

# THE BULLETIN

*An Information Service  
for  
Socialists*

VOLUME TWO, NEW SERIES NO 10. 9th Mar 1963.

4<sup>D</sup>

CONTENTS.

- Page 1 - - - Editorial
- Page 2 - - - Putney Young Socialist paper very successful  
Hackney Young Socialists now biggest in London  
International School to be held in Autumn  
Young Socialist unemployment demonstration in West London  
Young Teachers' protest
- Page 3 - - - Labour Party resolutions  
March 'Union Voice' out  
Cousins taking tough line on busmen's pay claim
- Page 4 - - - Algerians slash rent  
Free Angola Committee established
- Page 5 - - - Gloster strike victory  
Dunlop strike in process  
Transport House has 'labour trouble'
- Page 6 - - - Italian Y.C.L. paper reproduces Trotsky  
Tito as an art critic  
Thorez strikes back at Chinese
- Page 7 - - - West German industry more concentrated  
The French Miners' strike  
Widespread strikes in Finland
- Page 8 - - - Callaghan's wealth tax  
US trillion dollar debt  
British reserves fall

Letter to Readers.

During the course of the week we have received the text of the latest Chinese document, "More on the differences between comrade Togliatti and us". Normally to keep readers abreast with these important documents we attempt to summarise them and reproduce the summaries in the Bulletin. However, this latest effort from Red Flags over 100,000 Chinese characters long and fills more than 100 pages of foolscap paper in the English version. To summarise this document would have been impossible. However we have tried to reproduce what is new in the document and this is contained in the final paragraphs of the document.

Published by :- The International Bookshop, - Produced  
4, Dane St., by  
Alfred St. Central, voluntary labour.  
Nottingham.

SHOP STEWARDS UNDER ATTACK.

As part of a general attack against the working class shop stewards are under attack in a number of fields. The sacking of individual shop stewards up and down the country, the proposals of the Ford's management to outlaw the Fords' Shop Stewards Committee and the never ending propaganda campaign in the capitalist press are part of a pattern. This campaign is a corollary of the attempt by the Government to stiffen resistance by the employers to workers demands through NEDC and NIC. Just how far they will go in this attack will be largely determined by the resistance the workers put up.

The shop stewards are a particular thorn in the side of the ruling class. As well as being to the forefront generally in any campaign for workers' demands, they challenge the capitalist class where it hurts them most, in the running and control of industry. This is particularly irksome for the employers at a time of intensified competition in export markets. In these days of mergers, rationalisation and takeovers, which in the last analysis represent an attempt by the bosses to reorganise production more efficiently at the expense of their workers, the shop stewards are a reoccurring stumbling block. No capitalist can now plan without taking into account the reaction and resistance of his workers led by the shop stewards. When managements complain that they want to manage they are speaking from the heart.

Shop stewards committees achieved their strength in a period of full employment and scarcity of labour. They are particularly strong in industries which have periodic reorganisations of production, e.g., the motor car industry as production is switched from one model to another. Each time such a reorganisation takes place, naturally the management wishes to alter things to its advantage and the complexity of production is such that they have plenty of opportunity to try to do this. The workers naturally resist the speed up and the shop stewards committees have had great success in organising this resistance. The shop stewards committees which in most cases go over the artificial trade union barriers, are very efficient fighting organisations. The shop steward unlike most union officials is not removed from the mass of the workers and can gauge the latter's feeling and therefore put forward lines of action which will be followed.

The attack on the shop stewards is an important stage in the process of putting the burden of Britain's economic crisis on the back of the working class. At this stage it is the focal point of this struggle. The left has an important part to play, perhaps a decisive one. The capitalist class has sought to isolate the shop stewards movement over a long period. With its allies in the labour movement, it has sought to use the fact that many shop stewards are members of the Communist Party to distort the whole role of shop stewards. To oppose this campaign is the main way the left can help. The whole apparatus of the Labour movement must be mobilised, for instance, the Young Socialist branches must organise meetings for the shop stewards to put their point of view, Wards and C.L.P.'s should do the same. On every occasion that shop stewards are attacked the left should go into action locally and nationally in support. On the other hand every effort must be made to get shop stewards themselves to bring their struggle into the Labour Party - bitter experience in the past plus statements by the Labour leaders have made them suspicious of the Labour Party and contributed to their isolation. Let us show them that the left wing can be trusted to support them.

- **1481** A highly successful new Young Socialist journal entitled "Young Left" has been launched by Putney Young Socialists. It has now reached its 5th issue. "Which", published by the Consumers' Association, "Where" published by the Advisory Centre for Education, the London Co-operative Society, the "Sunday Citizen", "Tribune", the "New Statesman" have advertised regularly in this bright journal. Copies of "Young Guard" and "Young Left" are being interchanged as part of a policy of pooling the talent of writers and journalists in the Y.S. movement. Copies can be obtained from the Editor, Ian McGarry, 168 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London S.W.15.

HACKNEY Y.S. "LARGEST" IN LONDON" ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRESS.

According to a report in the Hackney Gazette, the Hackney Y.S. Branch is the largest in London. The report gives plenty of space to a report of the Annual Meeting of the Branch and reports the activities of the last year. "Outstanding was our success during the summer in preventing the Fascists from abusing Ridley Road..... We have also taken part in several anti-H-Bomb activities....." The report also announces the future activities and demonstrations of the Hackney Branch.

EUROPEAN SOCIALIST SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN BRITAIN.

Following on from the successful Kessingland School last summer, an announcement in the March "Union Voice" announces the holding of a "European Discussion School" at Hythe, Kent, from September 7th to 13th 1963. Leading Left-wing speakers will take part. Enquiries should be made to: Julian Atkinson, 54, Park Road, Lenton, Nottingham.

YOUNG SOCIALIST UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

According to the "Voice of Youth" page in this month's "Union Voice" the annual conference of the London and Middlesex Y.S. called on the regional committee to campaign against unemployment. The West London Federation has organised the following events: MARCH 16th - 12 noon: Poster Parade and Open Air meeting at the junction of Golbourne Road and Potobello Road, North Kensington. MARCH 23rd - 10 a.m. Meeting and Poster Parade at Brooke Green Labour Exchange, Hammersmith.

In the East Midlands, the Regional Conference passed a resolution deploring the suspension of the Leicester Federation for its activities in campaigning against unemployment and supported the Federations initiative in organising demonstrations. The report of the National Committee member for the East Midlands in which he explained his support for those members who had resigned from the National Committee, whilst withdrawing himself, was approved by the meeting.

YOUNG TEACHERS PROTEST - A conference of more than a hundred representatives from young teachers sections of the NUT in the North, declared itself unanimously opposed to the interference of the Minister of Education in the negotiations of the Burnham committee. A delegate from Morpeth, said that the minister was solely thinking of wrecking the Burnham system. This would tie in neatly with a national outcry against new rating valuations, in which Conservative back-benchers were joining, leading in turn to an outcry for a removal of education from the rates. The Minister would then take control of the Burnham Committee and of the teachers' salaries.

1482

Three resolutions to the Annual Conference of the London Labour Party to be held on March 30th to 31st, concerning the question of Civil Defence have been ruled out of order by the Standing Orders Committee. One of these is from Putney Labour Party and reads: "Conference urges all Metropolitan Borough Councils to come into step with the L.C.C. and recognise that Civil Defence is a complete misnomer in this nuclear age and that all rates given to such a service should go to a Civilian Rescue Service." North Lewisham Labour Party intended calling on the Executive to press the Home Office "to change the functions of Civil Defence ..... in recognition of the generally accepted fact that there is no defence against nuclear war." Ealing Central Labour Party also calls for the renaming of Civil Defence and an alteration of its functions. All these three resolutions have been turned down by the Standing Orders Committee.

Two important resolutions will reach the agenda of this conference are on Housing and Unemployment respectively. The first, from Hampstead Labour Party reads: "This conference asks all Labour controlled local authorities in London and Middlesex to acquire progressively all rented accommodation, irrespective of whether occupied or not, by negotiation or compulsory purchase order, with a view to protecting tenants against extortionate rents and expulsions, and to secure a regular supply of accommodation for those in greatest need". On Unemployment, the resolution from the London Divisional Council of the Union of Shop, Distributive and Allied Workers reads as follows: "That the London Labour Party should take steps in conjunction with all affiliated bodies to call a conference to discuss the steady worsening of the unemployment situation in the London and Middlesex areas....."

#### MARCH EDITION OF "UNION VOICE" T.U. PAPER AVAILABLE.

The second edition of the Trade Union monthly "Union Voice" is now out and can be obtained from this address. Improved layout and a two colour front page are two of the distinctive features of this new edition which includes articles by Bertrand Russell, Judith Hart M.P. (on unemployment in Scotland), Ernie Roberts (A.E.U.) and Dick Beamish (N.U.M.), Bob Edwards M.P., and others. Articles include a discussion on the Fords situation, the unemployment crisis, the debate in the London Co-operative Society and the Minors' struggle against closures.

#### COUSINS FIGHTING FOR LONDON BUS PAY CLAIM.

Frank Cousins is reportedly taking a tough line with the London Transport Board over the pay claim, negotiations for which broke down last month. He has decided against accepting arbitration and is demanding a retrospective settlement. The Union representatives have rejected a pay rise of 11/- and are sticking out for a straight six per cent increase, comparable to that granted to Underground workers.

One doubts whether the irony of another pre-election bus strike is lost on Cousins. His attitude to the London Transport Board is certainly correctly described by the Financial Times as "tough". Cousins has also refused to discuss the wage claim in connection with productivity clauses and has insisted that the two issues be dealt with separately.

## ALGERIAN GOVERNMENT SLASHES RENTS.

1483 The Ben Bella Government announced on February 19th that it was establishing rent ceilings which will be among the lowest in the world when they go into effect on March 1st. Rents per room will range from 1,500 to 7,650 francs. The new rate was calculated at about ten to fifteen per cent of income. Still lower ceilings will be established for certain categories. These include deductions of ten to twenty per cent for homes distant from the centre of town; and up to forty and fifty per cent for the victims of war and veterans. It is calculated that rent ceilings on the average will thus be ten to twenty per cent lower than under French imperialist rule. The action of the Ben Bella government follows the precedent set by the Castro regime which slashed rents by fifty per cent soon after coming to power.

For many families who moved into the tens of thousands of homes and apartments abandoned by the "pieds noirs" (Europeans born in Algeria), the ruling means the end of free occupation and the beginning of rent payment. The government explained that the payment of rent for abandoned dwellings now constitutes a national heritage. Rents will be used to keep up the buildings and to construct new homes. The rent will not go to private landlords. It is payable to the tax office. An interesting sidelight on some of the problems faced by the new government was cast by its admonishment to many poor Algerians now living in the comfortable quarters abandoned by pieds noirs that they should oust all family animals that have been brought into share the comforts of the new home. Among the privileged animals according to AL CHAAB, official daily of the F.L.N. are "goats, sheep and even cows".

Echoing the old tale of the British who used to keep coal in their baths, not appreciating their real value "in some apartments bath tubs have been filled with soil and put to use as easily watered miniature gardens. All this must be criticised by the neighbours," declares AL CHAAB, "and these people re-educated".

## TOWARDS A FREE ANGOLA.

From a Paris Correspondent.

A "Committee for Support to Angola and the Peoples of the Portuguese Colonies" has been set up in Paris. (Address 42 Avenue du Parc de Montsouris, Paris 14<sup>eme</sup>.) It works in close contact with C.O.N.C.P. (Conference of Nationalist Organisations of Portuguese Colonies) which from Rabat, Morocco, co-ordinated the national liberation movement in all Portuguese colonies. The new Paris Committee has just published its first bulletin "ANGOLA LIBRE". It contains articles on the geography, ethnology and history of Angola, on the conference of the M.P.L.A. (Popular Movement of Liberation of Angola), some information on the U.P.A. (Union of Angolan Populations) the other nationalist movement of Angola, and news about military operations in Angola and in Portuguese Guinea.

In Belgium, the Committee for Peace in Algeria has converted itself into the Committee for Struggle against Colonialism, Neocolonialism and Fascism. It places particular stress on aiding the national liberation movement of the Portuguese Committee. (Address M. Jean Godin. 32, Avenue Napoleon, Braine-L'Alleud, Belgium.)

SHOP STEWARDS UNDER ATTACK.

As part of a general attack against the working class shop stewards are under attack in a number of fields. The sacking of individual shop stewards up and down the country, the proposals of the Ford's management to outlaw the Fords' Shop Stewards Committee and the never ending propaganda campaign in the capitalist press are part of a pattern. This campaign is a corollary of the attempt by the Government to stiffen resistance by the employers to workers demands through NEDC and NIC. Just how far they will go in this attack will be largely determined by the resistance the workers put up.

The shop stewards are a particular thorn in the side of the ruling class. As well as being to the forefront generally in any campaign for workers' demands, they challenge the capitalist class where it hurts them most, in the running and control of industry. This is particularly irksome for the employers at a time of intensified competition in export markets. In these days of mergers, rationalisation and takeovers, which in the last analysis represent an attempt by the bosses to reorganise production more efficiently at the expense of their workers, the shop stewards are a reoccurring stumbling block. No capitalist can now plan without taking into account the reaction and resistance of his workers led by the shop stewards. When managements complain that they want to manage they are speaking from the heart.

Shop stewards committees achieved their strength in a period of full employment and scarcity of labour. They are particularly strong in industries which have periodic reorganisations of production, e.g., the motor car industry as production is switched from one model to another. Each time such a reorganisation takes place, naturally the management wishes to alter things to its advantage and the complexity of production is such that they have plenty of opportunity to try to do this. The workers naturally resist the speed up and the shop stewards committees have had great success in organising this resistance. The shop stewards committees which in most cases go over the artificial trade union barriers, are very efficient fighting organisations. The shop steward unlike most union officials is not removed from the mass of the workers and can gauge the latter's feeling and therefore put forward lines of action which will be followed.

The attack on the shop stewards is an important stage in the process of putting the burden of Britain's economic crisis on the back of the working class. At this stage it is the focal point of this struggle. The left has an important part to play, perhaps a decisive one. The capitalist class has sought to isolate the shop stewards movement over a long period. With its allies in the labour movement, it has sought to use the fact that many shop stewards are members of the Communist Party to distort the whole role of shop stewards. To oppose this campaign is the main way the left can help. The whole apparatus of the Labour movement must be mobilised, for instance, the Young Socialist branches must organise meetings for the shop stewards to put their point of view, Wards and C.L.P.'s should do the same. On every occasion that shop stewards are attacked the left should go into action locally and nationally in support. On the other hand every effort must be made to get shop stewards themselves to bring their struggle into the Labour Party - bitter experience in the past plus statements by the Labour leaders have made them suspicious of the Labour Party and contributed to their isolation. Let us show them that the left wing can be trusted to support them.

- **1485** A highly successful new Young Socialist journal entitled "Young Left" has been launched by Putney Young Socialists. It has now reached its 5th issue. "Which", published by the Consumers' Association, "Where" published by the Advisory Centre for Education, the London Co-operative Society, the "Sunday Citizen", "Tribune", the "New Statesman" have advertised regularly in this bright journal. Copies of "Young Guard" and "Young Left" are being interchanged as part of a policy of pooling the talent of writers and journalists in the Y.S. movement. Copies can be obtained from the Editor, Ian McGarry, 168 Upper Richmond Road, Putney, London S.W.15.

HACKNEY Y.S. "LARGEST" IN LONDON" ANNOUNCES LOCAL PRESS.

According to a report in the Hackney Gazette, the Hackney Y.S. Branch is the largest in London. The report gives plenty of space to a report of the Annual Meeting of the Branch and reports the activities of the last year. "Outstanding was our success during the summer in preventing the Fascists from abusing Ridley Road..... We have also taken part in several anti-H-Bomb activities....." The report also announces the future activities and demonstrations of the Hackney Branch.

EUROPEAN SOCIALIST SCHOOL TO BE HELD IN BRITAIN.

Following on from the successful Kessingland School last summer, an announcement in the March "Union Voice" announces the holding of a "European Discussion School" at Hythe, Kent, from September 7th to 13th 1963. Leading Left-wing speakers will take part. Enquiries should be made to: Julian Atkinson, 54, Park Road, Lenton, Nottingham.

YOUNG SOCIALIST UNEMPLOYMENT DEMONSTRATIONS.

According to the "Voice of Youth" page in this month's "Union Voice" the annual conference of the London and Middlesex Y.S. called on the regional committee to campaign against unemployment. The West London Federation has organised the following events: MARCH 16th - 12 noon: Poster Parade and Open Air meeting at the junction of Golbourne Road and Potobello Road, North Kensington. MARCH 23rd - 10 a.m. Meeting and Poster Parade at Brooke Green Labour Exchange, Hammersmith.

In the East Midlands, the Regional Conference passed a resolution deploring the suspension of the Leicester Federation for its activities in campaigning against unemployment and supported the Federations initiative in organising demonstrations. The report of the National Committee member for the East Midlands in which he explained his support for those members who had resigned from the National Committee, whilst withdrawing himself, was approved by the meeting.

YOUNG TEACHERS PROTEST - A conference of more than a hundred representatives from young teachers sections of the NUT in the North, declared itself unanimously opposed to the interference of the Minister of Education in the negotiations of the Burnham committee. A delegate from Morpeth, said that the minister was solely thinking of wrecking the Burnham system. This would tie in neatly with a national outcry against new rating valuations, in which Conservative back-benchers were joining, leading in turn to an outcry for a removal of education from the rates. The Minister would then take control of the Burnham Committee and of the teachers' salaries.



CONCENTRATION OF WEST GERMAN MONOPOLY CAPITALISM INTENSIFIES.

According to a press report from Bonn a statement issued on March 1st by a team of investigators showed how West German industry is becoming more and more concentrated. More than 50 % of all industrial stocks are held by 64 large companies, which represent only 2.7 % of the total number of joint stock companies. In the electrical industry the concentration is particularly striking. At present there are 2,800 enterprises with 950,000 workers in the industry. The majority of production is controlled by five concerns including Siemens and the G.E.C. (10 % of the capital of the latter being owned by the United States G.E.C.) These five concerns employ 589,000 and their business transactions amounted to over 12,000 million marks in 1961 (there are 12½ marks to the pound). In the commercial section, the situation was very similar. For example the business transaction of seven big mail-order firms amounted to over two-thirds of the total transactions of all the 2,000 firms engaged in the activity.

Profits of monopoly capital have also increased. The dividends paid by joint stock companies increased from 2,300 million marks in 1961 to 2,500 million marks in 1962. The dividends of the three big companies belonging to the former I.G. Farben concern increased to 366 million marks from 293 million marks in 1961, and further increased to 398 million marks in 1962.

THE FRENCH MINERS' STRIKE.

It is unlikely that there will be any significant developments in the French strike which is rapidly developing into a major national crisis until M. Pompidou, the Prime Minister addresses the nation in two or three days' time. 200,000 miners are on strike and there have been several token strikes in support of the miners by various other sectors in the last week including the electricity workers who have brought the Paris Metro to a halt for several hours. The government has issued a requisition order and is threatening to draft the strikers into the forces if they do not return to work. Factories are reportedly beginning to close down because of the lack of coal or coal gas. An aggravation to the position that the government is now in is likely to occur today (Friday) when workers at the natural gas field of Lacq, which supplies half the gas in France are due to begin a two-day strike. Also on Friday there is to be a two-hour strike of workers in the nationalised gas and electricity industries. Shipments of coal to Mediterranean ports have been declared black and the unions have ordered dock workers not to unload.

FINLAND BADLY HIT BY STRIKES.

In Finland, since February the 28th, no trains have run, no mail has been delivered and only perishable goods have been custom cleared. Air communication is likely to cease in the next few days. The strike is due to a dispute between the government and the State employees affiliated to the Federation of Social Democratic Unions. Other Civil Service unions are due to strike on March 14th if the dispute is not settled by then and this will effect telegraph, telex and telephone communications in Finland and with the rest of the world.

1487

According to the Economist some 8,000 people own on an average some 578,250 pounds worth of property, in an article based on Inland Revenue figures. The Economist says: "Callaghan the Shadow Chancellor has not proposed a wealth tax. He has invited the reigning Chancellor to consider such a tax on all wealth. This trial balloon may be helped along by a few facts. Some 400,000 people might be affected; this was the number Mr. Boyd Carpenter told the House of Commons last November has wealth exceeding £20,000, on which a tax of one per cent would yield £250,000,000. According to an earlier parliamentary report, if the tax were graduated from  $\frac{1}{2}$  per cent on wealth of £20,000 to £50,000 to 5 per cent on wealth over £400,000, the yield would be about £300,000,000."

WEALTH IN BRITAIN.

<u>Range of net wealth</u> <u>£</u>	<u>Number of cases in</u> <u>thousands.</u>	<u>Amount in</u> <u>£ millions.</u>
Under 3,000	15,830	15,126
3,000 - 10,000	2,327	12,600
10,000 - 25,000	571	8,905
25,000 - 50,000	176	6,300
50,000 - 100,000	70	4,967
100,000 - 200,000	24	3,500
Over 200,000.	8	4,626
	<hr/> 19,006 <hr/>	<hr/> 56,024 <hr/>

The Economist seemingly opposes Callaghans proposals on the grounds that considerable administrative difficulties are involved. "The figures relate to individuals, and not to married couples as in income assessment: for every three men with over £25,000 in 1961, there were two women equally wealthy. Is Mr. Callaghan asking for a separate assessment? And how long does it take to value 19 million estates - and by what principles?" Perhaps Mr. Callaghan should consider a policy of cutting off the wealth of these people at source.

U.S DEBT PASSES TRILLION DOLLAR MARK. (From Hsinhua.)

The total debt in the US has now passed one trillion dollars for the first time, reports the March 11th. issue of US News and World Report. This includes all the money owned by individuals, businesses, the Federal Government, State and local governments. The journal says that the federal debt is near 305 billion dollars. State and local government debt is 72 billions. Corporations owe 331 billions. All this debt is rising. Personal debt, too, keeps rising, mortgages alone total 211 billions. "The debt trend is being watched," writes the journal. "What happens if the country, sometime in the future, suffers a severe and prolonged business setback?"

BRITISH GOLD AND CONVERTIBLE CURRENCY RESERVES FALL.

The sterling area's gold and convertible currency reserves fell by £24 million during Feb. making the residue \$999 million, the treasury announced on Mar. 5th. The main reason was the wobbling position of the pound in the international market following the breakdown in the Common Market negotiations. For two days at the end of January there was some fairly heavy selling of sterling and this was reflected in the Feb. figures. The general estimate was that, in the two days of pressure after Brussels, around £15 million was lost. Another reason was the ending of the dollar guarantee given to the sterling balances of European central banks under the European monetary agreement.