in the

from gloomy.

Following the General Election, we now have a large body of genuine socialists in parlia-

Even the National Union of Seamen's leadership received the McGree stamp of approval. Seamen and dockers can now unite behind their official leaders with full Communist

Party backing! meeting-an attempt to inspire confidence in whole sections of both in parliament and in the unions.

The discussion which followed was rapidly brought to a close by the chairman after a Young Socialist speaker was warmly applauded. He had appealed for a united campaign in support of the one-day stoppage and lobby of parliament being organised for

The clear analysis of the treacherous role of the Labour

Summing up, he brushed aside the appeal for support for May 25 saying 'I am in favour of lobbies, but the lead must come from the

He has apparently forgotten that Communist Party officials worked night and day to prevent

fluence. We are sure that militant Communist Party members will not forget any of these things when in power for another year and began to incite the Catholics against the Buddhists in Da Nang and Saigon.

'The people have wanted true

Liberation Front.' Paradoxically, Ky has turned

out to be the Vietcong's best ally!

'Now, however, we have the spectacle of Jack Dash [leader of

substituting . . . support for an inquiry,' the leaflet says.

Nothing has been gained from inquiries, and those who claimed it as a victory were wrong. An inquiry had been accepted

provision of Devlin on which

a wages standstill.'

From page 1 The only way the seamen will win their demands is through strike action. This can be strengthened further if other

This ominous move was made clearer when Hogarth told an interviewer that the union wanted

called off within 24 hours.

The executive had discussed

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of 6d an hour to be paid. It is

Agreement was defeated by 28 votes to 24.

bombing and the implemen-

tation of the 1954 Geneva

union. As in the case of their the trades unions when the issue was raised last week, the fake fighting of the Stalinists of the British Communist Party has brought about a serious defeat in an important trade