

THE

WEEK

A NEWS ANALYSIS FOR SOCIALISTS

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EDITORS' LETTER

A mistake was made in last week's letter: the issue devoted to the struggle for comprehensive schools will be coming out after Christmas not before. Readers who have any items for this issue should send them in without delay as we are now in the course of preparing it. We have made detailed arrangements with a printer who is able to undertake printing from January - now everything depends on the printing fund.

BRIGHTON ROCK

This year's Labour Party 'conference' has come and gone. It began with a strong plea for unity and ended with the singing of the 'Red Flag'. In between we had two major speeches by Wilson and Brown but very little of the polemic and discussion which have been the feature of every recent Labour Party conference. Does this mean that we have a united party and no outstanding questions of policy? Were the standing ovations given in support of the Government's policies to date? Unfortunately, the answer to both these questions must be an emphatic "NO!".

What this conference revealed more than anything else is the profound anti-Tory sentiments of the ordinary Labour Party activist. This, compounded with the extreme fear of doing anything which will prevent "Labour from having a chance to show what it can do", is why the rank and file allowed the leadership to get away with so much. Who would have thought they would allow the Labour Government to delay old age pension increases at the whim of the 'gnomes of Zurich'? Who would have thought that Labour's activists would have allowed its leaders to pursue a policy in colonial affairs all over the world absolutely indistinguishable from that of the Tories? And yet it happened!

The left is in a dilemma in this situation. These events do not mean a mass shift to the right - witness that the greatest applause for Wilson was when he refuted the 'secret pledge'. But then it is clear that the mass of Labour supporters do not yet realise that one cannot carry out Tory policies in Aden, Guiana, Malaysia, etc. and at the same time carry out bold reforms in Britain. The job of the left is to help them realise this. This means avoiding the 'unity for unity's sake' trap, and at the same time not going on a sectarian binge. The former involves losing contact with the great progressive movements which are changing the world today and the latter means destroying one's links with the mass of Labour's supporters. The correct way is to pose all criticisms in a positive manner and in terms of assisting the Government in carrying out its programme of reforms. This is both correct in principle and wise in practice.

Fortunately the present state of affairs promises to be very temporary: either the Government will turn left or continue along its present rightward evolution even faster. In the former case, a large part of ^{our} programme will involve swimming with the stream; deepening and intensifying existing tendencies until a polarisation on the right takes place. The latter eventuality will inevitably (and with our assistance!) lead to cracks at the top, in which case the possibility exists (one which we must make a reality) of a left wing emerging which will in the eyes of the mass of Labour supporters amount to an alternative leadership to Wilson and Co. This left wing (which must have its sharp edge turned towards the Tories) would help to drastically change the political set-up in Britain because it combined the deep-going hatred of Toryism, shown at Brighton, with policies which would destroy the political and economic base of Toryism.

BRITAIN'S NAME WILL STINK; Konni Zilliacus (who we are proud to say is one of our sponsors), together with William Warbey and John Rankin, acted as Labour's conscience when they spoke out against British underpinning for U.S. policy in South Vietnam. Could anything be more disastrous than for Labour to act as the champion of the most despised, most isolated regime in Asia? Every reader must do all possible to back these 3 M.P.s.

RAILWAYMEN PERMANENTLY PARTED FROM FAMILIES by Len Nicholas.

In our so-called "affluent" society there are pockets of workers living under worse conditions than serfs under the feudal, or slaves under the slavery system. One such group was disclosed by East Ham branch of the NUR when they discussed the question of men who came to this country from such places as the West Indies to work on the railways and London Transport, and have not seen their wives and families for many years. Railway workers recruited from overseas have to keep two homes on wages that the N.U.R. claim are thirteen per cent below those paid to other industrial workers. Applications for special extended leave are not always granted. How much hardship is endured in saving for such a visit? East Ham branch have asked the N.U.R. to negotiate with the management an agreement whereby any railwayman, whose home country is not within a fortnight's travelling time from Britain, be allowed to bank his annual leave, for the purposes of subsequently spending a holiday in his native land.

DAVE LAMBERT WANTS MORE WORKERS CONTROL

Dave Lambert, general secretary of the Foundry Workers Union, had this to say in his union's journal this week:

"Workers must have more say in how our industries are run. Wherever decisions are taken which directly affect the welfare of foundry workers we are entitled to be there. This applies at national and at company level; to employers great and small. The fact is that where key questions of production are concerned we have had no real information and no power at all. The secrets of the boardroom will have to be shared. Labour's first statement on "The Economic Situation" starts off all right. Effective rights for workers in all industries are the best guarantee that our future will be bright."

UNIONS HAVE MORE MONEY, LESS MEMBERS by a special correspondent.

The report of the Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies for 1963 discloses that the funds of registered trade unions of employees increased £5.34m. to £106.2m last year, representing £12 9s 2d. per member, compared with £11 16s 5d at the end of 1962. There was a net fall of 8,000 in the total membership of employee unions during 1963 compared with a fall of 13,000 in the previous year. Out of a total membership of 8,524,000 at end 1963, the number of women increased by 37,000 to 1,494,000. Income from members of all unions increased by £1.1m during 1963. Expenditure on unemployment benefits was up £155,000 at £464,000, a rise of 50.3% over the 1962 figure. Dispute benefit (mainly strike pay) fell by £234,000 to £462,000 (33.7%). Dispute benefit paid in 1962, however, was swollen by two one-day strikes in the engineering industry. The number of employee trade unionists contributing to political funds in 1963 was 6,439,000, an average contribution per member of 2s 7d. The expenditure out of the political funds of these unions increased during the year by £485,000 to £1.1m, and their political funds fell from £1.7m to £1.5m.

PARLIAMENTARY NOTES

by Chris Arthur

Wilson on the suggestion of an oil embargo on South Africa

Mr. Freeson (Willesden, East, Labour) asked the Prime Minister whether he would initiate through the United Nations an international embargo on the shipment of oil to South Africa.

Mr. Wilson: No. All forms of measures, of which oil sanctions are only one, are at present being considered by the United Nations expert committee on sanctions in New York. The Government is playing a full part in the work of this committee, without commitment to adopt any particular measures which may be recommended. We must await the committee's report.

Mr. Freeson persisted and said would not the Prime Minister agree that drastic action is necessary to avoid a near-war situation which could engulf Commonwealth countries and Africa as a whole. Would not an oil embargo be a speedy way of getting the South African Government to negotiate an end to apartheid? (Opposition cries of protest).

Mr. Wilson in his reply said that while an arms embargo is one thing, we are not committed in any way to any form of control, whether unilateral or multilateral, over trade in relation to South Africa. The Government took part in the work of the sanctions committee without commitment as to the outcome of that work. "I have expressed the view" he said, "that an oil sanction is something very relevant to a near-war or war situation, and that the only difference between an effective oil sanction, and outright war is pretty well the difference between strangling a man slowly and hitting him on the head with a hatchet.

Tory M.P. wants to make unions liable to damages

Mr. R. Graham Page (Crosby, Conservative) has introduced a Bill to make collective contracts between trade unions and employers or employers' associations enforceable ⁱⁿ law. He proposes to make trade union contracts relating to employment enforceable either against the union or by the unions against the employers. A claim for damages would lie against a trade union if a contract was broken by union members in official or unofficial action. Mr. Crosby argues that if the Bill goes through union leaders will take more energetic steps to prevent unofficial strikes.

Government * determined to carry out Treaty obligations in Aden

Speaking in the House of Commons, Anthony Greenwood, the Colonial Secretary, told the House that in view of "aggression" and "subversive activities" from across the border he reaffirmed that the Government was determined to carry out their treaty obligations in the Aden area. He did this when reporting back on his visit to Aden. He also announced the Government's support for a "unitary state on a sound democratic basis". When asked how ballot-box elections would be organised in the tribal areas, he said that who would vote would be left for the joint ministerial committee; it might, for a limited period in some areas, be necessary to have tribal voting.

500 TONS OF COCOA BURNT IN ACCRA

from an Oxford reader

Reuter reports: "...the chairman of Ghana's Cocoa Marketing Board put the torch to about 500 tons of cocoa..on Dec. 11th. He said the bonfire was the first of a series..6 members of the cocoa producers' alliance had decided to destroy cocoa stocks to ease pressure on the market" (i.e. keep up prices) "The Nigerian Minister of Commerce, who attended the ceremony, said: 'Nigeria will follow suit.'"

THE TELEPHONE RING -report by Barbara Allen *

There is overwhelming evidence of the need for full public investigation of the manufacture of telecommunications equipment in Great Britain and of the terms on which it is supplied to the Post Office. Facts already established show a tightly organised "ring" of companies in virtual control of the market and restrictive practices which may lead to unnecessarily high prices paid out of public monies. The firms involved are enjoying handsome profits; and the arrangements for arriving at "cost-plus prices" appear to give them the whole benefit of rising productivity. Far from assisting export sales, as it is claimed, the present restrictive agreements appear to hinder competitive efficiency and the export record is poor.....

During a five year period in 1963 the Post Office plans to spend about £350 millions on exchange equipment and telephone apparatus. Most of this money looks like going to a small and tightly organised "ring" of firms with which the Post Office has signed bulk supply agreements. Two new agreements were signed in April 1963. Their effect will be that at least 75 per cent of the telephone apparatus and 90 per cent of exchange equipment will continue to be purchased from the ring, under non-competitive arrangements, until 1968.

The Post Office provides the main home market for this type of equipment. Restrictive trading arrangements between a few big manufacturers and the Post Office make it virtually impossible for new firms to enter the market and also create a doubt whether public money is being wisely spent.

THESE ARE THE FIRMS.... Automatic Telephones & Electric Co. Ltd., Ericsson Telephones Ltd., Associated Electrical Industries Ltd., Standard Telephones & Cables Ltd., Plessey Co. Ltd., Phoenix Telephone & Electrical Works Ltd., Telephone Manufacturing Co. Ltd.

The broad effect of the agreements is that the Postmaster General places all orders for particular products within a group of eight manufacturers.

*The above is an extract from an article in this month's Birmingham Trade Council Journal. It is drawn from a booklet issued by the Post Office Engineering Union called "The Telecommunications Manufacturing Industry" prepared by the Union's Research Department. Those who wish to study the fuller version are invited to send for a copy to: The General Secretary, P.O.E.U., Greystoke House, Hanger Lane, Ealing, London W.5.

The Post Office is already a forward looking, modern, public service which despite the restrictions put upon it by the previous Tory Governments shows a healthy balance on the credit side. Now we have a Labour Government every effort should be made to support the P.O.E.U.'s long standing demand for an enquiry into the arrangements for the purchase of equipment with a view to making a successful nationalized industry even more successful.

CND AND THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT

Because of its importance we are reproducing the main policy resolution adopted at the 1964 annual conference of CND.

Conference affirms CND's total opposition to all nuclear weapons and nuclear alliances and weapons of mass destruction, and that we are dedicated to strengthening the authority of the United Nations. We affirm that we will continue to exert pressure on the new Government, as on the last, to see the policies we advocate implemented.

Conference insists that C.N.D. shall press the Labour Government to carry out the pledges on disarmament given in its election manifesto; renounce the so-called "independent" deterrent; oppose the formation of the M.L.F. or any similar force; and refrain from reintroducing conscription.

Further, it shall urge the Government to: repudiate the Nassau Agreement; cease the construction of Polaris submarines; announce its intention of withdrawing from NATO; and work for the inclusion of China in the United Nations.

Conference rejects all policies of deterrence based upon the threat of use of nuclear weapons, and declares the objects of the Campaign to be:

1. The unilateral renunciation by Great Britain of all nuclear policies, including the manufacture of nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction, no matter what any other country may do.
2. The withdrawal of all nuclear bases on British soil and those overseas that we directly control, or share in the control of.
3. The immediate withdrawal from all military alliances which depend on nuclear policies; this includes NATO, SEATO, CENTO.

Conference welcomes this restatement of our aims and principles and directs the National Council to give them the widest possible publicity at home and abroad, throughout the coming year.

Conference reaffirms its opposition to nuclear weapons and all alliances based on nuclear weapons. Recognising the obsolescence of the independent British deterrent, Conference calls on the Campaign to give first priority to its work to putting the case for the withdrawal from NATO.

In an age of intercontinental ballistic missiles no nation will commit suicide for another. In this situation NATO (as well as the Warsaw Pact) is showing signs of strain. CND must ruthlessly expose all measures - of which the MLEF may only be the 1st example - which by attempting to prop up a disintegrating and militarily useless alliance encourage spread and are provocative. Conference stresses that the Campaign should call for immediate withdrawal from NATO, rather than specifying withdrawal in 1969.

CONFERENCE FOR TRADE UNIONISTS IN WOLVERHAMPTON

Wolverhampton and West Midland Region CND are joining forces to bring GEOFFREY GOODMAN (Sun Industrial correspondent, author of CND pamphlet "Economic Consequences of Staying Alive"), ALAN ROONEY (N.W. Region CND, technical college teacher) and a local opponent of the Campaign to lead discussion on the economics of disarmament, and the ways it can effect everyone's job. Date: Sat. 30th January, from 2.30 - 7.30p.m. at Friends Meeting House, Horseman St., WOLVERHAMPTON.

Tickets - 2/6d from: CND, Factory Road, Birmingham, 19.

CAPITALISM AND AUTOMATION - report by James Wilcox.

A recent book by the bourgeois economist J.E.Meade (Cambridge University) entitled "Efficiency, Equality and Ownership of Property", asks some pertinent questions about the effects of automation:

"Most discussions about the social and economic problems which will arise in an automated world run in terms of the rise in real output and real income per head of the population. What, we ask, shall we all do with our leisure when we need to work only an hour or two a day to obtain the total output of real goods and services needed to satisfy our wants? But the problem is really much more difficult than that. The question we should ask is: What shall we all do when output per manhour of work is extremely high but practically the whole of the output goes to a few property owners, while the mass of the workers are relatively (or even absolutely) worse off than before ?"

Meade is led to pose this question by the following considerations: "In the highly developed industrial countries a substantial proportion of the real product does not accrue to the owners of property and property is very unequally owned. (Elsewhere in the book Meade calculates that 5 per cent of the population receive 92 per cent of all income from wealth. cf. p,27) There is already therefore a problem. The pattern of real rates which is required on efficiency grounds may lead to a very high level of real income per head for the small concentrated numbers of rich property owners. And it is possible, though not certain, that this problem will become more acute as a result of automation - automation will certainly increase the output per head which will be produced by the aid of the new automated machinery. But it could conceivably reduce so much the amount of labour needed with each new machine at a given cost that the total demand for labour was actually reduced - it is clear that automation might well cause output per head to rise relatively to the marginal product of labour. In this case efficiency pricing would require that an ever increasing proportion of output accrued to the property owners and the distributional dilemma would to this extent be intensified."

It is useful to remember that the author of the above lines appears never to have heard of such concepts as "the organic composition of capital" yet his analysis leads him to postulate a tendency very similar to that formulated by in Capital.

VOTES FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN IN ACTION from John Horsfield*

Now the General Election is over we are again in campaigning; trying to ensure that in the next election Young People can vote at 18. We have with the return of a Labour Government gained influence. We have among our signatures, 3 Cabinet Ministers, 7 other members of the Government and a total of 44 M.P's. Supporters include:- Lord Gardiner, Tony Greenwood, Barbara Castle, and 42 other M.P's, Angus Wilson, Benjamin Britten, Lord Ted Willis, Lady Longford, Bertrand Russell, Jimmy Hill, Sylvia Syms and Freddie and the Dreamers.

We urgently need people to help in the following ways: collecting signatures, circulating petitions, duplicating, writing letters, raising money etc. If any reader of The Week can assist in any way (or suggest anyone we should contact) please write to me at 7 Spring Gardens, Wallington, Surrey.

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* Secretary of the Votes for Youth Campaign.

BERT WYNN REPLIES TO LORD ROBENS from the Derbyshire Miner.

The speech made by Lord Robens at the Annual Conference of the miners gives further clues as to the basic thinking of the Coal Board Chairman in regard to the policy he wishes to pursue to make the industry successful. At the top of his priorities is the need to sell 200 million tons of coal.The need to keep up sales is emphasised on the grounds of marginal cost. Any diminution of sales down to 190 million tons would increase costs by 5/- and so on..... He then goes on to say that the industry can increase its productivity by eight per cent per annum and in a short while the industry will become profitable.

Let us look at the effect an eight per cent increase in production will have on the Board's finances. The chief saving will be manpower and if previous years are any guide, 20,000 reduction in manpower per annum will result in a saving of £14 million in wages. To offset this, one must take into account capital cost and other factors, such as increased prices of stores and equipment of all kinds. The move in this direction is usually about four per cent per annum. Then wage drift to pieceworkers accounts for about £4 million, so at the best we cannot expect more than £4 million to be available for reform. That is providing that the Board gives no more away in reduced prices. If this is so - let us tell the miners:-

No increased pension - No back shift payment - No substantial pay increases for low-paid workers.

Let us be frank and say that we can only compete with oil on the basis of low day wages and no increase in benefits.....

Are these the "facts of life" we were called upon to face by Lord Robens?But there is another factor; another "fact of life" that must be faced. In these days of near full employment and better mobility of labour, the worker has a greater chance of employment and in spite of greater mechanisation, miners are leaving the industry at the rate of between 20,000 and 25,000 per year and pits are being made uneconomic because full production cannot be achieved.....It is a straight issue; the wages and conditions of some miners (if not all) will have to be substantially improved or a shortage of manpower will defeat all the efforts of the Coal Board to hold present efficiency, let alone improve it. This cannot wait ^{for} the complete re-organisation and mechanisation of the industry, it must precede it. If need be, let us go jointly to the Government and put the problem to them. The nationalised coal industry has not cost the country a penny. Up to now, the Government has only acted as our moneylender, while we have put millions into the hands of private industry by low coal prices.....Let's ask the nation whether the coal industry is any use to it. If it is not, "let's tell the miners". "Let us get out in an organised manner".

If we are dependent upon winning the fight with cheap oil then the immediate future is bad for the miners. If this is true, then let us be frank with the men in the industry..... In my opinion, the "minimum" immediate requirements of the men are:- 1. Increase in surface day-rates, bringing the guaranteed wage for the lowest grade on the surface to £12. 2. Underground grade 5, £13 per week. Craftsmen - Underground grade 1, Mechanics and electricians, £17 with bonuses for face craftsmen. Craftsmen Surface and Central Workshops - Mechanics and electricians and allied trades - £14.

" MUNICIPAL ENTERPRISE" LIVELY DISCUSSION from a London reader.

At a press conference held to launch the Merlin Press publication "Essays in Local Government Enterprise" at County Hall, introductory statements were made by Ellis Hillman, Hugh Jenkins M.P., and Frank Allaun, M.P. Questions were then asked:-

1. (Ellis Ashton) concerning the use of circuits for amateur and professional actors, so that there could be co-ordination between different civic theatres. A plea was also entered for the more light-hearted forms of entertainment.

2. (Judith Cook) concerning the imbalance of development between different areas. In Cornwall almost nothing was done, even the basic services were barely maintained.

3. (Bernard Keefe) taking up again the point made by the first questioner, concerning coordination between different civic theatres. Stages were now being built, should they all be of different sizes so that scenery could not be transferred from one theatre to another?

Mr. Jenkins replied that he was not in favour of any more co-ordinating committees, and that the idea of circuits was a pipe-dream. The companies show out of the community concerned.

4. (Beryl Deane) concerning the lack of time and specialist knowledge which led local councillors to take a defensive attitude, and to be in the hands of their officials and unable to take an initiative.

In reply it was pointed out that this series was designed to inform councillors of the possibilities.

5. (Reg Scaife) concerning the alleged decline in importance of local government, with regional boards looming on the horizon. There was a case for elected regional government, democratically speaking.

6. The Local Government Officer of Transport House pointed out that there had been a Municipal Enterprise section at the Festival of Labour.

7. (Ellis Ashton) concerning the setting up of an organisation; various views were put about the setting up of a Fabian type of body.

In reply it was suggested that this 'movement' was intended rather as a forum.

* Merlin Press 15/-.

MERSEY DOCKS MAKE £1 MILLION PROFIT - BUT NOT ENOUGH from Roger Protz

Although the Mersey Docks and Harbour Board (the port of Liverpool) made a 'surplus' of £1,089,000 in the year ending July, 'inflationary tendencies' mean that the surplus is not sufficient for replacement cost depreciation as recommended by the Rochdale Committee. Reporting this at the Board's monthly meeting held on December 10, the chairman, Mr. A.C. Morrell, said that interest charges were expected to increase by over £300,000 in the next 18 months. "The year's surplus arises largely from increased dock usage and also from improvements in efficiency," he continued - another way of saying the dockers have been subject to a speed-up. In fact "the volume of dry cargo handled increased by more than half a million tons." Rates were increased as from December 2nd to meet the expected increases in interest charges, etc. Thus a pretty picture emerges of the dockers working harder but the benefit going to interest-drawers.

HOW TOURISM BOLSTERS UP FRANCO

In a survey of Europe, the Financial Times Commercial Edition had this to say about Spain as a tourist centre :

"Spain's development as a low-price centre for mass holiday making has been rapid. In 1959 it attracted 2.8m. visitors for stays of longer than 24 hours; by last year the figure was approaching 8m. Taking all tourists into account - including the day-trippers and those who come ashore from ships on their way to other places - Spain last year took about 11m.; this year 17m. are expected and the 1967 target is 17m.

This expansion has proved crucial in keeping the Spanish economy viable recently in international terms. Tourist income has acted as an expanding bridge over an expanding deficit on visible overseas trade. In 1959 tourism contributed \$159m. towards closing a \$244m. trade gap; by last year the gap had reached \$937m., but tourism earned over \$700m. - only about 10 per cent. less than the complete total of Spanish exports. It has been well worth-while for the Spanish Government to finance up to 40 per cent. of hotel construction and to give large grants for the development of the infrastructure for tourist centres - roads, water supplies and drainage.....

Spain's successes have also provided an example that Portugal obviously means to follow. At present its tourist income is one of the smallest in Europe but its advantages of low board and lodging prices, cheap rail fares, and of being largely "undiscovered" by foreigners have yet to be exploited. The Bank of Portugal has underlined the "extremely important part" that the tourist industry could in the long run play in the national economy and some ambitious schemes are now in the pipeline." (Our emphasis.)

Thus we see the importance of the idea of a tourist boycott of Spain - as called for by several anti-Franco organisations.

NO HABEUS CORPUS IN AUSTRIA!!

by a special correspondent

Austria is not normally cited as an example of a police state, but two cases now before the Commission of Human Rights show that country's legal system in an unsavoury light. The first concerns a Fritz Neumeister.

He has been detained in prison in Austria since 12 July 1962, as being a suspected accomplice in the fraudulent obtaining of refunds of taxes payable on exported goods. His principle claims are that the delay in bringing him to trial and the failure to release him in the meanwhile in spite of his requests, on a reasonable bail, constitute violations of the provisions of the Convention on Human Rights, which guarantee, except in certain limited circumstances, the right to liberty of the individual.

The second, Ernst Stoegmueller, had been arrested in March 1958 and accused with certain accomplices of offences of fraud and usury. He was released in April 1958 during the investigation of his case, but was re-arrested in August 1961 and held in detention until August 1963, when he was released on bail. The investigation of the charges against him of misappropriation of funds, fraud and usury has not yet been completed. It had been alleged by Stoegmueller that his detention constituted violations of the Convention on Human Rights in that he was arrested and detained without reasonable suspicion that he had committed an offence, that he had not been brought to trial within a reasonable time, and finally, that the investigating judge had refused to hear witnesses in his defence.

STUDENTS SUPPORT WORKERS' STRUGGLE IN PAKISTAN

report by Abdul Nasser

The strike of the 90,000 jute mill workers in East Pakistan has continued for two months despite government repression (reported in The Week). Now the three principal students' organisations in East Pakistan; the East Pakistan Students' Union, the East Pakistan Students' League and the Pakistan Students' Force, have jointly declared that if the authorities do not act immediately to compel the management to resume negotiations with the unions, they will launch a united struggle in support of the workers. The students have also called upon the leadership of all opposition parties to launch a united struggle to compel the authorities to meet the workers' demands.

In Karachi school and college students on strike have clashed with the police for several days. At least 50 students are reported to be badly injured, and 10 of them are in a serious condition. Many primary school children as well as members of the teaching staff are reported to have received injuries. 46 student leaders have been arrested. The students have continued the strike and have demanded the release of their leaders. The strike demands include the demand for the repeal of the University Ordinance by which the Universities and Colleges in Pakistan have been brought under the direct political control of bureaucrats who have now far-reaching powers of control over every aspect of university life.

Meanwhile the campaign for the election of President on 2nd January continues. Five opposition parties ranging from extreme left to extreme right have combined in support of Miss Fatima Jinnah in opposition to Ayub Khan. Despite powerful opposition in the country, Ayub Khan has an even chance of getting elected by the 80,000 'Basic Democrats' who enjoy the franchise. If Miss Jinnah wins, the Government will still be dominated by the right wing. But the left can celebrate one fact. This election has brought into the mainstream of political life a whole new generation of our people. It will leave its mark on the future.

ALGERIANS SEND AID TO CONGO LIBERATION FORCES

Algeria is giving material and moral support to the revolutionaries in the Congo (Leopoldville), Abdel Aziz Bouteflika, the Algerian foreign minister announced on December 7th in Khartoum before his departure for Addis Ababa. The announcement was published by the newspaper Alger Ce Soir the same evening. The minister said that Algeria had sent three planes carrying food and medical supplies to the Congolese patriots.

These supplies are to pass through the Sudan. The Sudanese Foreign Minister was reported to have announced in Khartoum that his country would allow the passage of any plane carrying food and medical supplies for Congolese patriots. Algeria was faithful to its promise of supporting and aiding all struggles for national liberation and the liquidation of imperialism and colonialism in Africa, said Alger Ce Soir. "Puppet Tshombe backed by the U.S. and Belgian imperialists is carrying out a genocide of the Congolese people", the paper said. On the same day the Algerian Press Service said: "Belgium and the U.S. have supplied arms and paratroopers to crush the Congolese people's struggle by force of arms. It would be naive to think that this imperialist challenge to the Africans will go unanswered."

NEW LEFT REVIEW ON LABOUR'S PROSPECTS

"In order to survive, Labour will be forced to polarize opinion, to create polemic and a more vital struggle than the ones that have animated British political life since the end of the last Labour Government in 1951. It has no choice but the tactic of divide and conquer. An era of real conflict, of partisan battles whose lines inevitably coincide at least partly with the lines of class. This is perhaps the most hopeful prospect in the first weeks of a new Labour Government." These words conclude the editorial of the latest issue (Number 28) of New Left Review. The issue contains a number of items which will help to provide the underpinning analysis upon which such a strategy could evolve. Key among these is the second instalment of Tom Nairn's "The Nature of the Labour Party", which combs through the recent history of the movement to lay bare the prospects of socialist advance. Tom Nairn shows how the basis of the passivity of class-consciousness among the workers is being undermined, and points towards new possibilities for the left.

Other items include an interesting article, "What is Schizophrenia?" by R.D. Laing, which socialists should certainly not skip. He points out that this label, while not corresponding to any discernable mental condition, does correspond to a social condition, amounting to a political event in itself. We noble and brainwash the victims of this event, instead of learning from them. William Blake and Jesus Christ, right nut-cases the pair of them, would have short shrift today, one feels. Laing looks forward to the day when more enlightened men will look back on our own age of darkness, and see that "what we call schizophrenia was one of the forms in which, often through quite ordinary people, the light began to break through the cracks in our all-too-closed minds."

NLR is obtainable from 7, Carlisle Street, London, W.1.
3/6 per copy, or annual subscription - 21/-.

NEW VOICE EDITION IN HULL AND DISTRICT.

The latest addition to the 'Voice' stable is a lively one: the Humberside Voice, which made its first appearance at the beginning of the week. Carrying a banner headline leading a story on the fight for comprehensive schools in Hull, the paper is full of local matter, bringing the fight for socialism into an intelligent local focus. It includes articles on on workers' control, on the Hull Labour College, on several key trade union issues, and on the scandal of Lister Street, Hull's own little Rachmanland.

The editorial board consists of:

Counc: Harry Lewis, (A.E.U. and East Hull Labour Party member)
Dan Hussey, (N.U.T., East Hull Labour Party, and Trades Council delegate,
Labour Party candidate for Thirsk and Malton, 1964.)
Arnold Warrener, (N.G.A. member.)
Tony Topham, (West Hull Labour Party member, T.G.W.U. member.)
David Whiteley, (North Hull Labour Party member.)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN RHODESIA

by Dave Windsor

The Rhodesian Ministry of Trade, Industry and Development has published a brochure: "Development Opportunities in Rhodesia" for businessmen and other potential investors. Some sections make very interesting reading for socialists. Under "Labour Legislation" we read:

"...In the event of a dispute either both parties can agree to the matter being referred to voluntary arbitration or either the trade union or the employers' organisations concerned can refer the matter to compulsory arbitration. An arbitration award is binding for a specified period on the parties to the dispute and may be extended by the Minister to all employers and employees in the industry except that under compulsory arbitration, either party can give notice within 28 days of the award that it does not intend to be bound by the award. Only in the latter circumstances can there be a legal strike or lock-out. Any dispute affecting essential services must be referred to an industrial council or conciliation board and, if no agreement is reached, the matter must be referred to compulsory arbitration, the award to be binding on all parties..."

The sum total effect of these regulations is clearly to make strikes virtually illegal.

The most striking facts come in the appendix giving average earnings of workers. Two sets of figures are given: one for Africans, and the other for "Europeans, Asians and Coloureds". If we compare the figures for 1963 we get the following picture:

<u>INDUSTRY</u>	<u>AVERAGE WAGE FOR 1963</u>		<u>AFRICAN AS % of others</u>
	<u>Africans</u>	<u>others</u>	
Agriculture	£67	£1,241	5.4%
Mining and Quarrying	£115	£1,536	7.5%
Manufacturing	£184	£1,372	13.4%
Construction	£150	£1,348	11.1%
Electricity and Water	£156	£1,506	10.3%
Commerce	£165	£1,064	15.5%
Transport & Communic.	£243	£1,350	18.0%
Government Admin.	£163	£1,309	12.4%
Education	£211	£1,146	18.4%
Health	£176	£954	18.4%
Private domestic	£105	£480	22.0%

These figures are a devastating condemnation of the set-up in Rhodesia: the biggest sector, agricultural workers (over $\frac{1}{4}$ m.), get less than 25/- a week; the next biggest, private domestics (95,000) - a comment in itself - get a mere £2 a week; the highest paid sector, transport, gets less than £5 per week on average; and in only one category is the average African wage more than $\frac{1}{5}$ of the average of the Europeans, Asians and Coloureds. The figures are given for the last ten years, and during this period the average African wage has risen from 7.2% of that of the others to 9.4%. At that rate it would take 410 years for the Africans to catch up! Even this miserly increase was not registered among agricultural workers - here there was a deterioration from 5.7% to 5.4%.

It seems to me that the booklet should have a sub-title: "Business-men invest in Rhodesia, the land of starvation wages for Africans without any strike problem." Labour must act to end this disgrace - obviously the enforcement of a one-man one-vote system would help to end this state of affairs.