OIL— that is the crux of the problems of the Middle East. It is a source of tremendous wealth and government. Of course, to the oil monopolists, the corrupt sheikhs and all the hangers-on. Of misery to the vast mass of the 50 million people or so living in the Middle East. With 64 percent of the world’s known oil resources, the Middle East is a veritable Eldorado, a land floating on liquid gold. As the world becomes more highly mechanized, more dependent upon oil, the demand grows. Production doubled between 1949 and 1954. Anglo-American oil companies have cashed in on the rapid expansion. In this country the Government has been, for obvious reasons, rather shy of letting the British people know the exact amount. They have attempted to conceal the vast profits accruing from the exploitation of this area.

There is no official figure of British oil investment,” writes Andrew Shonfield in his recent book, British Economic Policy Since the War (Penguin, 1957). “It is buried away in the official statistics on the balance of payments in a ragbag residual, which also includes such things as earnings from films, insurance, civil aviation, royalties and commissions. Ineptness is required in order to wink out an estimate of oil earnings from this welter.

Local Government ‘Reform’

by Stan Newens

The present Government plans for the replacement of percentage grants to local councils by one block grant produced a great outcry in Labour ranks. The associated proposals for changes in local government structure have not been given the same attention, and at a time when plans are being worked out for considerable alterations it behoves us well to examine what is suggested.

White papers and red tape

The broad outline of the Government aims are set out in the first and second white papers on the new constitution. What is involved is firstly the revision of the areas covered by existing local authorities and the creation of new authorities; secondly, the delegation or transfer of powers at present exercised by existing county councils to district councils. In short it is planned to decentralise.

To people who have had experience of the bureaucracy and red tape involved in county council procedures, these proposals have a marked appeal. After all, it is pointed out, local governments should be local. County council elections invariably show the lowest polls and make it clear that the remoteness of County Hall produces the greatest degree of apathy.

Furthermore, county councils normally meet during the day—owing to the difficulties of travelling the considerable distances involved—and many working people are unable or cannot afford to lose the working time involved. As a result, County Councils usually have a higher proportion of retired and middle class members than lower tier authorities.

These arguments have divided the ranks of socialists who participate in local affairs. Unlike in the case of the block grants proposals, Labour opinion is by no means unanimous about the Tory proposals.

Socialist attitude

However, if it is true that members of the Labour Party are all working, broadly speaking, to one end in local government—and this is surely the only justification for politics at council level—there can be no justification for the spectacle of one Labour group fighting with the Tories against a Labour group on a different authority. There

The poverty is appalling. In Saudi Arabia, for example, the annual income per head is around £20. Malaria, tuberculosis and venereal disease are rampant, and the bulk of the population are illiterate. Yet, at the same time, only 53 percent of the State’s expenditure goes on education, health and social services. While 89 percent of the people live on dates, an official of the US agricultural mission visiting Saudi Arabia, expressed the belief that the arable acreage “could be increased at least tenfold by the utilization of ground-water alone.” (HA Atkinson, Security & the Middle East, p. 83.)

Well, why doesn’t King Saud do something about it? Would it not be less costly than having to spend 35 percent of the budget on the army to keep the people well under? In actual fact that is not the case. Saudi Arabia’s feudalistic régime is extremely fragile: it would not withstand the social pressure that such developments would necessarily involve. Industrialization would tend to a strong working-class, a wealthy middle-class, and a large number of technicians. These emerging classes would not tolerate the absolutist régime of King Saud, with its numerous barbarities and senseless restrictions.

[turn to back page]
Robert Emmett surveys the VIOLENT ATTACK ON THE PEOPLE'S TRANSPORT SERVICE

STRAIGHT from their long drawn-out battle with the LTA, the trade unions have turned the page on the question of wages, which culminated in the historic seven-week strike. As a result, bus services have been plunged into an issue which, from the angle of ultimate savings on operation—and the brilliant plans of the “master minds” resulted in a dead loss all round.

The relation between reduced services and the rise in falling passenger numbers like the chicken and the egg, is wrapped up in the insoluble question—which came first. History has at least made one fact quite clear—there is no more certain way of producing a decline in passengers than to cut the services—and, to accelerate the process, nothing is so effective as an annual increase in fares. Yet these twin “solutions” are the limit to which the pungi minds of the LTA have ever stretched.

Tory dividends

Prophecy is a tricky business, yet, I would confidently bet, that in six months from now the LTA will register a further big decline in the number of passengers using its vehicles. The pipe dream of “economics” will go up in smoke. Once again they will be “in the black”—and then turn the public out of their services—once again the hatchet-men will be called up to lop another leg off London Transport—and the whole sorry process will begin again.

The crime that is being committed by the Tories and their LTA stooges is not merely an affront against 50,000 London busmen—but against 10 million Londoners—and it involves the piecemeal destruction of a public transport system which, ironically enough, up until it was nationalised, was universally recognised as the finest of its kind in the world. One of the more offensive by-products of the present financial set-up and political control is that the very name “LTA” has become a dirty word to millions who daily use its operational services.

To the active busman trade unionist, daily engaged in battle with the LTA, the passive acceptance by the public of the many indignities slapped upon it, is a source of astonished heavy-handedness tinged with cynicism: why are the people so passive? Are they carried like cattle; this is supposed to be a “publicly owned” service? Is the owner’s pride in their wrath and smile the LTA?

And—why don’t they? This is a question that the London Labour Movement should be asking itself. So long as the affairs of London Transport are treated as a private argument between the busmen and their employers, so long will the Tories and the LTA get away with it.

When the small voice of the London busmen is swelled by the more shrill of the 10 million LTA customers—then, and only then, will those who pay the piper begin to call the tune.

The Central Executive Committee of the T & GWU has requested the London Labour Party and London Trades Council to organise a public campaign of protest against the LTA plans to mutilate bus services. Two or three of the more progressive Borough Councils have protested and requested action from the Joint State Transport Committee representing the 28 Metropolitan Boroughs. And there is urgent need for the London Labour Movement to be roused on this issue, not alone in respect of the projected cuts in services, but for a more fundamental reason.

The Tories are reaping a variety of dividends from their handling of the nationalized transport industry. In the first place they milk it for a cool £50 million a year for bondholders. In respect of the LTA alone they take another £4 million from diesel oil. The increase in licence charges for nationalized buses yields another £2 million. The financial drain of these compulsory payments means that money needed for modernization must be found. Tory moneylenders step in to reap a rich harvest.

The depressed state of the nationalized industries is then used as the stock answer against all wage claims. The wage freeze thus imposed becomes the pattern for other employers to copy—the miserable 3 percent wage award for the railwaysmen is being used everywhere by private employers to rebut wage claims.

Lessons of the Smithfield by Jeff Farquhar

The recent Smithfield lorry drivers’ strike, which at the time was overshadowed by the strike of London busmen, has now become a talking point due to two factors: (1) the duration of the dispute; (2) The findings of the Court of Inquiry.

With this survey of the recent strike in Smithfield, Bro. Jeff Farquhar, a leading militant in the industry, begins a regular column in Socialist Review, dealing specifically with the Smithfield Commentary. Bro. Farquhar should be well-known to readers. He featured largely in the “national” Press during the recent strike and, subsequently, was chairman of the Joint State Transport Committee of Inquiry, as a leading hothead, irresponsible and destructive. It might not surprise readers to hear that we find him a responsible and militant socialist who has served the Labour Movement long and well.

were informed that the employers were requesting a further fortnight’s interval. The lorry drivers—having their contracts at 30 m.p.h. over the period since the introduction of the increase in

Questions are still being asked regarding the policy adopted at the meeting, and, a later stage of the complete reversal of that policy; and I feel it is necessary to give the position from April 19, on which we came into dispute, until our return to work on June 23.

Early in 1957 legislation was introduced whereby the speed limit was raised from 20 to 30 m.p.h. for certain vehicles. Road haulage operators had for many years asked for this increase and that period the Transport and General Workers’ Union had made it known that this increase in speed would be implemented only if workers were safeguarded on behalf of the workers in that industrial area. Based on that stipulation, the road haulage section of the meat trade through their own Joint Industrial Council sought an increase in payment for the proposed increase in speed. These negotiations commenced some nine months prior to April of this year; their outcome was a complete blank.

At a mass meeting of the section held on Friday, April 10, we speed. This ridiculous request was ignored due to the fact that the employers had had nine months to check week by week the position. The workers did finally agree to give one further week, but at the end of that period, failing an offer, their labour would be withdrawn, and withdraw it they did on April 19.

The first steps

Many meat haulage operators immediately signalled their willingness to pay the requested 15 percent increase, and conditional upon extra net earnings; the employers, were permitted to continue working.

The employers of Smithfield market immediately offered to come out in support of the drivers but at this stage the offer was declined in view of the fact that we were not in conflict with the Market Tenants nor with the procurers of the meat supplies intact, but to withdraw the right of certain operators to engage in the haulage of that commodity. It should be made known at

(turn to next page)
LONDON DOCKS

an announcement and . . .
apology

Readers will be glad to hear that SR will feature a regular docks column starting from the next issue. It will be written by Porticus, that well-informed, militant rank-and-file port-worker to be found in every pen, at every call-stand, in the confines of the port. We can't say, he has too many faces. But his views are easily identified—those of the militant socialist docker.

In the meantime, let your editor venture on another pro-pulence. And if he's out on a limb, well . . . he's out on a limb. You know that a Court of Inquiry into the portworkers' wage claim has ruled in favour of an increase of 7s. 6d. Our prophecies tell us that the T&G won't be satisfied and will press for another 9d. The bosses might even agree, and 8s. 6d. it might be.

Finally, let nobody be taken in by the tall figures which broke out like a rash in the "national" Press after the Court's decision. It would cost the employers £2 million a year, was the line, and it looks reasonable: over 100,000 dockers times 52 weeks a year, times 7s. 6d. But, and this is the rub, where is the dockers' time? Regular employment for 52 weeks? What about the thousands that "bump" every day and have to rely on attendance money? They don't get the 7s. 6d. They don't go on the bonus book. The T&G means money when they are taken into consideration. In fact, it's about time that Fleet Street learned that dock labour is still casual.

STRIKE

this stage that at the commence-
ment of the dispute six hundred
market men were dismissed due
to lack of work, and this factor alone
led to a complete stop-
page on the market, but this
action was withheld to enable
the drivers' section to pursue
the policy agreed.

At the end of three weeks, Smithfield market stopped com-
pletely, and this necessitated a
change of policy. As a result, those drivers who had been per-
mitted to work were called out.
At the end of the eighth week the Min-
ister of Labour decided to set
up a Committee of Inquiry to in-
vestigate the causes of this dispute, and
we were requested to return
to work to permit the hearing
to take place in a strike-free atmos-
phere.

We duly obliged, and the In-
quiry was held and the findings
made known. A blank nothing.
At the Inquiry, the employers
introduced the usual line, where-
by they sought to show that the
strike was unwarranted and was due, as in the past, to the actions of trou-
bleshooters, who, in this direc-
tion named two men. We can liken this to the action of a drowning
man fighting for air.

In the case of the workers to-
day certain men are accepted as
advocates and leaders, men who seek to second-guess the self-
warted and was due, as in the
past, to the actions of trouble-
makers, in this direction named two men. We can liken this
to the action of a drowning
man fighting for air.

The militants

We have come a long way since Tolpuddle, and along the road militant trade unionists have been branded and stigmatized, but in the face of all this men will always be found to take up the cudgels on behalf of their fellow-workers, and the loyalty of these men was never shown better than in the recent nine weeks' Smithfield dispute.

We have received the following letter from contributor Fred
Francis.

August 6, 1958.

I must tender my thanks for your implicit faith in my veracity by publishing my last article in full, but have to inform you that after further research, that it did in fact contain an error to the effect that the Union Cold Stores sacked 600 men in Smithfield Market.

This was not true. The responsibility for the action lay elsewhere.

Accordingly, it is incumbent upon me to withdraw abso-
lutely, completely and without reservation all reference to this matter as published and extend my most sincere apologies to the Union Cold Storage Co. for any inconvenience I may have caused.

Yours fraternally,
FJ Francis.

Postscript on the T&G: Quite rightly, the union refused the miserable 3 per cent accepted by the leaders of the NUR, and fought for the militant in the fight and the principle of standing up to the Tory offensive. Why, then, is the union behaving so badly when it comes to its own officials? District officers have been offered a 2 per cent increase! . . . We are happy to learn that the full-timers on the docks have rejected the pitance out of hand.

SR-Industrial report

Buses to rule

At the time of going to Press, we hear that the full-time officers have settled a Central Bus Committee meeting on how not to cooperate with the LTE. The resolution was ruled out of order at the recent delegate con-
ference held towards the end of last month and referred to the Negotiating Committee. Non-
cooperation has been shelved for the time being, but there can be no doubt as to its popularity. Hollow-
way A Branch, for example, has passed a resolution instructing its members how to work to rule in the event of non-cooperation being implemented. The resolu-
tion reads:

HOW NOT TO COOPERATE

1. A member shall not sign on for, or work, any duty other than agreed, unless he has previously applied in writing for a change of duty.

2. A member shall not drive, or conduct a vehicle other than as laid down in his or her schedule of duty. Permanent hire work shall continue as normal.

3. All vehicles must run as service-defined, and not more than two minutes early at any time.

4. Crews shall not leave ter-
minal earlier than the times marked on their time-cards.

5. Crews must only do that mileage laid down on their time-cards, with no excursions or unscheduled jour-
neys of any description.

6. Full meal-reliefs must be taken.

7. Crews shall not operate vehicles which in their opinion do not come up to Public Service Vehicles standards as laid down—

"bodywork (inside and out), windows, fittings and seats for passengers, must be maintained in clean and good condition (643/41/7). Steering arms have to be kept free from dirt and rust (9) . . . ."

(8) All lost property (including newspapers, etc.) must be handed in as laid down by law and a receipt for each item obtained.

(9) Members must not contact the LTE during holidays to find out their showing-up time when returning. Such particulars must be sup-
plied by the LTE in writing. Oth-
erwise members must show up for work at the time laid down on the duty roster.

(10) No vehicle shall take stand-
ing passengers at any time.

(11) Staff, when requested to see
CDL or District Superinten-
dent on disciplinary matters shall only do so during the LTE's own time.

(12) None of these working rules shall apply if they cause EXTREME hardship to passengers.

(13) Members shall not apply non-cooperation in any manner except as laid down by the LTE. When in doubt as to what exactly a working-rule means, do not take a decision, but discuss it with LTE officials until the delegate has given a ruling on the matter.

In the event of the LTE attempting to victimise an indi-
vidual for carrying out the above Branch instructions, the dele-
gate shall call the Committee together and they shall call an immediate stoppage of work to protect such a member.
Conference Resolutions

Out of a total of 428 resolutions submitted for the forthcoming Conference, 142 concern various aspects of what is called the "Algiers process". 110 unequivocally demand the unilateral abolition of nuclear weapons, while the rest present a mixed bag; see how the "statesmen" on the platform seek to wriggle out of this demand to ban the bomb.

Two resolutions particularly claim Socialist support, these are No. 118 which calls "upon all organisations connected with labour engaged in the manufacture, testing, or handling of nuclear weapons to discontinue the sit-in of sites... to call upon that labour to cease operations"; and No. 269 which appeals for any Trade Union action in opposition to the building of rocket bases.

Resolution No. 209 after condemning the leadership of the French Socialist Party "both in relation to its relations with the Algerian people and to the development of reactionary dic-
tocracies in France. It instructs the NEC to press for the expulsion of the French SP from the Socialist International." If there is one issue that the NEC deserves, what a slap for the man who tried to crush the Algerian national movement—Mollet!

A resolution (No. 219) which condemns "anti-Semitism and general hostility to strangers" and urges "the application of our Socialist aim of equality of pro-
cision, and the best of a trio concerning Immigrants and Racial Minorities.

Resolution No. 222 regarding safeguarding democracy, asks Conference "to call on the political and industrial strength of the whole working class to defend democracy in France and to declare its opposition to any form of Union of all the comrade.

If resolution No. 225 obtain the votes it deserves, then the LP will be moving towards a situation in which workers' control might begin to operate in some part, for it calls for the LP to try negotiating with the workers' councils and the Co-op "the whole ques-
tion of the measures necessary to develop the direct participation of the mass of workers in all levels of government, policy, decisions and management of the industry in which they work, or in the development of a apparatus which will enable the Party to institute legislative action to implement these measures when it takes office.

The resolutions on Education include the following, which make parts of "Learning to Live" quite unnecessary; No. 254 which calls for "a grant-in-aid adequate for the needs of student life; No. 260 "calls upon the next Labour Government to abolish fee paying for schooling"; No. 269 which asks for the "so-called" Public Schools to be closed and "all handicapped premises could then be used for some useful social purpose"; No. 375 after demanding the abolition of Public Schools calls for "a complete and national compre-
nsive system of education"; No. 278 which is repudiated and decisions of the NEC with regard to the public schools and asks to bring "all types of ed-
ung into line with true ideals".

Resolution No. 326 asks for the re-nationalisation of road transport and that "no compensation shall be paid". A reso-
nolution (No. 333) after considering the LITE for being "an instrument of Government policy" asks for a Board representing workers and consumers.

Resolution No. 390 asking for legislation "making it compulsory for all members of Parlia-
ment to declare their financial interests in matters before the House, so that they should not be allowed to vote if direct financial gain would result" might be used to disqualify a Labour MP who was, for example, a council house tenant.

To vote or not to vote

by Karl Dunbar

The months rush by, eighteen months to go, perhaps less. "To what?" you say. Why, the General Election, comrade, to kick the Tories out is approaching.

Now, indeed, for all active Party members, the winter of our discontent, for this is the time for thought, serious thought, and we face the coming Election not with any great anticipation, not with a sense of elation that victory for Labour will be a vic-
tory for Social progress.

We have had six years of the Tories, six years of watching our standards steadily being dragged down and yet now, when the chance comes to end all that, we are not confident that the Labour victory is the solution.

For years now I have listened to my local Party comrades ask-

ing why it is that the nation leave the Party, why there are no serious political discussions any more, why we cannot get candidi-

ates for Local Government elec-
tions, why the Party can no lon-
er attract people into its ranks.

For an equal number of years we have closed our ears to these questions, pushed them into the background. Now we felt that, more important than anything was the struggle against the Tories.

Most of us have felt that more positive policies could be achieved if we stuck it out long enough. We have recognized this much, that the brake on progress and action has its fountainground in the upper cham-
bers of the Party machine, not at local Constituency level, nor in the candidates or in union branches.

The local militants, dwindling in numbers as they are, have kept the flame alive and we have gone along thinking, "they can't hold us back forever, sooner or later we must win."

This has been argued, for in-

stance, that the workers of the world are faced today with two choices: Moscow or Washington, Soviet Imperialism or Capitalism.

We argue that there is a third choice, Socialism. Now, the rank-

and-file of the Labour Party are also being forced up against the wall. "What do you want," says Transport to us, "Us or the Tories?"

Well, we want Socialis-
m, so what do we do? Work for the return of a Labour Government that is pledged to perpetuate the Capitalist system, or stay at home on principle? of the case known as widely as possible.

This is particularly important in the case of Trade Unions since the Annual Conference is the forum of all the hands of Trade Union delegates.

Those who want further infor-
mation or can help to write to John Frenning, 359 Seymour Buildings, Churchway, N.W.1. Donations are needed to create an opposition to the latest petition forms with collection sheets are available.

Let us know that our support is not confined to silent efficiency. The Labour Party cannot afford to lose its youth and drive out its militants—however wrong on particular aspects of policy they may be.

Socialist Review

We know the past record of successive Labour Governments, we also know that the Parlia-

mentary Party in the last six years did little to bring about a little opposing it that it is not be-
yond the bounds of possibility to assume that they are now completely unaware that there is a Parliamentary opposition at all.

Further, we know the contents of the policy documents which must be the form of the basis of a Labour Government's policy, if elected, for the near future.

Now I ask you, comrades, can we change that policy to some-
thing which is sufficiently strong to force a Labour Government to completely alter its policies, to force it to adopt a Social-
ist program? We have quite rightly said that the fall of the 1945-51 Labour Government was due entirely to the refusal of the Parliamen-
tarians to introduce Socialist thinking in their legis-

lation. We said, then, to play at State Capitalism was not the job of a Socialist Government.

Of course, we do not agree with talk of the shadow of the hands of the ruling class. I chal-

lenge any comrade to prove that the present position of the Labour Party has fundamentally altered from the past.

Capitalism

Of course, a great deal of the theo-

tical discussion can take place within the organisation of Socialists outside the Labour Party, but this does not alter the fact of a Labour Government legislating for the continuance of Capitalism. And that affects us all, militants, outsiders, grafters and non-
militants alike. All are faced the music of future Labour back-
paddling and sell out. Most of us have given up looking at the sly glance to the policy documents must be aware that any Labour Government legislating to put into practice such policies is doomed to failure.

In 1945 the Labour Govern-

ment had been in power three years of war. The task was formidable and it needed Socialists, full of energy and vision to over-

come the difficulties of post-war chaos. Today, unemployment is not a problem, it is so con-

siderably greater than in 1951 when Labour retreated from office, world commerce is declining, the colonial peoples are in ferment against their oppressors. Nowhere in the world today is...
To vote? — cont

there an International Socialist movement capable of leading the working-class into positive action against the oppressors. In fact, where the Labour Party could have led that movement of resistance or without the framework of the present international, it chose to concern itself instead with NATO and the United Nations.

The question

There would be no need for concern if, in the past, the Labour Party had been forced, by outside capitalist interests hostile to a workers' Government, to concern itself outside of politics. But if at the same time the fundamental steps, steps which are embodied to some extent in the program of Socialist Review, had been pursued, regardless of any pressure from the reactionaries. Of course if a slump had happened, there would be no necessity for this or any similar article. For I believe we should still have had a Labour administration today.

You will notice that there has been no reference to any individual, either in the past or in the present, as being that I believe the Parliamentary Labour Party and also the Socialist Review, must share the collective responsibility for the past and indeed the future attitude of the Labour Party. The present "leaders" were elected by their fellows, let us remember that. The present policies will come before Annual Conference, then let us see who is opposing, for instance, the NEC's policy on Cyprus (which is, in fact, the Tory Government's policy). We will all get a much clearer perceptive of the motion to come at the Conference, but I'll make a small wager, say, a 3d., that the present policy documents are approved, that the Cyprus policy is approved, that the possible future Foreign Secretary will be given his suit and briefcase for the conference table. And all this will be done in the name of "unity for the sake of the next Labour Government."

A request, comrade editor. As it would appear and is indeed quite true, that I am personally undecided whether or not to support the Labour Party in the coming General Election and I hasten to say that I am in no way placing myself on a pedestal, but in fact I am sure that there are a great number of Party comrades likewise minded, perhaps other comrades could be induced to answer the simple question, "Who will support the Labour Party in the next General Election?"

Why, Comrade? We believe the answer is quite simple. We know there are many real socialists within the Party who get as impatient as you at seeing every socialist instinct extinguished by the "leadership". We feel the same sense of betrayal and shame at the H-bomb policy, the economic policy, even the educational policy that have been at the centre of events since Brighton last year. But we don't believe in retreating to our tents of apathy.

However bad the Party—and Christ knows it can be pretty awful at times—we know that the "leadership" can get away with it largely because of this apathy. What they want is an obedient mass who will roll up to the polls whenever called, who have no ideas as to what their party is for, who read the papers with every confidence that they are being fed the right information. And it is through such a fight that we shall educate and influence others in the Party to implement the program which we accept. A weak Labour Party is not part of such a program. Get out and vote, comrades; and bring the others with you.

Readers are invited to reply to Comrade Dunbar. The debate is important.—Editor.
YOUNG SOCIALIST A true culture?
by John Phillips

COMRADE CRUTCHLEY'S ARTICLE shows that working class culture (Y.S., July 1st) raises some points with which I strongly disagree. His charge that young people have the habits of contemporary working class youth are, as I interpret them, that dance halls, cinemas and which are needed for the satisfaction of one's sex drive, the desire for courtship and marriage, that is to say, that there is a high degree of sexual promiscuity at these "centers of orgasmic activity", and that is the only reason teenagers go there.

Without pretending to be a sociologist, I will raise the question of these views. In the cinema the audience directs its emotions towards the screen, another member of the audience. It would be difficult, if not impossible, for people to satisfy their desire for courtship and marriage by relating to the relationship between two people — while their emotions were being directed off screen and canalized towards the screen. For this reason, and also because nearly all cinemas audiences are too large to go to the cinema beforehand and are "steadies" anyway, it is very rare to see "pick up". Either by gangs or solitary youths, inside a cinema.

The composition of the cinema audience is another factor against the argument. On average, cinema audiences in working class areas are made up of not the older group of old and middle aged people, quite a few young children (under 13) and a small number from the student or the teenage bracket. Even then, the teenagers who go are mostly the "shy and longings" and Comrade Crutchley writes about.

Dancing at the Ritz

Dance halls follow a similar pattern as far as the "pickup" is concerned. At all dance halls (except the glorified brothels) there is always a large surplus of males who can't dance because of the lack of partners and who are forced to congregate with members of their own sex, even though most girls are escorted by someone they already know, and the chances of a guy satisfying his sex urge through the "pick up" are very rare.

Why do youngsters go dancing? At all dance halls (except the glorified brothels) there is always a large surplus of males who can't dance because of the lack of partners and who are forced to congregate with members of their own sex, even though most girls are escorted by someone they already know, and the chances of a guy satisfying his sex urge through the "pick up" are very rare.

Why do youngsters go dancing? At all dance halls (except the glorified brothels) there is always a large surplus of males who can't dance because of the lack of partners and who are forced to congregate with members of their own sex, even though most girls are escorted by someone they already know, and the chances of a guy satisfying his sex urge through the "pick up" are very rare.

The current issue of School Science Review shows how vastly unreal provision in science equipment is in public (independent) and State (maintained) schools. At one extreme, independent boys' school's have £5 8s. 10d. a year for each pupil taking science. The highest figure shown by a maintained boys' school is £1 8s. 8d. and for a girls' £1 5s. 10d. At the other extreme, the grammar school has only £8. 1d.

According to the standards set by the Department of the Board of Education for the Advancement of Scientific Education in Schools (the well known "Tanner Report") the following figures for improving science facilities in independent schools) only 1 out of 373 grammar schools is adequately provided. The Ministry of Education sets much lower standards. Even according to its own requirements, only 20 per cent of State grammar schools who participated in a survey on the subject are adequately provided. Grammar schools are clearly better provided than most other kinds of State schools. If this is taken into account, the State sector will look much worse even.

It does what any parent would do to stop its child smashing up the furniture or scribbling on the wallpaper. It occupies his mind with something else. Thus the pattern is set.

The combination of growing industrial struggle they give us horror comics, Hank Janson, Revelle, and in the case of H-bombs and nuclear rockets, young sex is fed with Elvis the Pelvis and other glamour girls.

And the result? An absolute and overwhelming success.

When faced with H-bombs, re- dundancy, loss of earnings or the rising cost of living, do working class youngsters worry? Certainly not. Perhaps they do go dancing a little less or buy fewer records, but the real problems are still pushed into the background.

Of course this is due basically to economic oppression - a resigna tion of the feeling that they are unable to control even the smallest part of their lives; lack of faith in the future - but I think that cultural repression is a very important factor.

The utility mill

The question that naturally arises from this is, why do teenagers accept, or even welcome these divergent influences? Is it because they are savage things that thrive on jungle music? No. It is simply that they have been encouraged to have any real appreciation of anything, whether it be music, art, literature or life around them. How is this so? Is appreciation a thing that is common to everybody, or something only the lucky few? The answer is that it is a basic human ingredient that has been beaten out of them because it is "dangerous" to some people's interests. It can be put another way. People don't appreciate anything when they themselves are not appreciated. Or yet another way. The expression in our lives leads to closed minds on anything that is not practical. In other words, after we have been grown through the utility mill of our education system, as appreciative engaging human beings we are all chalk. And yet we are criticized by the people responsible for being sub-human with no interest in life except making money.

The future

For example, in the West End of London, jazz clubs, both modern and traditional, which charge higher admission prices than the halls that put on classical concerts, and the atmosphere is one of hipness and sophistication for the smartly dressed modern jazz set.

Under the present system no one can deny, as Comrade Crutchley says, that the modern world is in the grip of a specific reaction, of what happens when we no longer have the present system of society.

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Notebook

There are members of VFS who make sure that the Members' Meeting to be held in London after Scarborough will provide the opportunity for a genuine but a policy for youth. We must press VFS to commit itself to support any genuine working class socialist youth movement - a National Youth Section of the Labour PArty of Conservatives, Unions and student organizations, and meanwhile demand the setting up of a democratically elected Youth Committee, both to hammer out a program and mobilize young socialists. Such a body could give the necessary political direction to activate the activists, and make a socialist youth movement a flesh-and-blood reality.

I think there is no future in either modern jazz or the type of folk music (mostly Negro) that is so popular today, as a result of being the product of a society raised as a result of direct oppression.

Only when we have complete control of society and industry will freedom have a culture that is neither working class or any other class but a true culture.
IT IS ONLY two months since we saw the publication of the Tory Government's plan for the solution of the Cyprus problem. In the same period, however, discussion has been taking place on "the spirit for partnership", the naked violence of British Imperialism once more stands revealed. New arrests have taken place; the total number of Cypriot people has increased as they more acutely feel the pinch of economic depression; and the island which has suffered under a state of emergency for over a year has once more graced with the presence of the "cream" of the British Army. Those respectable warriors, the Red Devils, have been moved in again to be ably supported by a detachment of the Tucos Mountains.

Filling in the details

It is easy for us at home to miss the full impact of what this means, but to one who has served in Cyprus and seen the situation at first hand, the feelings of the Cypriot people can readily be understood. The dreaded red and grey berets are again to be seen in the island. For the last twelve months the Cypriots have been left in the hands of a few large units of Infantry and Royal Artillery assisted by the English and Turkish Cypriots. This must have been a period of reasonable tranquility to them compared with what it was like when the "cream" were there before and what it is going to be like now that they are there again.

Education -ctd

The second section deals excellently with the public schools, which it clearly says must be taken over by the State and used as schools for certain priority categories of children (among others, for their own children in broken or otherwise unsatisfactory homes). It amy answers all the official Labour Party objections to the taking over of the schools. If it is to cost the State, it shows how considerably the State is paying now for subsidizing the direct-grant schools. For example: "Coventry sends 1,500 boys to independent schools at a cost of £100,000 a year. If these children were taught in state schools in four years that would provide the city with a new secondary school for about 1,200 pupils." If it is apprehension before "an unjustifiable invasion of liberty" (Labour's phrase) the discussion comes close to the argument simply: "It is the same sort of freedom that anyone once had—in theory—of being a zetiter for a colonel in the army."

The document deals admirably and unflinchingly with the ongoing evils of the public schools. It also gives a long list of recommendations, all of them very practical and deserving full support as measures that should be pressed for incorporation in official Labour Party policy.

The spring of last year saw the death of the "terrorist" leader Afxentiou in his mountain hideout—where a new company of British troops eventually burnt him alive by throwing petrol cans on his hideout. This of course delayed a possible victory by the press of this country. This summer we have been called upon again to give our support with the death of an unknown number of Cypriots when a whole valley of caves in the Troodos Mountains was blown up. The widows of men believed to have been killed have been told that their type of people do not have to be buried. The husbands of women bodies because it would involve far too much work to dig away the tons of rubble under which they are buried.

Unholy Work

This is the sort of work that the "Security Forces" have been involved in in the island of Cyprus. And the role of the Red and Green berets in this has been very important in the past. They are the trained thugs of British Imperialism. They are no respectors of persons or property when they are in this country as many an unfortunate farmer who has had the misfortune to meet them while they have been on training exercises will relate. It is said that in times of peace they are like therefore when they are in the position of occupation forces to keep the bosses of the Lords of the Earth.

Withdraw the troops

The British people must be woken up from their attitude of complacency. The myth that these acts of violence only occur under totalitarian regimes must be exploded. However more important still it is the job of every British Socialist to study the situation in Cyprus and see the very nature of British Imperialist rule in the face of a desire of a people to be free. And most important of all, our job is to develop the will of the British troops without delay. The Cypriots, like all oppressed people, must have the right of self-determination.

Local Government 'Reform'—contd

should be, broadly speaking, the possibility of working out a common socialist attitude for Labour groups on different authorities to take a similar line.

In formulating this line, numerous considerations must be taken into account. One of the most important is the possible effect of an alteration on the extent of Labour control in the borough. The possibility in which Labour's voting strength predominates are normally concentrated and compact. Thus by splitting up the strong units of local government it is possible to cut Labour strongholds off from larger areas under Labour control. The result will be the extension of Conservator or anti-Labour influence.

In the London area, for example, the subdivision of the LCC area or the transfer of powers to Metropolitan Boroughs is likely to result in areas like Hampstead having a Tory educational policy put into force instead of a Labour policy.

In Essex, where the possibilities of setting up a metropolitan council to cover the southern-eastern urban area or the granting of County Borough status to places like Romford, Dagenham, Barkingside, etc., are greater, the case is similar. The exclusion of any part of this area from the council will ensure that all possibilities of Labour control in Essex will disappear indefinitely. It is a cause for some concern that both West Ham and East Ham remained within the County instead of attaining County Borough status, Essex would long have been a Labour stronghold instead of a marginal area.

Local control is worth fighting for in local government, then clearly it involves fighting against the present Tory proposals as far as they provide for the subdivision of Labour controlled or potentially Labour areas.

Unfortunately, some Labour representatives on lesser tiers are so fascinated by the prospect of local power that they reject this position now. They want their own local council to have full power over local affairs—irrespective of whether this means losing other areas to Tory control.

And, particularly in a rural area, this is no job for a minority government, for example, exist within 25 miles of London which must be rural. All Labour authorities that exist were Labour schools were fifty years back.

Of course, the argument will be advanced that rural areas have not been the same income from rates. This, however, only strengthens the case. Despite the elaborate reasons for keeping local grants, rural areas are likely to lose income from being cut off from urban areas. At a time when socialists are rightly in favour of aiding the backward areas of the world at international level can, necessarily, aid the backward areas at home.

Of course, it may be argued that this is a matter of rationalizing the more rational structure for local government; that the Central Executive Committee should give local authorities to carry out progressive policies, but this does not justify support for present Tory proposals. These proposals are designed to divide Labour at a parochial and local level and should be resisted. Some County conferences have already been organised to bring Labour representatives together, but un...
OIL-CONT.

Therefore, for sheer survival, if for nothing else, King Saud and his clique must block the road to indigenous economic development. They must do this by exploiting the economic surplus, which could be spent on building factories, roads, schools, hospitals, etc, on their own personal pleasures.

King Saud is having a 90-million dollar palace built near Riyadh, the capital. Daily his food is brought from America in refrigerated containers. He has recently installed a "submarine night-club with walls of glass, through which the courageous diver himself might see the rich fish that could watch the dancing." (JB Philip, Arabian Jubilee, p. 136). When he visits his fellow Arab rulers, he is mindful to bestow bountiful gifts. The Emir of Qatar received a luxury yacht, and the late King Feisal was given four Cadillacs and two Rolls-Royces. To reciprocate, the Emir of Qatar is building a palace to be built specially for King Saud's visit.

The Saudis, "an enterprising businessman man tried to purchase it from the Ruler for conversion into a palace," according to Philip. But the Ruler decreed: "Where my friend the King has slept no one will be permitted to enter. It must remain for the King's use." (New Statesman, July 13, 1957.)

Such extravagant squandering and deliberate efforts to deliberately provoke natural provokes criticism. But King Saud, like the other Arab rulers, is too busy with a welter of deals with critics. For example, "pumping water into their stomachs, tying up their genitals with strings, and then striking the upside down until they die of burst bladders." (Ibid.) Another of his favorite pastimes is chopping off his victim's hands and impaling him in the main street of Riyadh.

Western Governments support these barbaric Arab rulers simply because they have agreements they have contracted with the oil monopolists. They fear that, if they were overthrown, their economic survival would want far more royalties or, even worse, they might want to control and derive the full benefit from the natural resources of their own country. And, whatever the horrors of King Saud's torture chambers, they dwindle to insignificance in the minds of the oil magnates when compared to the horror of oil nationalization. It is to avert this capitalism calamity that Western Governments meddle in the affairs of the Middle Eastern countries and warn: "Be careful, this is what happened to Jordan, where Britain landed troops in July. After a general election, held at the end of 1956, a majority of left-wingers, hostile to King Hussein, were returned. King Hussein's reply was to overthrow Jordan's first democratically-elected Government. With the American Sixth Fleet standing menacingly by, his pleas to the US for aid were declined: no political parties (dissolved), no Parliament (indefinitely adjourned), no trade unions (banned) no student organization (illegal), no public meetings (forbidden), no opposition newspapers (all five closed down), no civil rights (replaced by martial law). And so King Hussein, who rules by the grace of Allah, the American Sixth Fleet and the Tory Government, saved Jordan for the "free world."

The situation that existed after Hussein gained absolute power is described by Paul Johnson: "The régime maintains itself with a brutality rare even in the Middle East. Over 400 people were murdered in April; all the nationalist politicians are either dead, in prison, in exile or under house arrest. The day I arrived, a 12-year-old boy was sentenced to two years' penal servitude for writing a pathetic letter to President Nasser, complaining that the police had beaten up his father.

(New Statesman, July 6, 1957.) Hussein also carried out a thorough purge of the civil service and army. It was so complete that some Government departments ceased to function and illiterate Bedouins were made officers.

Yet, despite all his purges, Hussein's position remains wobbly. Besides executing four people in the last two months, who were accused of "plotting," he introduced a savage law imposing the death sentence on virtually anyone who criticizes his régime. And then Hussein found it necessary to call up his troops in玩意 Hungary, whose Army was temporary restive from an angry people. He tried to justify foreign intervention with the charge that the Hungarian Government used when it was having trouble with its own people. In fact, according to what little evidence there is, the imprisonment of the hungarian régime leader, Kadar, was a result of foreign troublemakers who had infiltrated that régime. In both Hungary and Jordan, United Nations observers stated that there was no evidence of outside interference.

The presence of British troops in Jordan, which is equally as wrong as Russian troops being in Hungary, is an example of the lengths the Tory Government will go to in an attempt to preserve the huge profits of the oil monopolists. In the end this policy is doomed to failure. For it is impossible to keep down a people indefinitely. Sooner or later—that is, if the criminal actions of the British Government do not lead to a Third World War—the Arab peoples will gain control of their countries and their natural resources.

We of the British Labour Movement must help the Arabs in every way we can. They, just like us, are fighting British big business. Their struggle is our struggle—we have the same enemy. By our united efforts we can win higher wages, better contracts and democratic rights for both the British and Arab peoples. For unity is strength, and an injury to one is an injury to all.

The Tory Government, by their armed intervention, are striking a blow at the British as well as at Arab workers. It is an elementary point as Edmund Burke insisted in his indictment of Warren Hastings 170 years ago, that the denial of a right abroad means, sooner or later, the denial of a right at home. Men can discover themselves to treat strangers unjustly without, ultimately, treating their countrymen in a similar way.

Local Government 'Reform'

Fortunately many are too parochial in outlook even to bother to attend—let alone once again that members of Labour groups are apt to forget their reliance on the trade unions. The Conservative Party member at Ward, GMC or other level should endeavour to see that local representatives on local authorities take cognisance of the need for a concerted socialist policy on the Tory plan.

As longer term aims, more research and discussion of a Labour plan for local governments is required. The futility of the Harrogate Conference over a year ago and other local government conferences organised by Labour is painful to contemplate.

More immediately, the Labour Party should seek to introduce legislation to compel all employers to allow their employees adequate time to serve on local authorities and on magisterial benches, etc. All such time taken should be paid for at the representative's normal rate of pay—thus preventing the financial loss which many people incur by giving their services. Reform of this aspect of local government is long overdue.

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The complete nationalisation of all banks, insurance and the land with compensation payments based on a means test, Re- weapons of mass destruction, and the working class in the industrial and political struggle for an overweigh of capitalism and the abolition of the State.

The Socialist Review believes that a really consistent party of the Labour movement must be brought to power on the basis of the following programme:

- Complete nationalisation of all banks, insurance and the land with compensation payments based on a means test. Re- weapons of mass destruction, and the working class in the industrial and political struggle for an overweigh of capitalism and the abolition of the State.

- The establishment of workers' committees to control all private enterprises within the framework of a planned economy. In all instances representatives must be subject to frequent election, and the workers would receive the average skilled wage in the industry.

- The establishment of workers' representatives on the boards of all private firms employing more than 20 people. These representatives would have free access to all documents.

- The establishment of independent unions dealing with all aspects of employers' relations, with special regard to the control hiring, firing and working conditions.

- The establishment of the principle of work or full maintenance in all socialised industries.

- The extension of the social services by the payment of benefits on a realistic cost-of-living index, the abolition of all payments for the National Health Service, and the establishment of an industrial health service.

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