THE TORIES are on the way to defeat. But that isn't enough. They could be routed, utterly routed.

Rochdale showed how far the revulsion against them has gone. Their economic policy will show how far it is still to go. Meanwhile, the spreading campaign against the H-Bomb and for unilateral disarmament; the tide of indignation against the Rent Act and the coming evictions show what potentialities there are for a rousing campaign to root them out.

This is where the tragic farce comes in. The more demoralized the Government and the more isolated, the more reserved, "responsible" and non-committal does our Labour leadership become. The Tories are wide open to frontal assault; our leadership prefers to take power by default. Why?

Whatever faith they might have once had in the workers of this country and the world has long been lost. They do not see them as the sole power that can effect a real change. They therefore can't envisage solving the desperate problems rending latter-day capitalism except by capitalism's own organised methods.

The closer they come to power—if only by default—the closer do they stick to the "accepted" methods of rule; the nearer they come, the more conscious do they become of the limited room for manoeuvre within the frame of latter-day capitalism and the less do they dare to strain it. As power approaches, almost thrust upon them by the Tories, they begin to talk and think in the terms used by their opposite numbers in Parliament.

That is why the air is thick with talk of wage-freeze under the next Labour Government. Because the Labour leaders accept the sanctity of profits, because they treat the capitalists' books as holy, they cannot repudiate the "orthodox" explanation for inflation, balance-of-payments difficulties and all the rest. They agree with the Tories—wages must take the rap, wage-freeze is the answer.

It is no good consoling ourselves by saying "let's deal with the Tories first, and then we'll have time for our Labour leaders." The job of the militant socialist is to warn his fellow workers now, to spread the demands as widely as possible: profits to stand the racket, not the pay packet! Let's open the bosses' books to show how to put prices down and wages up at one and the same time! By plugging these issues as well as pushing the leadership to head a real campaign against H-bombery, rising rents, the swindle perpetrated against the Old Aged Pensioners and the rest, we shall help workers to concentrate on points that must be defended from attack no matter who launches it. We shall be presenting a socialist programme as the real alternative to corrupt and inefficient capitalism, a programme that will rally the support and enthusiasm of millions, and lead them to take control of their lives and destiny once and for ever out of the hands of exploiters.

PENSIONS
RESTORE THE CUTS!
by Eric S. Heffer

At the moment I am writing this, I feel like committing murder. I am sure if Macmillan and his cronies were here, only my intellect would save me and them. My reactions are quite uncontrolled. I have just come from a National Assistance Appeal Tribunal. I was there, not as one of the poor and destitute, but as a workpeople's representative. It is not my first since the big swindle. What big swindle? The so-called increase in the Old Age Pension, the biggest swindle since the days of Horatio Bottomley, much bigger than the post-war credit racket.

The Old Aged are again the victims of the Tory politicians. The press says they have received a 10s. increase. Those who don't know, will naturally assume this will ease slightly the burden. What are the facts?

Most, if not all, of the aged are receiving National Assistance. In itself a recognition that the Old Age Pension is insufficient. The National Assistance allowance has only been increased by 5s., not 10s., which means that practically all Old Aged Pensioners will receive only 5s. instead of the 10s. as they thought. That is not all, their tobacco coupons, worth 2s. 4d., are stopped from the 20th January, which means that the total increase over their previous amount is 2s. 8d.

The much boosted increase is 2s. 8d. It ought to be rammmed down Macmillan's lapdog mouth. Today we heard the old people's appeals. They were all without exception, cries from the heart. These people are suffering. Try as they might to keep a dignified bearing, the suffering comes through.

The woman of 76, who broke down and sobbed. The man who, because we could not help, went out without a word. The other man, who had come with great reluctance. A man full of pride, who suffered agonies of extreme humiliation. A woman, who showed us her budget, leaving only £1. 1s. 4d. for food, after rent, coal, light and laundry were paid. How does she manage? I don't know; it can only be slow starvation.

If anything was needed to finally indict this Government, this treatment of the aged is it. These people are a set of criminals. They don't carry out their crimes at night with a rubber hose. They do it, openly, in the full light of day. They kill by starvation, they swindle with sweet words.

On the forms sent out, notifying the old people that their National Assistance will be reduced as the extra 10s. pension is included.
**Towards the Industrial Union**

**LONDON TRANSPORT**

For years past, thoughtful trade unionists have recognized the weakness that arises from the division of London road and rail workers into different unions. More than thirty years ago attempts were made to achieve some unity of purpose and action through the establishment of a 'TOT Movement' (Trams, Omnibus and Tube) among London road and rail transport workers. Despite enormous expenditure a large part of the potential strength of the movement was lost through management opposition and a lack of solidarity among the rank and file of transport workers. Some of this strength was later regained through the establishment of a large public-owned company, London Transport, and the amalgamation of the London Omnibus and Tramways Company with the London & South Western Railway Company. The London Transport Executive was a body composed of representatives of the different unions, but in practice the going was slow and there was little evidence of a real commitment to the idea of an Industrial Union.

But today, the London passenger industry is a State nationalized concern with a complete monopoly of control. We now work for the same boss and we are all watched over by the same masters and guards our interests with the tender concern of a flock of vultures.

Exactly a year ago, I wrote in the "Platform":

"We busmen, who have always recognised the need to unite the 'red bus' of the central service with the 'blue bus' of the country, and the 'trams' and 'trolleys' must recognize that the 'tube-train' too, is just another passenger carrying vehicle owned by the LTE, doing essentially the same job."

And I went on to ask:

"Without in any way infringing existing agreements, or interfering with the authority or rights of any union concerned, surely it is possible that a joint consultative body could be established between road and rail staffs working on the same employer—the LTE."

Shortly after this article appeared, I received a letter from a secretary of the biggest NUR branches covering LTE rail men, from which I quote:

"One could not agree more with this perfectly true thumbnail sketch of the weakness of the workers employed in the transport industry not only those employed by the LTE, but also those many thousands more employed by the British Transport Commission."

Within 24 hours of the NUR expressing their support for our wage claim, our own Mickle Ebb bus branch had passed a resolution thanking us for their support and urging busmen to participate in a mass meeting convened by the Government in order to show a common front to employers and Government. Mickle Ebb's response was quickly followed by other branches.

Indeed, it is surely evident that no responsible trade unionist from Frank Cousins downwards can fail to see both the need and the advantages to be gained from such joint consultation, but, like so many obviously desirable steps, everyone waits for somebody else to take the initiative, with the result that nothing fact is in sight.

The NUR has made the first move—all credit to them. Let us now carry the project a stage further. LTE railwaymen are embraced within the NUR by a 'London Transport Sub-Committee'—the equivalent body to our own passenger Trade Group Committee.

On January 28, the London District Council of the National Union of Railwaymen paused for a moment from putting their strike machinery in top gear to express their solidarity with London's busmen. "We support every move our busmen colleagues are making to bring their just claim to fruition.”

In this article written by Punch of The Platform we can glimpse the long history of such expressions of solidarity. The steps we shall take about the next phase to bring transport workers in London more closely together—Editor.

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**INDUSTRIAL**

These pages have been set aside for a socialist review of the industrial struggle. Help to make them complete by sending in news and comments.

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**Socialist Review**

Articles on the industrial union featured recently in SR have aroused some interest. Reades have asked us to follow up with an article on the latest developments towards it. We believe that it's your job to do this, but to start the ball rolling we asked one of our sellers, Mick Shilt, a composer member of the London Typographical Society working at Athena Press, to contribute the following information. Readers, you're invited to supply us with more information on this subject, in any part of the country. We'll print it—Editor.

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**and PRINT**

At the moment two separate moves are being made towards amalgamation in the printing industry. The National Union of Printing Bookbinding and Paper Workers (NUBPW) and the National Society of Operating Printers and Assistants (NATSOPA) to join forces; these two unions cover over 1000 skilled and semi-skilled workers in the industry (although they include some craft workers) and their amalgamation is an attempt to keep up negotiating strength on their part in view of the thrust of mass amalgamation of 5000 craft workers which is the other side being pursued at the present time.

This other amalgamation (craft) is to meet the threat of mechanisation which new processes—mainly, photo-setting —look like starting. This amalgamation would mean the bringing together of skilled men in the industry: compositors, machine operators, machine managers (letterpress and litho), readers, telegraphists, and casters. The sponsors of this amalgamation are the London Typographical Society (LTS) and the Typographical Association (TA), and the talks have reached a stage where the LTS research committee are studying the rule books of the unions involved to draw up a set of model rules for the proposed new union.

There are some craft unions abstaining from this amalgamation, and of them, the Process Workers Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers, Engravers and Process Workers, appears to favour one complete amalgamation, craft against craft, and in the industrial union—and as a consequence may well be one of the few not in an amalgamation and whether the STU (sellers, buyers and machine managers in Scotland) have not joined because of the result.

One of the problems is the secrecy due to the unfortunate lack of freedom between the print unions.

(Continued on next page)
BIRMINGHAM: STRIKE and LOCK-OUT at BMC

A WRITE FROM strike-bound Birmingham, where 8,000 BMC employees have been locked out, following the strike at Morris Motors last week, warns that the government's stoppage may not be of long duration. But this is prepared cautiously to predict — that there will continue to be trouble in the engineering industry as long as no solution continues. What is NAT? How likely is it to be broken down?

What are the reasons which give rise to this union? The full in- industry story makes fascinating reading.

The National Association of Tool-makers (to give it its correct name) was born from the ashes of the last war and the social and employment conditions which were a natural consequence.

Prior to the last war the tool-maker was a craftsman and his particular skill was reflected in his wage. He was part of the atmosphere of the small town, the power house of World War II accomplished many changes: not least that of the machine tools which are in production for axes, the dislocation of labour and the breakdown of many generations of trade secrets.

Roots of bitterness

This trend has been accentuated since the war when the position of the small craftsman has improved relatively to that of skilled men. The general unions have been and again are a service to the sacred cow of "wage restraint" whilst obtaining marginal gains for their lower-rated members.

The BMC redundancy strike of July 1956 provided the flashpoint where the union for the first time attacked the indignation of the few remaining craftsmen at this gradual whitewashing of their better rates. (The union did not make a protest over differentials reflected the same attitude.) I am not saying that the BMC was not threatened by the reactions of the BMC redundancy measures. But what was very evident was the anger of the craftsman due for the chopper was very much less. Obviously, the labour of the fewer of these men but could not care less about these on the track.

I think it is fair to say that few tool-room operators felt very enthusiastic about the strike. However, where organization was good and the stewards had facilities for explaining the position, the men were very loyal to their organization and the workers of the organization was poor, the situation was very different. In particular at Morris Commercial (Tractors and Transmission) in PRINT end

The most recent amalgamation in print was the joining of the London Society of Compositors and the Southern Managers Trade Society in 1955 which produced the very successful London Typographical Society as the Master Printers learnt to meet in the cost of the 1956 pay dispute — but well for future amalgamations, one hopes.

LABOUR PARTY Commentary

by Ron Lewis

HEARTIEST CONGRATULATIONS are due to Jack McCann for his splendid victory over the Tories. This victory gives me special joy because McCann's bold stand reflects the whole of his programme and his declared belief in unilateral action by Britain.

However, the victory is a qualified one derived from the fall in the Tory vote. One would have to go back 25 years to find a parallel in the votes of a government party.

Certainly the Tories can have no excuses for their defeat. The election was fought on a register just about as old as it could be; there was no effort to do better. The result is a triumph of the nationalisation of war and the break-down of many generations of trade secrets.

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STOP PRESS

As we go to press, a statement is going out from Nutsop and the talks between the industry and management towards amalgamation have been broken off. This represents a serious defeat for printing the industry in the near future. — Editor.
THE PROMOTION of a Parliamentary Bill by the Birmingham City Council has caused a deal of interest locally. Readers may therefore care to hear of this rather unusual proceeding.

First, as Ald. Corby Barrow (Chairman of the Council's Law and Parliamentary Committee) remarked in a recent article in the local Trades Council Journal, "local authorities are creatures of statute. In other words, their powers are clearly limited by parliamentary legislation. If they ever overstep the mark, it is not the local authority that is held legally responsible, but the individual members of the council. It was thus that George Lansbury and his fellow-councilors were faced with an excess expenditure on the unemployed in the celebrated Poplar case, 1921.

Power to act

Now it must be obvious that from time to time an authority may consider its powers and functions inadequate for the proper conduct of its business. In such cases, it must be particularly so when local government so closely touches all our lives. It is in these circumstances the authority is permitted to promote its own private legislation, to secure the desired powers. The relevant procedure is both cumbersome and lengthy.

The City Council invites its committees to submit details of the powers required, e.g., health, housing, education. These are then considered by some "parent" committee (Finance, General, or Law and Parliamentary). Eventually the recommended clauses are put to the council as a whole and voted upon. At this stage, County or Regional Councils have the right to pass their proposals to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, who may hold an inquiry if he wishes.

A Town's Meeting

The Urban District or Borough Council is, however, by no means out of the wood. They are enabled to hold a "Town's Meeting" (usually advertised beforehand in the public press) at which the clauses of the Bill are put to the clerk or one of its officers intended to attend (generally opponents!). Whatever the result of the meeting, the Bill, or one of its clauses, or electors (or one-twentieth of their number, whichever is less) may demand a poll on any of the clauses.

There was a determined attempt by Labour members in the Commons to by-pass the Town's Meeting stage last year. It was, however, defeated by the Tories, George Lansbury, one of Birmingham's four Tory members. It is difficult to see on what grounds. More important, the law provides that a Town's Meeting in Birmingham, electors not on Birmingham's electoral roll voted, and in other cases, minors voted. Moreover, neither Council nor opponents have to take stage seriously, as each side knows a poll is so easily requisitioned.

Through the Lords

However, even this poll is not the end. The clauses finally approved, go forward to Parliament and are then debated and voted on by the whole House, after having passed through a Committee stage in which the Lords or Commons. It is not usual for such Bills to meet with outright opposition in the House, but it can happen.

The Birmingham City Council brought forward a Parliamentary Bill couple of years ago, one of the main provisions of which was the provision of free transport for school pupils. This was defeated by the Town's Meeting and Town Poll, but only finally validi

Defeat

All in all, vested interests had a real field day. They turned up in force determined to prevent the establishment of a "Community charge" paying for free travel following the example of a local newspaper which used to consider itself a responsi-

Now was the City Council much more successful at the poll. All nine clauses were defeated at the lowest town's meeting, and 83 years, including the controversial clause to list a nomination of tenants for houses vacated through overspill.

And Victory?

What does all this show? In the first instance, I think it shows that the Birmingham City Council was too modest, too reasonable—confining itself to the provision of free travel; what was necessary for the good government of the city. And they were trounced! It is possible that these clauses are as irresponsible as they are anti-social. It shows that the only way to defeat these treloggieys is to put before the city clauses that will really capture the imagination of the working class.

How about free travel for ALL, following the original suggestion of the Labour movement. The Scottish Labour MPs won't exert real pressure on the Tory Government, but mass movement of workers and agitators outside the House of Commons.

BO'NESS DOCKS: NO ACTION FROM MPS! report JAMES D. YOUNG

Union movement. Thus the fight for free travel continues; the struggle to keep their jobs unless they are backed up by the power of a massive and well organized Labour movement. The Scottish Labour MPs won't exert real pressure on the Tory Government, but a mass movement of workers and agitators outside the House of Commons.

... an old story

ALTHOUGH many people think that relations between men and manager in the coal-mines have now been completely changed, many of the old customs still lingered on, particularly in certain areas. At a pit I know very well it was customary that all men on entering the manager's office should take off their hats as a mark of respect. On one occasion an irate Scotsman with a burning grievance by no means less than what started to explain his case. The Agent in charge on this particular afternoon broke in and said, "Don’t you take your cap off when you come in here?" I don’t know what you think I’ve come in here for Mr. So-and-So," the Scotsman replied in full heat, "but it’s for the money you’ve docked from my wages, not for a—haircut!"
We publish below a report of the Labour Party Youth School held on February 8-9. Whilst agreeing with the policies advocated—a continuation of compulsory full-time state education, up to 18, the abolition of fee-paying schools, and adequate grants for higher education—we should like to add our own critical comments about the policy. To these, as such are reforms only. We need, however, a revolution in education, as we outline below. It must, however, be emphasised that a revolution in education can only accompany a revolution in society. A Socialist party should not be content with mere structural modifications in the educational system. The structure of the educational system is derived from two sources: its function in society, and the social system itself. In an advanced capitalist economy there is a literate working class. It demands, further, civil servants, business administrators, scientists and politicians. The educational system supplies these roles to a large extent. It is time the capitalist system requires. Thus a class-divided society needs a divided educational system.

Function of school system
But further, society is held together by values and ideologies, and by the education system it imparts these values and ideologies. Therefore, not only is it necessary to abolish the Sixth Form and the prefect system, but also the respect for tradition and the abasement of desire for authority that they encourage. In addition, compulsory religious instruction should be ended and the illusion that the Church is the moral mentor of society should be destroyed.

Knowledge must be imparted with this aim in view, young people should be taught that knowledge is a social tool and not merely a means to individual advancement. The repulsive advertising campaign of The Times—"For people on the way to the top"—is the very antithesis of a Socialist educational policy.

This means that the relevance of the sciences and literature to present-day problems must be made perfectly clear. History is the story of the class struggle, not the lives of deified beings; literature is a tool of social criticism and should be treated as such; our mastery over Nature means a better life for all, not an instrument of mass destruction.

Education for initiative and action
Furthermore we believe educational practice is in need of radical revision. The human mind is an active organ. It receives sensations, perceives and thinks, but this demands activity. The human mind is not like a cinema screen which passively receives its images; it is an investigator, it seeks out, searches, it does not merely contemplate, it rushes forward to discover. This rather than the text-book cramming is encouraged. We need therefore new educational practices which encourage initiative and imagination, with less factual cramming and a greater emphasis on theory.

and content is a new form
These then, in our opinion, are some of the problems a Socialist educational policy should be concerned with. We need not only structural changes, an expansion and equalisation of educational facilities, but new values and practices that overlook these is, we think, grossly inadequate. We hope it will not.

Notebook
SEVENTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS from 25 Labour Parties (including 20 Sections) and one trade union spent a valuable week-end at the second of the Labour Party Youth Schools. This policy was imposed on its EC by their 1957 Conference. Held at Beatrice Webb House, Dock- ing, on February 8-9, both the program and the arrangements showed a greater degree of coordination. London's Youth sub-committee had listened seriously to some of the criticisms voiced in the Party. Teacher's reports of a child's progress over a number of years could be submitted to the headmaster concerned for him to decide what future school- ing is desirable. The biggest problem of all, it was thought, is one of teachers. Admittedly their present wage is not sufficient and should be increased, but they still cannot attract good teachers with money. It is only when young people have an interest in education, pass on their knowledge and skill to others, instead of using them solely for their own benefit, that children will grow up on a diet of social responsibility and be an asset to society. We can only hope that the present comprehensive schools will produce these teachers.

A Political Organisation
Next morning we heard Alan Williams, National Youth Officer, explain the 'Labour Party's Approach to Youth.' We must brighten up!' he said, and announced the appearance of a new tabloid recruiting sheet, HI! (which one student thought was made up of unused gallesy from the ill-starred Daily Mirror under Fothergill.)

As for Section programs, he admitted that Socialist education was the only sound foundation for success. We cannot compete with the youth clubs; we must be a political organisation. So far, so good, but when

LETTERS

Modern Jazz Quartet

These jazzmen are not essentially part of any culture, but merely in revolt against Western culture, and consciously supporting another. The spirit of Jazz can inspire outsiders, such as the Chicago musicians in the 20's and 30's; but more imperative driving can lead nowhere. However, it is possible for white musicians to be influenced by this Negro folk music, and, according to circumstances and vitality of the foreign culture, build a specific, musical form out of it which is their own. This has, I think, been tried successfully in Sweden, where there is Modern Jazz of a very high standard which is not mainly derivative of Negro Jazz, although of course influenced by it, but which has its roots in Scandinavian folk culture.

Graham Metson

MARCH 1, 1958
Our correspondent in the only CP-run State in India, a member of the Revolutionary Socialist Party (RSP), reports on the CLASS STRUGGLE IN KERALA.

Progressives rejoiced and reactionaries gasped throughout India after the General Elections last year. They were voted to power in one state—Kerala. Sixty Communist leaders prior to the elections were responsible for these hopes and fears. The voting people hoped their miseries would come to an end, while the vested interests feared that the Communist Government would ruin them beyond recognition. The Government of Kerala over the past year has amply proved both these assumptions to be totally wrong.

The Communist Party assumed power in April last year with a fanfare to the Punnapra-Vavalay muralist, demonstrations, offerings, and parties among the people. The Communists claimed then to have broken a link in the Congress chain which would be the beginning of the end of the Congress regime. They also claimed the “Kingdom of Heaven will be built on earth” by their regime. A few over-enthusiastic Communists even talked of a revolution in Kerala. They claimed that the vanguard of the proletariat had assumed power and hence the task of the today’s people will be realized in the not very distant future.

From strike to prison

It is therefore instructive to examine some recent cases to see how in fact that so-called “vanguard” regime is functioning in Kerala vis-a-vis the working class: About 500 workers employed in the Vijaynagar Mills, situated in the Malappuram district of Kerala, went on strike before Ooomam (a very important Mayalali festival—Ed.) demanding a bonus after exploring all possibilities for an amicable settlement. A few days later, the Government’s reaction was reached regarding the bonus. The agreement specifically laid down that the bonus should be paid out on September 5, the day before Ooomam.

When the workers went to the mill to be paid their bonus, they found to their surprise that the Co-operative Society dues had been deducted. The workers contended that the employer should deduct Society dues only from their pay on their receipt and no right to touch their bonus. This became the issue, and the strike continued. On Ooomam, the police resorted to brutal baton-charges, and about 130 workers were arrested. So the workers branded Ooomam in the Central Jail under the Communist regime!

CP minister humbled

Wonder of wonders, the CP Labour Minister never met the workers to know the nature of the employer, and thereby created industrial history—for the deduction of Co-operative Society dues is unique in the annals of industrial disputes. It is worth noticing that the position of the Communist Government was not acceptable even to the few Communists employed in the mills.

The strike went on for 59 days, and Comrade K. Pankajkshen, CP leader and General Secretary of the Union lasted for 9 days. What for? The issue involved was quite simple: is the employer justified in recovering Co-operative Society dues from a bonus? A solution could have been found to this simple question if the Minister really wanted to find one, but events clearly show he had no intention of doing so. And in the end, the heroic struggle of the workers humbled him. But the workers had to pay a very heavy price to settle a very simple dispute.

Police leave boot marks

Workers employed in the State-owned Rubber Factory were grumbling under grinding poverty as a result of starvation wages. Hence the workers led by the RSP demanded a fixed pay structure with gradual annual increases in the conversion of daily-rated workers to monthly rates, a productivity bonus, and general expansion of the industry. But the Government did not raise a little finger to meet the demands, and reasonable demands of the workers.

As a last resort, the workers struck work and the strike lasted for 18 days. It is worth mentioning here that during the strike, the police brutally kicked and trampled the strikers. And in the Union Volunteers carried the injured workers to the residence of the Chief Minister who examined the wounds. Boot marks were clearly visible on the cheeks of the wounded workers. The Minister assured them he would take appropriate action early. This assurance remains unfulfilled.

In pursuance of an agreement reached between the Government and the Union, the strike was called off.

Strike declared illegal

On 8th August the Rubber Factory workers led by the RSP again went on strike. This time the Communist Ministry declared the strike illegal. It is interesting to note that while Communists all over India were condemning the Central Government for arming itself with powers to declare illegal strikes by Government workers, the East Kerala Communist Ministry in Kerala declared a legitimate strike illegal. Despite the illegal declaration, the strike was a success and wrested concessions from the unwilling hands of the Communist Government.

In Quilon workers in a cashew nut factory were locked out wrongfully and illegally. As a result of this illegal action, the workers, led by the RSP, returned to passive resistance. The Government of Kerala in its wisdom ordered the workers to be arrested. Make no mistake—-the Government did not intervene in favour of the workers but in favour of the employer. The workers were brutally kicked and trampled by passive resisters. Many workers including a few aged women sustained serious injuries. This was followed by indiscriminate arrests. Many RSP leaders have been bound over.

The Communist Government in Kerala have even resorted to baton-charges on workers under the Presidency order of the Communist Party itself.

CP workers arrested

The Communist-led Cashewnut Workers Council was conducting a struggle of workers in the MPC Cashewnut Factory at Kilikolloor, near Quilon, demanding the reinstatement of 24 redundant workers. The Labour Department and the Ministry himself intervened in the demand, but failed to make a settlement. Hence, K.P. Naroo, a Communist TU leader on a hunger strike in the factory, was arrested on the 11th day. On the 11th day he was arrested and another leader took his place. The intervention and pressure on the employer by the Ministry again failed to bear fruit.

The 18th workers in the factory struck work. In order to prevent the management from locking out the factory, the workers picketed the gates. They did not allow the works manager and the staff to go out. Though the District Labour Officer and other District authorities intervened, there was no improvement in this situation. The picketing continued till about 11 p.m. The police were determined to take the workers to the court, but the workers, who picked up the car of the manager were arrested and he was taken out. When the police attempted to take the lorries out of the front of the factory. The workers, who tried to prevent this, were arrested, including Communist TU leaders and workers. In all 53 persons were arrested.

An unexpected attack on the workers came after this. Without any warning, the police encircled the workers and fell upon them, in spite of the fact that there was no provocation. The baton-charges was indiscriminate and unprovoked. Even women workers were not spared. It should be noted that the baton-charges were instigated by the police had taken out the workers manager, the staff and the foremen from the Cashewnut Factory. The workers who took shelter in the nearby houses were chased and beaten. Such baton-charges did not take place even during the Congress regime.

Protests and lies

Communist leaders J. Chirarajan, President of the All India Cashewnut Workers Central Council and K. S. Anandan, Joint Secretary of the Quilon District Committee of the CPI have issued a joint statement condemning the baton-charges and demanding action to be taken against the officers responsible for it. Rank-and-file Communist workers and followers who were made to believe that the Communist Government would usher in an era when they could carry on their struggle without fear of baton-charges have been disillusioned.

As usual, the Government came out with a Press release denying the baton-charge. According to the Press release, 20 workers who obstructed the manager and the staff when the lorry was being taken out. Armed Reserve Police rushed to the spot. Seeing no row, the RSP workers fell away some of them fell down and got injured. The police did not use any force to disperse the crowd.

Finding a scapegoat

The Travancore-Cochin Communist Government has characterized the Press release as a strange one. The Communist TU leader P. A. Solomon condemned the Government’s action that was issued without the knowledge of the Ministers. The Communist TU leader said that the Central Government has no right to take such an action when their face and the prestige of the Ministry, are now trying to make out that the responsibility for the baton-charge and the Press release rests with some police officials and not with the Minister.

If the Press release was issued without the knowledge of the Ministers, it seems that the Central Government has taken action against the officers concerned.

Workers awake—CP dilemma

The Communist leaders are in a dilemma. Their workers have been baton-charged by their Government. They had been crying at the top of their voices that the Government would not resort to baton-charges. When the RSP leaders at Thrissur and Quilon were victims of baton-charges, they put the whole blame on the CPI for provoking the police to resort to baton-charges and said that in spite of provocation the police did not actually make a baton-charge.

Now, their own workers have been baton-charged. They want to satisfy the workers and save the face of the Government. So now the Communist leaders are on the run, provoking the workers on certain police officers who were carrying out the orders of the Government. Confusion is prevailing among the Communist Party. Serious developments are expected.
IMPERIALISTS WILL NEVER LEARN, not even British Imperialists. Cyprus is another example of their ways. After savage repression has failed, the Troops are now faced with the inevitable withdrawal and are trying their best to hang on as long as they can. The danger is they may succeed only too well. The release of Archbishop Makarios, the recall of detained Hardings and the halt of the EOKA curtailment of power show, however, that the pause in the Cypriot people are not going to rest content with the hollow goodwill of the new Governor. The so-called Emergency has been very expensive for the British taxpayer. More than twenty million pounds has been spent on military operations in Cyprus, 263 persons were killed and 708 injured up to June 1957 according to United Nations Her- mament for Colonial Freedom. Of those killed 103 were British and

GERMANY: AT TIMES THE CURTAIN MELTS

ALTHOUGH it certainly looks as if “training ground” were the key word there is no doubt that the ruling classes of East and West averted to one another for keeping the workers in check. In our issue of December 1956 there showed how the US State Department and the Federal German Government fell over backwards in their rush to leave the way for the Kremlin’s butcher team in Hungary. Ruling class sol- diers happily pierced the Iron Curtai

And now it has happened again. The Times’ Own Cor-respondent Mr. E. P. Williams, is to say about the recent purge of high-ranking Party and Government officials in Eastern Germany.

“it is difficult to resist the conclusion, after the latest purge of the East German Socialist Unity Party and the announced intention to decentralize industry, that western Europe could see his shadow in Ulbricht . . . In his firm rule over what must be regarded as a Soviet forward military area, Herr Ulbricht has probably prevented a conflagration that could commit and envelop west Germany and much else.

“Should this conclusion be regarded as too brutal, it is as well to recall what Herr von Bremmer said, the west German Foreign Minister, at the meeting of the NATO Council in Bonn last spring. He called on the western Powers to solve the German problem before east Germany rose again in revolt, because west Germans could not be expected to remain passive should a second revolt take place.” (February 13).

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VITAL? STATISTICAL?

One of the results of this care- ful reporting (of certain satellites) if carried out simultaneously by more than one station, will give the actual dis- tance between any two given con- tinents—a fact which is not known now and which is a great handicap in aiming an inter-continental ballistic missile. (Observer, February 2).
PENSIONS

Payable, it says that if dissatisfied they could appeal. What trickery and hypocrisy it is! Appeals Tribunal judges have the power to change Government legislation. They must work within the limits set by Parliamentary Acts. They cannot reverse the 5s. cut in National Assistance even though most of the members, I am sure, would like to. Is this a way of deflecting the old folk from seeing the real criminals, in the hope that they may consider the Tribunal members as heartless creatures, without human feelings? It looks very much like it.

Compasion and anger

As one who has been brought up in the hard school of the Building Industry, I am not given to tears. But on more than one occasion today, I was near, my heart was quite overflowing with compassion and a terrible anger.

Work to be scrapped

The fact that the old can be used in such a shameless way fills me with bitter hatred. I shall not rest content until this human suffering is ended. Until the aged are really well cared for, with adequate financial resources. They never will be under this rotten capitalist system. They will never be whilst Etonians, Harro- vians, and Haileyburians control our destinies. They never will be as long as workers are seen purely as the means of making profits, to be thrown on the scrap heap after a life time of hard in- dustrious labour.

Socialist policy

What can we do? Firstly work night and main to bring this Government down, as the first step towards the end of Capital- ism.

Secondly, give full support to the Old Age Pensioners Associa- tion and their demands.

Thirdly, couple our demands for increased wages with those of the aged. Use our industrial strength in every possible way.

As our immediate central slogan on the aged we must "Demand the cuts be restored— both the cash and the compensations."

In this way we can strike a blow for ourselves. After all, we all get older. It's our turn next.

be'll ponder over the words of Robert Buchanan:

"There's none should fear the truth; But them that the truth would indite."

Yours sincerely,

James D. Young,

and US

The narrow-minded complacency of the editorial comment confirms our points. The full opportunities for building a popular fortnightly socialist paper are not understood. At present readers contribute material in the form which the paper, from its appearance and 'readability', seems to want.

The editors must break through this common-sense and take a more active line; they must decide what they want the paper to be. I am not thinking of its political line and then go out and get the contributors and the sorts of contributions they want, just as other similar socialist periodicals do.

Ken Jones
Harlow

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