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TODAY

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## OUR AIMS

"To secure for the producers by hand and by brain the full fruits of their industry, and the most equitable distribution thereof that may be possible upon the basis of the common ownership of the means of production and distribution . . ."  
Labour Party Constitution.

## BEVAN DEMANDS GENERAL ELECTION

**S**Ocialism and the international solidarity of workers of all lands were the keynote of the Scottish Miners' Gala Day which was attended by a crowd of many thousands in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, on Sunday, May 4.

The principal speaker was Nye Bevan, who dealt with the war danger and especially the situation in the Far East.

Mr. Bevan called for an early General Election. "Let us have an opportunity of testing what the country thinks", he declared. "The Tories think they would go back with a majority. Well, let us see if this happens. I don't mean now, when the Coronation is on, but a little later, when we are able to look at these matters in a more objective manner."

A resolution passed after Mr. Bevan had finished speaking, condemned the recent Budget and promised support to wages claims in the mining industry and to all increased wage demands made by Trade Unions in the near future. After referring to the denationalisation of the iron and steel and road haulage industries, the resolution went on:

### GOVERNMENT WARNED

"We warn the Government that any attempt to pursue a policy of, or introduce a threat of denationalisation to the mining industry, as suggested in the motion of the 100 Tory M.P.'s, will be resisted by the miners with all the power at their disposal."

This determination of the miners to fight against any encroachment on the gains they have won, was further emphasised in many of the slogans carried in the processions which converged on Holyrood Park. The miners also showed their solidarity with the colonial peoples.

"Give the Colonies Food, Freedom and Friendship" read one placard.

This was also the main theme of Bevan's speech—the need for a government in this country which would understand what was happening in Asia and would be able to extend real help to the

peoples' movements in those countries.

The whole world was in a state of revolutionary ferment and it was time America understood that that revolution was not going to be held back by military force. When he spoke to people in Far East, on his recent visit, they all said to him: "Go back and tell Europe there is no sympathy here for European imperialism; no sympathy whatsoever for American ambitions against the People's Government of China." It was not going to be possible to get peace in the Far East so long as American money and arms were being used by Chiang Kai-Shek.

Describing some of the poverty he had seen in the Far East, Mr. Bevan said that he thought he knew what poverty was like and that anyone who had been brought up in a miner's family in South Wales would know. But now he realised that he had lived the life of a millionaire compared with the workers of India and Pakistan.

"There never would be peace as long as they had such poverty", he continued. "Would it not be so much more civilised if all the industry which they were now using to make the machinery of war and all the science they were using to pile up the greatest war machine the world has ever seen, were used to raise the standards of life of millions who were living in unimaginable poverty and degradation?"

To have peace in the world they must make sure that imperialist exploitation ended and that the resources of Western science were used to help the hundreds of millions of people in that part of the world.

### INDO-CHINA

Speaking of the war in Indo-China, Mr. Bevan said that the time had come to try and put an end to the fighting there before it spreads. How could they expect the people of Indo-China to believe that the European countries were anxious for peace when all the fighting about Indo-China at the moment was in order to enable France to remain a colonial power there? France ought to call a halt to her colonial exploitation of the people of Indo-China.

# Local Election Vote Shows No Confidence in Tories

## Now Labour's Leaders Must Lead

**T**HE people of Britain have passed judgement on Churchill and his Tory Government who have been resoundingly defeated in the Municipal Elections. Labour's gain of nearly 700 seats is a vote of no confidence in the Tories—a clear demand on them to resign.

It must be emphasised that local elections are no longer fought on local issues. Expecting victory, the Tories themselves made them an issue of confidence. An official Tory pamphlet on the elections stated: "Voting in the local elections should express appreciation of the Tories record."

Lord Woolton—Tory strategist in chief—told us that the elections would "provide a great opportunity to ensure that the country gives expression to the confidence

it undoubtedly has in the Conservative Government."

This is exactly what the country has done! And if the Tories took their own propaganda seriously they would immediately resign.

But they won't do that, because they know very well that a general election now (despite all the coronation ballyhoo) would result in their decisive defeat.

### MAKE THEM RESIGN

The only thing for the Labour Movement to do, therefore, is to force the Tories to accept the democratic decision of the people. Make them resign!

This is very clear and it must involve a policy of complete non-co-operation with the Tories in every field. In Parliament, a continual obstruction of the legislation of this unrepresentative and unpopular Government. In the local councils, a refusal to carry out the Tories desire to raise rents

and place the burden of war preparations on the ordinary people. In industry, a vigorous prosecution of the struggle for better wages and working conditions.

Finally—and most important of all—a refusal by all three wings of the movement to co-operate in any of the Government sponsored Productivity Councils, Civil Defence Committees, Health Service Commissions to reduce costs, Coronation Committees and the like.

Such a campaign—properly led and organised—would topple the Tories in a short time. It is the only way for Labour to express in action the verdict given by the people at the recent local elections.

Unhappily, however, all the signs show that such a campaign is not envisaged by the present leaders of the Party. On the contrary.

### CHURCHILL THREATENS EGYPT

A few days after Labour's great victories Mr. Attlee makes a speech in Parliament on foreign affairs which receives the applause of every reactionary Tory journal in the country. And no wonder. For Mr. Attlee warmly praised Sir Winston's speech (in which he threatened war on the Egyptian people among other things!) and proceeded to repeat almost point for point the position of Churchill on peace, war, China, Korea and everything else.

The "Daily Herald" approvingly concluded from Attlee's speech that the "measure of agreement between them (Labour and Tory) is wide and immensely significant." They didn't say what the significance was—but it sounds ominous enough for those who remember the coalition talk which preceded the last war.

The Movement must stop this kind of thing at once. We don't want unity with Churchill on home affairs and we don't want it on foreign affairs either. We don't

want unity with the Tories on a "phony" peace offensive—we want, in other words, a real peace policy and only the Labour Movement—on its own and against the Tories—is capable of formulating such a policy.

The working people of Britain have shown by their votes in the local elections that they are well aware of this fact. It is time for Labour's leaders to lead.

## 'Public Ownership is Only Way'

—Dick Crossman, M.P.

**S**PEAKING at a "Tribune" meeting at the Princes Theatre, London, last Sunday, Dick Crossman, M.P., said it was the easiest thing in the world to make war. Just stop thinking and blow the other chap up. He was not concerned to win the cold war or the hot war on behalf of the American way of life but wanted to stop it without anyone being the winner. Communist and non-Communist must learn to co-exist in this world.

If the duchesses' kisses had been the greatest corrupting influence in the days of Ramsay McDonald, the greatest corrupting influence in the 1945-50 Labour Government was the comradely handshake of the chiefs-of-staffs. Labour ministers seemed to be congenitally incapable of resisting the demands of the military chiefs.

In Indo-China, said Mr. Crossman, France had been fighting a colonial war for the last five years. All the justice and right was on the side we were fighting against. Before we talk of mutual aid and help for the under-developed countries, we've got to stop exploiting them.

The dominant fact in the world today was not the cold war but the Asian and African revolution. This revolution would go on even if Russia ceased to exist.

The 20th century would go down in history as the period when the coloured people of the world said that the ideas of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity were not for whites only.

Referring to the forthcoming statement of policy by the Labour Party N.E.C., Mr. Crossman said that it was right on fundamental principles and aimed at making this country independent of foreign aid through the extension of socialism and public ownership. There was no other way.

### A.E.U. BRANCH OPPOSES FEDERATION

The Manchester District Committee of the A.E.U. has endorsed the following Resolution of the Manchester South East branch A.E.U.

"This branch, after hearing the report of our delegates to a meeting on African affairs, calls on the District Committee to support a petition against the proposed Federation of North and South Rhodesia and Nyasaland as not being the will of the peoples of these countries and that we urge our fellow trade unionists in these countries to adopt a more brotherly attitude to their fellow workers, namely the native population, the benefits of whose country they are enjoying."

### "Nothing to lose but your (Aldermanic) Chains"

Coat of Arms of Wandsworth Town Hall poses question for new councillors—Whom will they serve? The People or the Profiteers?



**T**HE hatred of the Tories for the National Health Service is not a new thing. Although at election times they have claimed its parentage in order to win foolish and credulous votes, they have, before and since its inception, lost no opportunity of kicking and crippling it with a view to its destruction.

Even before it came into operation I can remember the Tory ex-minister Richard Law asking for economies, and on being met with a chorus of "Where?" saying helplessly "I don't know, but economise."

I can recall other Tory demands for the lopping off of various

limbs of this favourite child "for its own good", and now for the time being the Tory mutilators are crowding round the young Health Service undecided where to wound next.

### HOW THE TORIES WORK

The technique of the Tory Government has been admirable in its simplicity. First, fix a ceiling in expenditure. Despite continually rising costs, increasing prices of coal and electricity, higher cost of food in hospitals, higher wages, higher pay for Doctors and Nurses and higher prices for drugs, despite the general fact that money

buys less than it did in every sphere of activity and that everyone has to spend more on everything in order to get the same for his money, the Health Service must not spend a penny more on anything. That is one way of reducing the services provided by the National Health Acts.

Next you can forbid each hospital board and each hospital committee to exceed a certain amount in its expenditure which must be a definite reduction on what it spent on its patients and its services the

previous year. Then you can carefully refrain from building any Health Centres or laying even the first bricks of any new hospitals.

All this is followed by the appointment of a committee to enquire into methods of preventing costs from rising in the Health Service; not, you will notice, how you can get better value for money or even how the services can be improved in any way at all.

### MAKING THE SICK PAY

The next principle is to make the patient pay—not only his weekly contribution—but at the time he most needs help and is least able to pay; that is, when he is ill!

Does he need a prescription? Make him pay. Does he need spectacles, do his teeth need attention, does he need an elastic stocking? Turn out his pockets. Is a bed in hospital necessary? Charge him for board and lodging, or at least put him in a pay bed that someone else, who needs it more, can't pay for.

The next thing to do is to harry the doctors. Give them lists of

preparations they may and may not prescribe. Work out for them conditions under which certain drugs may or may not be given to patients; and then fix a ceiling of average prices above which the doctors must not go.

I know of doctors who have been hauled before a sub-committee more than once for prescribing necessary drugs like cod liver oil and malt for tuberculous patients. This is enough to keep them on the straight and narrow path of cheapness.

By these three types of attack the Health Services can be whittled away, and eventually doctors, hospital staffs and even the general mass of people will get sick of the whole service and let it go out of existence.

There is only one hope for this noblest piece of work the Labour Government ever carried out. We must drive into the minds of the people a clear idea of what is at stake. We must convince our people that not only are we going to build up a new order of society but we are also going to deal with the evil consequences, such as ill-health, of the bad order we have inherited.

## LORRYMEN STRIKE FOR STEWARD

**L**ICESTER Lorry Drivers employed at Pickfords Heavy Haulage Section of British Road Services have been on strike since Sunday midnight. The cause of the strike is the dismissal of their shop steward, Jack Lappin, who played a leading part in the campaign of the lorry

drivers against the Tory denationalisation Bill.

The excuse used by the Road Haulage Executive for dismissing Bro. Lappin is that he made a false entry on his time sheet. But, as the men say, this is an "offence" committed every day by lorry drivers up and down the country.

Bro. Robin Jermy, speaking for the 25 men in the Leicester depot, told "Socialist Outlook" that the

men were solid. Other depots were being contacted and he thought it likely that the strike would spread unless the Road Haulage Executive reinstated Jack without any loss of seniority rights, and compensated him for loss of earnings.

They were applying to the T. & G.W.U. for official recognition of the strike. He understood that already the T. & G.W.U. was trying to take the matter up with the Road Haulage Executive at the highest level.

# The Colour Bar in Britain

★ "Sunday Dispatch" tries to stir race hatred ★

ON Sunday, May 3, I picked up a copy of that day's "Sunday Dispatch" in Hyde Park. Opening it, I was surprised to see a banner headline across page 2 reading: "Men With Their Hands in Your Pockets!" and "How Can We Get Rid of These Idle Wasters?"

What, I thought, has this peddler of sex and sadism joined the fight for Socialism on this May Sunday? Surely those men with their hands in your pockets were the bankers, industrialists and big businessmen whom the "Dispatch" have so often championed in the past? As for the "idle wasters"—this could only be a timely attack on the monarchy?

But no, I was swiftly disillusioned. The "Sunday Dispatch" was only launching an attack on one of the most defenceless and exposed sections of the community—the coloured workers who have come here from Africa and the West Indies to seek a livelihood.

Yes, to seek a livelihood! For, despite the slanderous statements contained in the "Dispatch" article that is the main reason why the great majority of them are here, and not because they are attracted by the benefits of the "welfare state".

## WHY THEY COME

They have left their homes in Jamaica, Trinidad, Sierra Leone and other places because they could no longer get enough work in their homelands to maintain themselves and their dependents' just as in the past Irish workers came here seeking work. All their lives they have been fed on propaganda about what a wonderful place the "Mother Country" was—the glorious centre of the greatest Empire in the history of the world; after World War II, the papers were filled with tales of Britain's shortage of labour—that there were more jobs than men to fill them. What more natural than that these men, British subjects, unable to get work in their own country should take ship for Britain.

Here disillusionment has been swift. Even in looking for a roof over their heads they have come up against stupid racial prejudices. It was the same when they started job-hunting—"Coloureds not wanted" was a frequent experience.

Outside the Brixton Labour Exchange, I spoke to several of these coloured people and got a far more realistic picture than that achieved by the "Sunday Dispatch" reporter who seems to have con-

*Fighting Fund*

Monthly Target: £70  
Total to Date: £11:2:3

LABOUR'S victories last week in the Municipal Elections must be followed up without any respite until the Tories are driven from office. It can, and will be done—providing nobody rests on their laurels.

More than ever, the movement needs the "Socialist Outlook" which has been in the front of the fight to remove the Tories ever since they sneaked back into power.

But we must have the cash to carry on. The first week of May has gone and we have only received £11 in the fighting fund. We need at least another £59.

We know our readers and friends have been up to their eyes in the election fight, and as a result have not posted those contributions yet. But don't wait any longer.

Send in a bit more as a celebration of victory. Give us that little bit extra so that we too can intensify our fight against the Tories.

By  
C. Van Gelderen

fined his interviews to National Assistance Board and Labour Exchange officials (it never even occurred to him to get the point of view of the people most concerned—the coloured working men).

A man from Jamaica, a skilled carpenter has had no job for seven months. He draws £5 in dole-money plus national assistance and out of this he has to keep his wife and two children (one of them still in Jamaica). The three of them live in a small room for which they pay 50s. a week rent. He showed me a rent-book from a previous tenancy—in just under a year he had paid out £290 in rent! To make ends meet he has sold his tools and so is now only available for unskilled jobs.

## COLOUREDS NOT WANTED

"I am willing to do anything", he said, "for it's quite impossible to manage on what I draw from the Labour Exchange. The clerks say there are plenty of jobs but they can't send us as coloured people are not wanted. I was sent after a job for milk roundsman but was told that the union would not allow them to take on coloured men. Everywhere we get the same tale." (U.S.D.A.W.'s National Organiser responsible for milk roundsmen, told the "Socialist Outlook" that his Union has no objection to the employment of coloured men, provided the terms of the Trade Union agreement was observed. The employer was clearly using this argument as an excuse not to take on the coloured applicant).

Nearly all the men—and women—I spoke to told the same story. The Labour Exchange sent twelve men for labourers' jobs on a school which is building in the Tulse Hill area. Two of the men were coloured. The ten white workers were taken, the coloured men were told "Sorry, no more today". An hour later, two more white labourers were taken on.

There is a growing feeling of bitterness among these men—bitterness born out of frustration at their enforced idleness and against the affronts and indignities which they have to suffer because of their colour.

## BRITAIN'S DEBT TO COLONIES

"What the Englishman forgets", said Mr. A. Hilton, a Jamaican who came over here to study music but is now working as a carpenter because the cost of living soon ate up his small capital, "is that they really owe us something. This country's wealth was built up out of the colonies. My forefathers were slaves—how many millions of pounds didn't Britain make out of the slave trade and out of the West Indian plantations worked by slave labour. It would be nothing more

than justice if they did something for us now."

Mr. Hilton went on to say that it wasn't only lack of jobs which drove his countrymen across the Atlantic to Brixton. "We want better opportunities for our children. In the West Indies, there is no free secondary education at all. Most of our children leave school after the sixth standard. I left when I was 12 and when I was 13 years old I was doing a man's work in the sugar fields for sixpence a day. The British Government has done nothing for us in Jamaica."

The coloured workers of Brixton, he said, would like to have a few words with Mr. Marcus Lipton, their Labour M.P. "From the Tory Government we can expect nothing. Perhaps Labour will do something to help us. We are really getting desperate."

About all this, of course, the "Sunday Dispatch" had not a word. They write glibly of men drawing from "£3 to £7 each in return for two visits to the Labour Exchange and a scribbled signature" but don't take the trouble to find out how many dependents have to be maintained out of this money; what proportion goes on rent to say nothing of the expense of travelling about London looking for the jobs that never come. The basic rate of unemployment benefit is 32s. 6d. for a single man; 21s. 6d. for a wife; 3s. 7d. for each child. If any unemployed man draws as much as £7, he must either have a great many children or have his money made up by Public Assistance, who do not pay out unless they are satisfied that the amount is really required.

## CHEAP LABOUR—MORE PROFITS

But of course, the "Sunday Dispatch" have a definite reason for writing these filthy slanders about the coloured workers and trying to stir up racial prejudices. The "Dispatch" would like to see these people sent back to the West Indies or Africa for in those parts of the Empire their labour would be worth more to Britain's capital-

## SUNDAY DISPATCH PLEASE NOTE!

"THERE is still in this land colour discrimination," said Canon L. S. Collins, in a sermon at St. Paul's cathedral last Sunday.

"Coloured people find it extremely difficult to get employment in jobs for which they are qualified."

"Let us remember that most of them come from our own colonies for which we are responsible, and in many cases they have left those countries because there is no work for them to do."

ists than it is here. The cheap labour in the colonies is still a vast source of profit for British investors and if all the unemployed colonial workers leave their countries it would lead to a shortage of labour in the colonies and thus to increased wages and lower profits. That would never do!

There is, however, a second reason for the "Dispatch" article. It is an open attack on the reforms introduced by the Labour Government. Thus it sneers at the "planners" who, when "they framed the National Assistance Act of 1948 (said) 'This must be a land where no man can starve.'" That is not the sort of land the "Sunday Dispatch" wants; it believes in the threat of starvation as a spur to production—the classical capitalist formula.

This dirty attempt to stir up colour prejudices is seen for what it really is—the spearhead for an attack on all the gains made by the British workers in the last eight years. As such, it should serve as a warning to the Labour Movement to make the cause of the coloured workers in this country its own. We must not allow the reactionary scribblers of Fleet Street to divide the workers into white and coloured, Jew and gentile. Divided we are an easy prey for the class enemy; united Labour is unconquerable.



# African Federation: Does Attlee Speak for Labour?

"THIS Conference, convinced that the decision of Her Majesty's Government about the proposed Federation in Central Africa between Southern Rhodesia, Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland will be regarded both in this country and in Africa as the acid test of its Commonwealth Policy, and having great doubts about the trends of present negotiations, resolves that there be no Federation in Central Africa without education, full consultation, and agreement of the population in those territories."

That was the decision of the Labour Party Morecambe Conference.

What would have been the reaction of delegates to that Conference if an addendum had been moved to this resolution on the following lines:—"If, however, the Tory Government forces through Federation against the wishes of the population, then we will do our best to make it work."? Such an addendum would have been treated with scorn and indignation. It would have been laughed out of court.

Yet this is exactly what Mr. Attlee said in the House of Commons debate on African Federation. He declared "If this (Federation) becomes law it is our duty to make it work to the best of our ability."

## WHAT WE SAID

No Socialist can fail to be disturbed and angry at such a statement. We declared at Morecambe that if Africans were against Federation we could not accept it. The agreement of the African majority has neither been given nor yet sought. Even such "safeguards" for African rights which existed in the original scheme have now been whittled away. Mr.

Attlee himself bore witness to the increasing African opposition to Federation. In the course of his Commons statement, referring to his recent visit to Rhodesia, he said:

"One came away with the broad impression that, by and large, the Africans were not in favour of Federation. . . ."

Despite this, Mr. Attlee feels compelled to make federation work when it becomes law. What kind of politics is this which says to the Tories: "Stop what you are doing at once, or, by God! . . . we'll help you do it"? It may be that type of politics which brings plaudits from white settler or Tory leader. They may term it "statesmanlike", but if the Labour movement accepts it we cannot complain if our real allies—millions of Africans rising from their knees—denounce it as unprincipled and cowardly, because, speaking plainly, it is that type of politics.

## WHAT WE MUST DO

We pledged ourselves at Morecambe to end "all forms of exploitation, whether economic or political. . . ." in the colonies. The whole of Africa will soon be ablaze with a struggle against the economic and political exploitation of white imperialism. It will be a betrayal of our pledge if we line up with white overlords maintaining the rule of their alien law by brutal repression.

In Northern Rhodesia, Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland, the African people are preparing to resist Federation. They do not recognise this law passed against their will by a Parliament in which they are not represented. Labour's duty is not to make Federation work but to give all possible assistance to the resistance movement of the Africans.

# Bubble Battle

By  
JANET ALEXANDER

GOING to answer the door-bell, I found a fluffy young woman with a blue and white badge pinned to her coat. For one wild moment I thought this was a Tory canvasser, some political innocent invading what has been a Labour stronghold for many years.

I drew breath preparatory to warning her off kindly but firmly, when "Good morning", she said, "here is your free packet of 'Daz'." "Daz", I queried, "Free?" "Yes", she said, "marvellous, isn't it?"

I looked at the packet in my hand and found it to be the latest product of Thomas Hedley Ltd., the soap kings. I was speechless. The fluffy young woman, satisfied that I was overwhelmed by Hedley's generosity, turned away with a bright smile.

I continued speechless for some minutes, and then decided to nip along and see my Co-op. manager about this little episode. "Look here", I told him, "I've just been given a free packet of 'Daz'." He saw the point at once and proceeded to give me some very

interesting facts about a trade war involving every woman who does the weekly wash.

## DAZ-ZLE FOR THE HOUSEWIVES

For more than a year now, a battle has been raging over every kitchen sink in the kingdom—the battle of the detergents. Accompanied by an advertising campaign estimated to cost one and a half to two million pounds, Thomas Hedley Ltd. has put "Dreft", "Tide" and now "Daz" on the market. Lever Bros. have countered with "Wisk" and "Surf". The Colgate-Palmolive combine threw "Fab" into the fight.

Housewives have been showered with coupons to purchase a cheap packet of these wonder workers. One packet only, mind. The next packet you buy is its usual high price. Lever Bros. are offering three fine handkerchieves. And now comes "Daz"—completely free!

And so private enterprise in detergents, as in so many other products, results in cut-throat competition, but not, you notice, cut prices. They will even give the stuff away first, for a time.

It is quite clear that without this fantastic expenditure, on advertising, the price of these detergents could be slashed (my Co-op. manager, estimated to about 1s. 4d. as against the present price of 1s. 11d.). That would make quite a difference to the weekly budget for many women, who use on an average two packets of detergent a week.

So don't be dazzled by "Daz" or taken in by "Tide"—it's your purse these boys are after every time. These "free gifts" are just carrots for the donkey. The advertisers and the soap kings share the spoils.

# The Largest Wage Claim of the Century

★  
"Right Trusty and Well-beloved Cousin,

We greet you well. Whereas the second day of June next is appointed for the solemnity of our Royal Coronation these are to will and command you (all excuses set apart) to make your personal attendance on us at the time above mentioned, furnished and appointed as to your rank and quality appertaining, there to do and perform all such services as shall be required and belong unto you. Whereof you are not to fail. And so we bid you most hearty farewell."

★  
THIS bit of feudal gibberish is not, as might be reasonably expected, extracted from a children's fairy tale, but is the official invitation being sent to peers to attend the coronation ceremony in Westminster Abbey next June.

It is quoted in the pamphlet *The Crown and the Cash* by Emrys Hughes, M.P. (Civic Press Ltd., Glasgow). Price 6d.

The pamphlet is brimful of facts and figures which can only lead to

one conclusion—that the monarchy is a frightful waste of the people's money.

## A ROYAL WAGE-CLAIM

In these days of Industrial Courts and arbitration, it's quite a change to read of a wage-claim which was met without resort to all this complicated machinery.

Emrys Hughes writes: "Only a few days after Mr. Butler had been warning us of the economic dangers of higher wages for shop assistants and railwaymen and miners, he came along to the House of Commons to present the bill for the largest wage claim of the century."

Payment to members of the Royal Family was vastly increased.

The Queen mother was to get £70,000 a year; the Duke of Edinburgh's pay went up from £10,000 to £40,000 a year—a rise of 400 per cent.

This increased wage-bill came just after Churchill had warned the country that it was in a grim financial position, that our plight was desperate, that "we were on the trap door". To meet this

distressing situation, the social services were slashed. But no axe for the Royal Family, whose total cost to the country is about £1,000,000 per year.

As Emrys Hughes puts it: "If it was so urgently necessary to save on school children's meals was it not just as necessary to practice economy in the Civil List and the Coronation."

## WHAT IT COSTS

For the Coronation is going to present the people with a bill for a further £2 million. And what are the workers going to get out of it all?

"A spectacle to hypnotise and make the people think in terms of red, white and blue, the Tory election colours."

Then there is the shocking waste of manpower and material—"a small army of workers employed on huge stands so that those who are prepared to pay £4 to £6 can see the spectacle go past."

"All these men could have been usefully employed on building the

houses which London needs for within a short distance of Westminster Abbey people live in basements and small rooms."

Typical of the fraudulent nature of this coronation is the fact that £8,000 is to be spent on white-washing the outside of Wellington Barracks. This was too much even for one Tory M.P., Mr. Nigel Fisher, who said that this "is extremely irritating to the private soldier and guardsman whose own living conditions are untouched always because of the excuse that there is not enough money."

The Tories hope to cash in on the coronation. Labour's job is to show how it is being used to pull wool over the workers' eyes, how the monarchy is today one of the main props of capitalism. As Keir Hardie wrote: "The king fraud will only disappear when the exploiting of the people draws to a close."

This is a pamphlet which should be in the hands of every active socialist.

R. Hood.

**Socialist Outlook**

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# Engineers Must Clear Decks For Action

THE suggested 15 per cent. wage claim of the Engineering and Shipbuilding Confederation has been endorsed by the A.E.U. National Committee. Recommending this endorsement, Jack Tanner, speaking for the Executive Council, stated that "... Any claim must be accepted as reasonable and practical by our own members" and that "the general public must be in sympathy with our demands".

From these statements we can only assume that the A.E.U. Executive Council considers the claim "reasonable". It now remains for them to ensure the "sympathy" of the general public by the launching of a serious campaign to prove the "reasonableness" of our demand to all and sundry.

The initiative of District Committees, Branches and above all Shop Stewards Committees will have to be harnessed to such a campaign. For, as in all real struggles, we can expect hostility and lies from the millionaire press.

Even before the National Committee met, the press went into action against it. The "Observer" (May 3), anticipating the National Committee's endorsement, stated "... the decision may have serious consequences ... Britain might be priced out of export markets that are already beginning to shrink."

We have plenty of material at our disposal. For example, in 1949 the Confederation quoted Dr. Barna of the Oxford University Institute of Statistics, who considered that, "had profits risen in the same ratio as wages since 1938 they would have been, in 1948, £700 to £750 millions less than they were, and that this would have permitted prices to be reduced by 10 per cent."

Mr. Dudley Seers and Mr. P. T. D. Wallis, economists from the same Institute, were also quoted as drawing the conclusion that gross profits "... after provision for depreciation, in all British manufacturing industry, rose from £600 millions to £1,741 millions, or by 190 per cent. between 1938 and 1948; that is, they almost trebled."

### PROFITS SOARING

Since 1949 profits have continued this phenomenal upward flight. In fact, again using wage negotiation figures of successive increases in profits year by year since 1946, the calculated aggregate increase was 166.77 per cent. up to 1952, and even taking the "Observer" (May 3) figure of only a 4 per cent. increase in March of this year, they are now 173.4 per cent. over 1946. Profits are now almost 2½ times those of 1946, in

## A YEAR ON STRIKE STILL GOING STRONG

"WE'VE been out for a year—we'll see it through now." With these words a girl striker at Rival Lamps, in Surrey, sums up the determination of herself and the other girls.

And on strike for a year they have been. On Friday, May 8, they held an anniversary meeting, with mike, amplifier, and visiting speakers bringing fraternal greetings from neighbouring factories—and some from quite a long way away.

Delegations came from K.L.G., Park Royal Vehicles, Petersons, Sperry Gyroscope, Vickers Armstrongs. The District Committees of both E.T.U. and A.E.U. were represented, together with the Lift and Crane branch of the E.T.U.

Before they went on strike, these women had only been organised for a few weeks. It was because they organised that the employers sacked some of the leading spirits and so provoked the strike.

There is no sign of weakening among them. I sounded some of

By **NORMAN DINNING**  
A member of last year's A.E.U. delegation at both the Trade Union Congress and the Labour Party Conference



Resolution passed by the Broughton (Salford) branch A.E.U. on Monday, May 4.

"This branch fully approves Executive Council's recommendation to go ahead with a claim for a 15 per cent. increase in wages and we urge the leaders of the Union to be resolute and determined in the national action that will be needed to obtain it."

addition to the major part of the increase from 1938 mentioned above.

On these figures, the "Observer's" concern for export prices should surely be related to Dr. Barna's statement on "permissible price reductions", to say nothing of 558 companies in 1951 having reserves of £521 millions on an Ordinary share capital of £273 millions, as disclosed in our 1952 wage claim. In spite of this, the Tory Butler serves a dish of £117 millions to higher income groups, which includes concessions on undistributed profits as an incentive to companies. This gesture was lauded by our "friends of the press" who now express serious concern about the Confederation's claim for an incentive for the workers.

With such figures—and there are plenty more, we can prove our claim is just, necessary and reasonable.

But what about the employers? They are not reasonable people where their profits are concerned. The sellers' market is gone, and with it the readiness of the em-

ployers to finally grant 50 per cent. or so of wage claims. The Labour correspondent of the "Times" (November 3) referring to our 1952 wage claim, wrote "Until this year ... employers ... have been more concerned with shortages of labour than with the level of wages". He went on to quote an Employers' Federation spokesman as saying "The Ministry (of Labour) is so much concerned with conciliation and preserving the peace, that they try to bring about a compromise, even where, in the public interest, a claim should be rejected".

### PREPARE FOR FIGHT

These are ominous words. Our strategy must therefore not be based on a possibility, mentioned by Jack Tanner of a "7½ per cent. or even 5 per cent. offer", but on the assumption that the employers will resist to the utmost. Therefore in relation to our own members the job of the Executive is to prepare for a fight.

It is a fight that has to come and must be won. There is more involved than the immediate wage claim. The 40-hour week may also be on the agenda, but even more important, as stated above, the end of the sellers market has brought to the employers the realisation that wage levels are really going to affect profits. Before an engine can be reversed it has first to be stopped. The employers will fight this claim merely as a brake to stop wage increases. If they succeed, they will reverse the process and wage cuts will be the order of the day.

The Confederation Unions have thus no alternative but to start now and prepare for a big fight. The better we are prepared, the easier will be our victory. For victory must be ours—our future and that of our children depend on it.

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## WHAT SHOULD BE SOCIALIST AIM IN HIGHER PRODUCTIVITY?

AMERICA, land of free-enterprisers, has become the Mecca of industrialists and those trade union officials who like to pose as joint captains of industry. Teams have been there from this and other countries to find out how American capitalism has done what all capitalists have always striven to do; that is produce more and more with less and less labour. In other words, they have sought measures for a greater exploitation of labour power.

As a principle, the workers support means for reducing the irksomeness and burden of their labour. That is one of the major jobs for the trade unions. The Luddites were mistaken when they attempted to halt mechanisation by smashing machinery. But the workers must understand the true significance of what is termed "industrial progress". They must be extremely vigilant. They should be aware that it is nothing short of a huge hoax for spokesmen of capitalism to represent higher productivity as a method of "saving the nation". There would only be justification for that if the nation belonged to the people.

### WORKERS' CONTROL

Nevertheless, it is not possible to isolate this question from the wide sweep of economic and social progress with which, as socialists, we are constantly concerned. We

ONCE more summer is here, and after being almost stewed in the factory or office most of the day, Londoner's thoughts go in the direction of the Parks, commons, and the quiet upper reaches of the Thames. Where, amid the cool greenery, a pint or an ice cream tastes much better.

T.V. and the fireside are left behind with the darker days of winter. A bus ride in the evening, and especially at the week-end, is preferred—always assuming you can afford it.

### FORGET IT!

COUNCILLOR David Smith of Dalkeith has announced that he will boycott the local coronation celebrations and called upon his fellow-councillors to "Forget all about it".

He was speaking against a motion to contribute £100 towards the coronation celebrations and told Provost Lean who moved the grant: "I seem to remember you saying that if the people wanted celebrations they should prove it by their contributions ... If we are to resort to the Common Good Fund for money, it would seem to indicate that we are not getting the public's support ... that the public do not want to celebrate why should we thrust it upon them? Why not drop it and forget all about it?"

Says **Bill Punt**  
(London Bus Driver)



As a result many more people use the public transport services in the summer than in the winter; and altered running schedules for the summer have always been adopted in order to cope with the increased demand—until this year. This will have big repercussions for the crews who will have to operate the buses, and for the public.

The public should be aware of what is happening. Last winter the schedules were cut in relation to the previous year. And now, the coming summer schedule, if the Transport Board has its way, will be very little different from the winter one. The additional traffic will have to be handled with little or no increase in the number of buses running.

How has this been brought about? There are less buses on the roads before and after peak periods. The headway, or the gaps between buses, have been lengthened. (Peak period buses are untouched because they are already cut to the bone, as many workers realise from their bitter experience. A 30-minute wait in a queue is not uncommon at certain points—and then you're lucky if you get standing room). So, instead of waiting 10 minutes for the bus to take you home from the pictures, dogs, day-out, or what have you, you have to wait 12 or even 15 minutes—and hope that the bus isn't full up. If it is, you've had it for another 12 or 15 minutes.

As a passenger who has had this experience—and practically everyone has—you will know the state of bad temper you can get in. And your first reaction is to blame the crew.

But in actual fact the crews have been, and still are, fighting for a better service for the passenger. You see, its in our interest, as bus crews, to get you that better service.

I'm a driver. Your lives, and the lives of pedestrians and other road users, depend on us. If the bus is carrying full capacity, it is held up longer at each stop. I must then "step on it" between stops in order to keep up to my running schedule. The more I fall

behind schedule, the bigger the queues at each stop, the longer you have to wait for a bus. And the more chances I have to take in driving. Greater strain for me, longer waits for you.

Put briefly, it means for us more work without extra pay (remember what Ted Hill said about this) and for the public, less buses, longer queuing time, and less comfort. So, remember this next time you feel disgruntled. Try not to take it out on the Driver or Conductor. Help yourself—and us—by insisting on a better service of buses on the road. You can use your local Labour Party and Trades Council for this.

And if we should be in dispute over summer schedules, as we have often been in the past, remember it is as much in your interest as it is in ours.

## Example From Ceylon For Local Councils

THE Left-wing dominated Colombo municipal council voted today to dissociate itself from all local Coronation activities. Dr. N. M. Perera, leader of the Trotskyite party in the council, said when moving the dissociation motion that the money it was proposed to spend on celebrations should instead be used to provide free rice.

Last year the council intended to boycott a Government reception planned for the Queen, then Princess Elizabeth, and the Duke of Edinburgh, who were to visit Ceylon on their way to Australia. Because of the death of King George VI, the royal visit to Ceylon did not take place.—"Daily Telegraph" 9/5/53.

production should be planned to reduce the number of types and varieties, to attempt to achieve common methods of production, quality and size, and to narrow and make more efficient the productive units of a smaller range of goods.

The responsibility and opportunity for doing these things should not be allowed to remain exclusively in the hands of management. This is a department of activity in which the workers should, at least, play a part because if we are to control higher productivity we must control it from the beginning, from the planning stage.

The second method, which is a corollary of the first, making better use of labour, must indubitably be dominated by considerations of the workers welfare, his conditions, pay, status and prospects. It is on this issue particularly that the trade union must fight most determinedly.

The third method which proceeds from the other two involves capital expenditure and also great dangers for the workers. But one thing is certain, we cannot stop modernisation. What we can and

Continued page 4 col. 6

READ  
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gence of an American Labour Party, if not a socialist one. American trade unions will then fast learn that economics and politics are blood brothers.

### A POLITICAL QUESTION

That is also what we in this country must realise ever more clearly. Higher productivity involves economic progress. Economic progress involves politics because our answer to the question, why higher productivity?—must be that our only interest in higher productivity, as workers, revolves around the focal issue of what is the purpose of production and who owns and controls production. We can only support higher productivity if by so doing we hasten the day when higher productivity can fully benefit the people through its planning and organisation under socialism.

In the meantime, a struggle awaits us which will demand all our skill, determination and clarity of vision. There are three main methods of achieving higher productivity.

1. Improving the organisation and planning of production.
2. Making better use of labour assisted by such means as time and motion study.
3. Providing more power per worker, modernising plant and equipment and introducing new machines.

Considering the first, the following general aims might be adopted. simplification of process, standardisation and specialisation. That is,

must make sure that the movement for higher productivity, if it is to be of use ultimately to our socialist society, must be controlled, as far as possible, by the workers. It should be a definite stage towards our objective of socialism.

American trade unionism claims that the ever increasing pressure from the trade unions for a higher standard of living has been the dominant factor in compelling American capitalism to introduce measures for higher productivity. American trade unionism could only, and can only do this, during the expansionist phase of American capitalism. It may be that if rearmament activity falls off the gamble of the trade unions will produce losses instead of gains. That is one of the reasons why American trade unions are looking so anxiously towards the future. They will only act correctly if they realise the true nature of capitalism.

If American capitalism cannot find outlets for the enormous volume of goods coming from the factories there will be the inevitable attempt to contract industrial activity. Eisenhower has already, as did Truman before him, spoken of the need to find outlets. The alternative, and both know it, is mass unemployment and an aggravation of the political scene which could easily result in the emer-

## Gaitskell could still be Chancellor

Having read Mr. Gaitskell's budget article in the "Daily Herald" and listened very attentively to his speech on the radio, I fail to see any reason why he should be so concerned about the unfairness of the Budget. To my way of thinking it is a wonderful budget—for the Tories. They are receiving their just reward for the financial support they gave.

When Mr. Gaitskell was Chancellor of the Exchequer, he rewarded his supporters with charges for dentures and glasses, a fore-runner of charges for medical prescriptions. Does not Mr. Gaitskell realise, had he been as good to his supporters as Mr. Butler is to his, he would still be Chancellor of the Exchequer.

Islington. Cllr. A. W. Wynn.

★

### Bury Council and Pacifists

Your article on Bury Town Council's decision to purge conscientious objectors from its employment was a very timely one. There can be no doubt that it is the duty of Socialists everywhere to condemn moves of this type wherever they occur and whoever is responsible for them.

For that reason I am glad to be able to state that the "Manchester Guardian" report which declared the decision to be "almost unanimous" was incorrect. The actual position is that the decision was taken in Committee and carried by 16 votes to 14. All the Labour Councillors present voted against the decision.

It is now the intention of the Labour Group on the Council to table a motion at the June meeting rescinding this decision.

The Tottington (Local) Labour Party has already forwarded a resolution to the Management Committee of the Bury and Radcliffe C.L.P. condemning the Bury Town Council's action and declaring that no political or religious tests should be applied in the determination of a person's fitness for service under the authority.

This resolution was passed unanimously at Tottington and we hope and expect that it will receive the same support at constituency level.

Trevor Park.

★

### Hands across the sea

On a sunny Sunday in May, 1952, a young German worker, Phillip Mueller, was shot dead by the police of the town of Essen, home of the notorious Krupp Works. A heart which was full of burning passion to secure peace for his wife and little son, for the German people and all the world ceased beating.

From that day, the best of the German youth have redoubled their struggle against the evil Bonn and Paris treaties, which aim at reviving militarism and fascism and for a unified, democratic and peace-loving Germany. They do not fear Adenauer's terror because they know that they are right and have the world's conscience on their side.

Our readers write—

Youth of Britain! Remember well that you cannot build real human brotherhood upon monopolies, exploitation, race discrimination, oppression, coercion, robbery, fear, hate and vengeance—all very closely connected with imperialism. We must destroy this monster if we want to see this tear-drenched, blood-soaked planet settle down to order and peace.

Youth of Britain! Protest and fight tirelessly against the instigation of another war and against the return of fascism!

Watch carefully those evil forces lurking around in Western Germany yearning to use the East-West clash as a springboard for one more attempt to cut the throat of the world.

History taught you about the Kaiser's armies, about Hitler's Wehrmacht and S.S. gangs. See to it that it does not add a lesson about German mercenaries in the pay of world imperialism, in the near future.

Work yet harder, Youth of Britain! The hour is already late. Fight the only struggle worth waging—the Battle for Peace—and let us clasp the hands of those who fight with us for the honest friendship of all peoples in the task of building a better world to live in.

Hagen Westfalen, Germany. Friedrich Jaeger.

★

### Chance for Labour

You might be interested to hear of a bloke I met while in hospital here. He is a regular and has fought in Korea but comes from a socialist family. He described the condition of the Eastern peoples that he'd seen as shameful. Apparently troops going out there are given lectures by indoctrinating officers and this bloke said that quite a lot of the boys are socialists and object to fighting the colonial workers so they "went to town" during these lectures.

Apparently the Seaforts smashed up a club in Singapore a couple of years ago and he seemed to think that this action reflected the opposition to these colonial wars. There was a great deal of fraternisation between British troops and workers in Malaya and Japan.

If the Labour Party took a really positive attitude on this matter I think there would develop a really good core of opposition in the forces.

Germany. British Soldier.

We welcome letters and articles on any subject of interest to the Labour Movement.

Letters should be no longer than 250 words to ensure publication.

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### Austin Strike Echo

The recently held T.U.C. week-end school for young trade unionists was supposed to be on the history of the Trade Union Movement but in the discussion which followed the lectures it soon became clear that it was impossible to ignore present day issues confronting the movement.

Significantly, the most heated discussion was about the role of the T.U.C. in the Austin strike. When the T.U.C. was criticised for not giving any financial aid to the strikers, the speaker said that they had not been asked for any and if they intervened without being asked to do so, there would be a "stink in the movement".

In reply to statements that Labour Parties and Leagues of Youth up and down the country had given financial and moral support, he said that this could be a source of embarrassment to the strikers and that Labour Parties should not take any part in industrial matters—as if strikers can live on just good wishes?

London, N.1. Young Socialist.

★

### He likes us

I bought a copy of "Socialist Outlook" at Hyde Park on May Day. I was rather sceptical of it, being a supporter of the Labour Party and knowing the line of certain Labour leaders who are so-called socialists.

But when I read the paper I was greatly surprised and stimulated by the contents, style and taste of your journal, that one so seldom finds in any literature connected with the Party.

It is an admirable paper, following in the earlier traditions of Keir Hardie, Tom Mann and William Graham. It is worthy of support of any man or woman interested in socialism.

I look forward to receiving the future copies of the paper.

London, S.W.4. A. J. Hardingham.

## Youth Against Conscription

THERE is a growing demand for a cut in conscription throughout Britain today. As young socialists in the Labour League of Youth, we must give the fullest support to this demand.

Socialists have traditionally opposed conscription into capitalist armies which they realised would only be used to protect capitalism at home and abroad.

Armies do not exist in a vacuum but are part and parcel of the state, and in its social composition is a reflection of that state: Together with the police, the judiciary and so on, it provides the state with the means to maintain its power—so-called "law-and-order".

As Britain today is a capitalist state, the army, naturally, acts as a weapon for the defence of capitalist interests and against the working class. That this is true, can be easily illustrated from history. In 1910, at the instigation of Winston Churchill, two squadrons of the Hussars and a detachment of the Lancashire Infantry under General Sir Nevil Macready, were used against the striking South Wales miners at Tonypandy. During the great railway strike of August, 1911, 50,000 soldiers were called up, issued with 20 rounds of ball cartridges and stationed at key centres in the country. Shooting incidents occurred at Llanelly and at Liverpool. Troops were freely used during the General Strike of 1926.

More recently, under the Labour Government, troops were brought in to break the dockers' strike.

Abroad, of course, soldiers, sailors and airmen are being used to maintain British Colonial Imperialism—against the people of Africa, Asia and the Near East who are struggling for national liberation.

There can be little doubt in whose interests the army, as it is at present, acts. Socialists worthy

## LEAGUE OF YOUTHER Reg Eagles

of the name cannot support such an army.

Surely, it will be argued, we must have an army of trained workers to defend socialist conquests against hostile forces? This is absolutely true, but this does not mean that we have to support the existing, reactionary army.

We must learn to see the army in its proper setting, as an undemocratic institution ruled by an officer clique which has no sympathy for socialism and are not interested in its defence. They are the representatives of a class which is prepared to destroy socialism and itself rather than give up its power and privileges.

### A DEMOCRATIC ARMY

Like the capitalist state itself, socialists cannot simply take over and use the army in its present form. A Labour Government, pledged to a full socialist policy, must include reorganisation of the army as one of its first moves. In this "New Model" army, the serving soldiers will retain their full rights as citizens; it will be a thoroughly democratic army, electing its own officers and with elected committees to protect the rights of the rank-and-file. These ideas are not new, but they remain essential to a full socialist programme.

The Tories, it goes without saying, will never re-form the army along these lines. Why should they? The present set-up suits them fine. It is a task for Labour to carry out and we must see to it that it is done when Labour gets into power again.

In the meantime, we must intensify the demand for a cut in conscription. Such a cut would drive a deep wound into the war

### WHAT IT COSTS

If every man, woman and child in the country paid an equal share of the Armed Forces cost, they would each be paying

For the Navy—  
2s. 9d. every week.

For the Army—  
4s. 3d. every week.

For the Air Force—  
3s. 6d. every week.

This is apart from the millions of pounds spent by the Supply and Defence Ministries for no particular branch of the Services.

plans of imperialism. Churchill has admitted that any decrease in the conscription period of two years, would mean a reduction in man-power for "our overseas commitments". Comrades, these are commitments for imperialist oppression.

The movement which is growing in this country is an anti-war movement which must be supported by all socialists. Our task in the Labour Party is to see that our October conference comes out strongly in favour of a cut in conscription and that plans for the re-organisation of the army is included in the Party's programme.

## PRODUCTIVITY

(Continued from page 3 col. 6)

must do is to demand from capitalism the highest possible price in return for greater exploitation of the workers' labour power. In other words, the workers must not merely demand benefits from higher productivity but they should be prepared to fight for an increasing proportion of the value of the product because higher productivity under capitalism inevitably means that the relative earning capacity on the traditional basis is reduced per unit of production. That is a truth that does not seem to have been recognised by some of our more vociferous trade union advocates of higher productivity.

Let me then stress that higher productivity is a challenge to the workers. It is an attempt by capitalism to save itself. The workers must, under these circumstances, force capitalism to pay the workers' price. But it would be fatal for the working-class to accept the need for higher productivity unless it can be made a stage in our advance to public ownership and socialism.

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### Bill Murphy's Corner

It was at the Fish Frying Employers' Conference. A journalist made an end-of-conference speech on behalf of the Press. He spoke of his sincere interest in the proceedings which he had been reporting for, he told the assembled delegates, "You see, your business is very much wrapped up in ours."



ROLLINS tells us in his History that Demosthenes went to the seaside, and while the waves were in the most violent agitation he pronounced harangues to accustom himself, by the confused noise of the waters, to the roar of the people and the tumultuous cries of public assemblies. He put pebbles in his mouth to overcome his defects of speech. Thus, ultimately, Demosthenes became one of the most eloquent of the Greeks.

This week the people by their decisive voice at the polls have given the Labour Party great encouragement and the political columnists are busy producing harangues to explain it all away. Now the daily Press has much more power at its elbow than poor old Demosthenes dreamed of, and yet the people still vote in the opposite direction to their advice. Why? Demosthenes had more real understanding of the intelligence of the electorate than our daily Press. Despite all the sunshine talk the people know that they are not better off.

Our next job is to build our individual membership. There is no substitute for well-organised Parties throughout Britain.

### KOREA AND PEACE

Barbara Castle was afraid that no notice was being taken of her last week so she ups and slams at everything in sight. She wanted to know what official consultations had taken place with Her Majesty's Government before the official announcement was made by Lieut.-General Harrison that no Asiatic nation would be accepted by the Allies as a neutral power to supervise the repatriation of prisoners of war.

Now, no one can help taking notice of Barbara, and after a couple of Points of Order and a few sallies at the Tory Front Bench Barbara Castle had her way. Her question was answered the way she wanted it. Churchill told her that General Harrison had been misreported. The United Nations

## The Week at Westminster by Harold Davies, M.P.

Command did not refuse to accept an Asiatic country as a neutral State.

"Is it not clear", said Barbara, "that General Harrison did make some unfortunate references to Asiatic peoples and how they, including India and Pakistan, were likely to be under Communist influence?" The Generals she believed were not handling the negotiations with sufficient skill.

Many of us here feel that the time has come for representation on these Korean talks to be drastically changed. The voice of the civilian should be heard as well as that of the generals.

### FRENCH INDO-CHINA

Concern at the possibilities of intervention in French Indo-China is shown on the Labour Benches. The Prime Minister has hinted at the extent of our overseas commitments and there is no enthusiasm for further entanglement in a war that originated purely as the result of the Colonial policy of France.

The war in French Indo-China is proving unpopular with the French worker and the Labour Opposition must not allow itself to be jockeyed into support of further adventures in Asia on behalf of imperialism.

Sir Winston Churchill was very careful not to commit himself. He said: "We are watching these events most vigilantly but our resources are limited and our obligations are very widespread. . . . I think that a few chance remarks from me on the spur of the moment would hardly alleviate the situation." The P.M.'s statement in the Foreign Affairs Debate will be read carefully to see if there is to be intervention.

Labour must fight against the extension of war in Asia.

### THE VOTE OF CENSURE

Herbert Morrison in a forthright and vigorous speech defended the rights of the Commons on the Transport Bill against the sharp practices of the Leader of the House, Crookshank. He believed that the House had been used as a legislative stooge by Her Majesty's Government.

The fact was that the reasoned argument of Morrison was left unanswered by Crookshank. Nye Bevan, in a great tour de force, ruthlessly exposed the Tory devices and accused them of wanting to hand back to the House of Lords the powers we have taken away from them. "We say to them when they try to do that, that means the end of the Lords."

In the Lords, too, Viscount Stansgate, a Labour Peer, rose to call attention to the new powers and responsibilities accruing to the House of Lords. He pointed out that because the Government had not sent the Transport Bill to a Standing Committee Upstairs a large portion of the work normally done elsewhere was made the sole responsibility of the Lords. The Government had not sufficient manpower in the Commons to make up the Standing Committee.

This is exactly the gravamen of Herbert Morrison's charge that a Government in power on a minority vote introduced legislation of a highly controversial nature without enough support from outside.

The Lords are increasing in numbers. In 1936 there were 749 and then to 812 and now according to Stansgate it is 835. Viscount Swinton thought that Stansgate was dealing with a hypothesis and not with any matter of fact. Swinton added, "The sound thing about the English Constitution is the successful, though illogical, way it works."

We do not mind it working but what Herbert and Nye was charging the Tories with was "fiddling".